

Formation of the *Northwest Arkansas Chef's Association* as a chapter of the American Culinary Federation (ACF)

Several interested culinarians in the food service industry found in northwest Arkansas have taken steps to organize a chapter of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) and will celebrate the first organizational meeting Monday, **May 7**.

A 6:30 p.m. organizational event is planned for Monday, May 7, at Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers.

The function will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a social complimented with a wine tasting sponsored by County Line Liquor. A short program will define the purpose of this new chef's association organization and offer opportunity for those with interest to join the chapter.

The mission of this organization will be to offer opportunity for those involved in the food service industry to promote education, share industry competencies and support the growth and prosperity of the industry and its employees.

Chef Pamela Lewis of Tyson Foods, Inc. has been elected President and Chef Marcus Easley, Executive Chef of Embassy Suites Hotel, will serve as Vice-President. It is the intention of this organizational group to invite all from the food service industry to join and share their experience and expectations for the industry.

Industry support has been shown from organizations such as TYSON Foods, Inc. of Springdale, Arkansas and John Q. Hammons investments represented by Embassy Suites Hotel in Rogers, Arkansas. These leaders of the hospitality industry recognize the vital need to work together in providing quality products and services to today's professional culinarians and consumers.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College also recognizes the tremendous need to educate and train the future employees of the foodservice industry with plans to initiate a chef's certification through a collaborative effort with the Northwest Arkansas Chef's Association chapter.

In addition, to further the educational effort plans are being developed to provide a Hospitality/Culinary Institute in northwest Arkansas as a part of the NWACC curriculum.