

Vo-Tech Can Cater Your Party or Group Event

Under the direction of newly appointed Banquet Manager and Pastry Arts Instructor – Chef Bruce Connell – the Salem County Career and Technical High School’s Culinary Arts program is available and open to the community to host and cater events, parties and meetings.

“We want to offer our services to the community on a larger scale this year,” said Chef Connell. “We can provide whatever is needed for an event, holiday party or meeting and at the same time provide our students with the experience they need for future employment.”

Connell graduated from Salem County Career and Technical High School in 1998, and has worked all over the world as a pastry chef.

He went from the Culinary Institute of America, in Hyde Park, New York — where he received his bachelor's degree in 2001 — to the Sofitel Lafayette Square hotel, in Washington, D.C., and later worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He even worked under the head chef for the King of Belgium, where he would cook for heads of state and parties at the royal palace.

But after years of working under some of the most demanding chefs in the industry, Connell returned to Salem County in 2014 to become the pastry arts instructor at the Vo-Tech.

Now, Connell want his students to gain more experience working with the public in planning events as well as offering catering packages and custom orders.

“We have always hosted breakfasts, lunches and dinners here for various groups,” Connell said, “but now we want to step it up and offer even more opportunities for the community as well as for our students.”

Superintendent of Schools John Swain said it’s a win-win situation for the students as well as community groups and businesses looking for a place for their event or meeting.

“Our students are very talented and eager to work,” Swain said. “The more opportunities we can give them to gain more knowledge and experience is what it’s all about.”

To contact Chef Bruce about your event or party, call (856) 769-0101, ext. 5353 or email bconnell@scvts.org.