



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maryland Food Bank and Wor-Wic Community College Celebrate Fourth Class of FoodWorks Graduates on the Eastern Shore

Students Transform Their Lives Through Unique Culinary Workforce Development Program

SALISBURY, MD – On **Friday, March 31**, the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) and Wor-Wic Community College (Wor-Wic) will celebrate the accomplishments of the fourth class of graduates from FoodWorks–Eastern Shore, the food bank’s workforce development program that prepares students for careers in the culinary industry.

Over the past 12 weeks, FoodWorks–Eastern Shore students have learned a wide-range of cooking fundamentals, food safety essentials, and other important skills employers seek in hiring a well-trained work force. Program participants also receive ServSafe® food safety certification and social services support from the FoodWorks case management team, as well as assistance landing jobs that set them down a path toward financial stability.

One year ago, MFB and Wor-Wic joined forces to launch the FoodWorks program in Salisbury. Since its inception at the food bank’s Baltimore headquarters in 2010, FoodWorks has created inroads to employment for hundreds of Marylanders interested in learning new skills in the kitchen. This site expands the culinary program’s reach onto the Eastern Shore, less than 10 miles from the food bank’s Salisbury branch, and brings life-changing culinary training opportunities to residents in the surrounding communities.

WHAT: FoodWorks–Eastern Shore Graduation: Class #4

WHEN: **Friday, March 31, 2023**
12:30 p.m. – Media are invited to capture interviews/photos before the ceremony
1:00 p.m. – Graduation ceremony begins

WHERE: Wor-Wic Community College – 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804
Fulton Owen Hall, Room 103 ABC (Please use the parking lot closest to Route 50)

WHO: Nekeisia Booyer, Chief Programs Officer, Maryland Food Bank
Ruth Baker, Dean of Continuing Education & Workforce Development, Wor-Wic Community College

About FoodWorks

FoodWorks is a proven workforce development program that offers a fresh start to individuals seeking careers in the culinary industry. The 12-week, intensive curriculum—focusing on both professional and personal development—prepares graduates to thrive in any hospitality setting by providing career development skills, job placement assistance and social services support. By placing Marylanders into culinary careers, FoodWorks serves a critical role in MFB’s strategic plan to address the root causes of food insecurity and open more pathways out of hunger.

About Wor-Wic Community College

Wor-Wic Community College enhances local economic growth by addressing the educational, training and workforce development requirements of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties. The continuing education and workforce development division works with area businesses, organizations and industries to offer customized training. Community members can prepare for a new career, upgrade existing skills or meet licensure, certification or continuing education

requirements. Learning pathways include business and hospitality; education and human services; health care; humanities and social services; public safety; science, technology, engineering and math; and skilled trades and transportation.

About the Maryland Food Bank

The Maryland Food Bank is a nonprofit hunger-relief organization dedicated to feeding people, strengthening communities, and ending hunger for more Marylanders by partnering with local organizations from the western mountains to the Eastern Shore. The food bank's statewide network of food assistance brings enough resources together to provide more than 111,000 meals every day (over 40 million meals annually) to hungry children, seniors, veterans, and hard-working families, meeting the immediate needs of hungry Marylanders while simultaneously working to create pathways out of hunger. To learn more about the Maryland Food Bank, visit www.mdfoodbank.org.

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