



M.E.N.U.S. event offers delicious eats and college scholarships

By **Beth Fisher**. CREATED Oct 14, 2014

Las Vegas, NV (KTNV) -- This Friday night you can enjoy a sampling from a dozen celebrity chefs. With every bite you'll know you're helping a local student land a college scholarship.

The [Epicurean Charitable Foundation](#) is having its annual [M.E.N.U.S.](#) event (Mentoring & Educating Nevada's Upcoming Students).

This is Vilan Buric's first day on the job at TAP sports bar. He's joining the team as an assistant manager, and he's got the perfect person showing him the ropes.

Vilan and Karina both received scholarships through the Epicurean Charitable Foundation.

Vilan said, "It's a lot more than a scholarship. It's provided me the means to go to school but most importantly it's also provided me a one-on-one mentor and a network of hospitality professionals."

The Epicurean Charitable Foundation searches for the best and brightest local high school students, awards them a full-ride to UNLV and the most valuable prize of all: Mentors to guide them every step of the way.

Former recipient Karina Saucedo said, "I still keep in contact with Jason even though I've graduated and moved on from my formal mentorship."

Karina is referring to Jason Shkorupa, the President of the Epicurean Charitable Foundation and the Vice President of food and beverage at the MGM Grand. Truth is she wants his job someday and nothing would make Jason more proud.

"I didn't have this opportunity when I was coming up through the ranks. It's personal because it's the future of this city. One of the things we struggle with is finding the very best in talent that are passionate about hospitality."

The foundation works to find the best, educate the best, train the best and keep the best right here in our city. It's vital for the industry, which is why so many generous donors fund these full-rides for people like Vilan.

"A lot of my classmates didn't have a mentor. They are out and about searching for jobs."

The M.E.N.U.S. event is taking place on Friday, Oct. 17 at MGM Grand.