NEWS RELEASE

US Foods Unveils Next Top Product Contest Semifinalists

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Today, 54 chefs from across the country begin vying for a spot in the final round of the 2nd Annual US Foods Next Top Product contest. From savory sauces to flaky pastries, recipes poured into US Foods from across the country and now the public must vote to decide which dish will move on to the final round of competition. Voting is open today through September 20 at www.usfoods.com/NTP.

“The creativity and enthusiasm we’ve seen in this year’s Next Top Product contest is nothing short of phenomenal,” said Marshall Warkentin, vice president of marketing at US Foods. “We’re always looking to bring restaurant operators products that inspire them in the kitchen and this contest gives us the unique opportunity to collaborate directly with those on the frontlines of food, challenge their creativity and ultimately create the next great, chef-inspired product from US Foods.”

After receiving more than 1,000 submissions in the categories of bakery, hot appetizer or sauce, a team of culinary experts from US Foods evaluated each recipe for creativity, consumer appeal, sales opportunity and the ability to commercially produce the product. The submissions were narrowed down to 54 recipes, with one recipe representing each of the participating US Foods locations. Online users can now view all 54 semifinalists and vote for their favorite on the US Foods website.

The eight competitors with the most votes at the end of the online voting period will face off in a head-to-head cook-off at the World Food Championships in Las Vegas on November 8. The winner will walk away with $20,000 in cash and prizes and their recipe will be turned into a US Foods product, distributed nationally as part of the company’s new product launch in 2014.

The winner of the first Next Top Product contest, Chef Sean Frye of Shuck-N-Jive Restaurant in Richardson, Texas, won the judges over with his savory jumbo shrimp and lump crab hushpuppies. His recipe debuted in the US Foods spring 2013 product line and has proven to be popular with US Foods customers.

ABOUT US FOODS

US Foods, Inc. is a large foodservice distributor serving chefs and foodservice operators across the country. Its customers include independent and multi-unit restaurants, healthcare and hospitality entities, government and educational institutions. The company employs approximately 25,000 people in 61 locations nationwide. US Foods is headquartered in Rosemont, Ill.

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