



MEDIA ADVISORY

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EMCC Culinary Studies Grad Opening Own Restaurant

Hidden Kitchen set to open by mid-February in Heritage Square

AVONDALE, ARIZONA, Feb. 6 – An Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) Culinary Studies graduate is reaping the fruits of his labor. Ivan Jacobo is opening his own restaurant in one of the hottest parts of downtown Phoenix: Heritage Square.

Hidden Kitchen is set to have a soft opening Feb. 7-9 and then open to the public Feb. 11 or 12. The location, on the northwest corner of Seventh and Adams streets, was formerly occupied by Rose & Crown Pub, which vacated the premises last November.

Jacobo was one of 22 applicants who applied for the lease on the property, which the city owns. He was the youngest and the only applicant without any prior restaurant ownership experience.

The restaurant will employ about 12 staff members, and will seat 60 inside with the potential for another 30 outside. The menu will be contemporary American, something Jacobo said is meant to spark conversation among his guests.

“Every dish is something that you’re familiar with, but presented in a different way where you basically have to go, ‘wow, what is that?’” Jacobo said.

Jacobo credits Steve Griffiths, EMCC Culinary Studies Program Director, as one of the biggest influences in his educational journey.

“Chef Griffiths would let me go in there [to cook] even when it wasn’t my class time,” Jacobo said.

Griffiths said the entire EMCC family is very proud of Jacobo.

“Many of our students go on to success in the industry, but it's rare that you see one reach the mountaintop in regards to opening their own business,” he said.

To learn more about Hidden Kitchen, visit www.hiddenkitchenrestaurant.com.

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[Estrella Mountain Community College](#) is one of the ten colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District, one of the largest community college districts in the nation. EMCC offers academic courses leading to associate degrees, university transfer, certificates, and short-term job training to more than 14,000 students annually. The flagship campus is located on Thomas and Dysart roads in Avondale. Classes are also offered online and at two Buckeye locations: EMCC's Buckeye Educational Center, located in downtown Buckeye, Arizona, and at the EMCC @ West-MEC Southwest Campus at 500 N. Verrado Way.