



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CATERING EXECUTIVES
50 YEARS | 1958-2008

For Immediate Release:
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FOUNDATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATERING EXECUTIVES ESTABLISHES THE VINCE DEFINIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Scholarship Named For National Association of Catering Executives' Co-Founder, Visionary in Catering and Event Design Profession

COLUMBIA, MD -- MARCH 17, 2008 – The Foundation of the National Association of Catering Executives (NACE, www.nace.net), the nation's oldest and largest professional association dedicated to all aspects of the catering industry, today established the Vince DeFinis scholarship, a \$15,000 grant which will be awarded annually to an undergraduate student pursuing a degree and career in catering and event design.

DeFinis, who passed away in December, 2007, was one of the co-founders of NACE and a visionary in the field of catering and special events. On June 3, 1958 in New York City, De Finis helped found the Banquet Managers Guild, which would grow to become the National Association of Catering Executives. He spent his entire career dedicated to the profession and to seeing that NACE properly reflected and served its members. This year, NACE will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

“Vince DeFinis was dedicated to the catering industry and to seeing that those who choose this career are treated with respect as true professionals,” said Eric Ostrow, President of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of NACE. “The scholarship we are creating today will ensure that the legacy of Vince DeFinis will be to provide professional training and formal education in catering to the next generation of event professionals. It couldn't be a more fitting tribute.”

The Vince DeFinis Scholarship will be an annual grant of \$15,000, awarded to a student selected by the Foundation of NACE. The money will be distributed in the summer of 2008 at the NACE annual convention, **Experience! 2008, The Future of Catering and Event Design**, August 3-6, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The money will be distributed in two disbursements, upon presentation of enrollment documents and the maintenance of a 3.0 GPA. The recipient will also receive complimentary student membership in the National Association of Catering Executives.

Applicants must be currently enrolled as a full-time student (12 credits or more) in an accredited hospitality, culinary, or related program. Students who have not yet completed 60 credits are not eligible. Judging will be based on an essay and two letters of reference, which must be included in the application.

Students who are interested in applying for the scholarship may find more information at www.nace.net.

The mission of the Foundation of NACE is to professionalize the catering and events industry by fostering education, research and scholarship. Corporations and individuals who are interested in assisting the Foundation of NACE in this mission are encouraged to contribute and should contact NACE at 410-290-5410.

The National Association of Catering Executives (NACE), www.nace.net is the oldest and largest professional association dedicated to all aspects of the catering industry. For more information, visit www.nace.net