

Dinner and Movie with Chef Ed Porter

University of California Merced

Introduction:

Lakeside Catering partnered with UC Merced External Relations to host the "Dinner and Movie with Chef Ed Porter," an event for the Chancellor's Associates, UC Merced's esteemed supporters. The evening featured a private screening of The Food That Fuels, a film highlighting the San Joaquin Valley's farmers, UC Merced's innovative Smart Farm, and the talented UC Merced culinary team. Guests enjoyed a 5-course dinner with expertly paired wines, each course showcasing seasonal produce and products from the farmers in the film. Chef Ed Porter introduced the film and shared the inspiration behind each course, blending education and culinary artistry.

Essay:

The curated menu for The Food That Fuels dinner celebrated the bounty of autumn and the dedication of San Joaquin Valley farmers, many of whom were featured in the evening's film. Each course highlighted locally sourced, seasonal ingredients, thoughtfully prepared to tell the story of the Central Valley's agricultural excellence.

The event began with a delicate Persimmon Carpaccio, incorporating local honey from Madera and almonds from Burroughs Family Farms. The Winter Squash Bisque followed, made with Merced grown produce from Joe's Premium. Citrus Cured Salmon showcased pomegranates from Nova Farms and fennel from Vista Ranch, paired with charred radicchio for a vibrant balance of flavors. The Braised Short Rib honored CreamCo Meats, reflecting a commitment to ethical protein sourcing.

Dessert featured a Sweet Potato Mille-Feuille, inspired by Dave Souza's harvest at Corbin Cash and featured his signature sweet potato liqueur.

The meal was paired with wines from CRŪ Winery, located just 40 miles from UC Merced in Madera, CA, further reinforcing the event's focus on celebrating the Central Valley's agricultural and winemaking heritage. This menu paid homage to the farmers, chefs, and winemakers who nourish and inspire the region, creating a delicious autumnal feast.

Introduction:

The Dinner and Movie with Chef Ed Porter exemplified collaboration and collaborative execution. Partnering with UC Merced's Protocol and Special Events team, Lakeside Catering delivered a wonderful evening showcasing teamwork and talent. The Lakeside student catering team expertly served a 5-course meal with paired wines, highlighting their professionalism and dedication. Behind the scenes, the Lakeside Catering culinary team led food production while collaborating with UC Merced Dining's residential chefs to plate each course, fostering teamwork and skill-sharing. Chef Ed Porter's guidance elevated the experience, providing an invaluable opportunity for the team to work alongside an esteemed chef.

Essay:

The Dinner and Movie with Chef Ed Porter was a wonderful celebration of culinary artistry, teamwork, and the richness of Central Valley agriculture. Hosted for UC Merced's Chancellor's Associates, the event blended an impactful film screening with a 5-course dinner featuring seasonal, locally sourced ingredients and wine pairings from Madera's CRŪ Winery. Guests described the evening as a five-star experience, with many stating it was the best event they had ever attended on campus. The smooth execution by the Lakeside student catering team and the collaborative effort between Lakeside Catering and UC Merced Dining's residential chefs demonstrated unparalleled teamwork and professionalism.

Chef Ed Porter's introduction of the film and each course deepened the connection between the menu and the local farmers featured, leaving guests enlightened. Many attendees, lifelong Merced residents, expressed their newfound appreciation for the region's agricultural contributions, which they had never fully realized.

As a parting gift, each guest received a bottle of Joe's Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil, made by Joe's Premium, a farm featured in the film. Accompanied by a custom recipe crafted by Lakeside Catering's Executive Chef, the gift ensured the evening's message—celebrating local agriculture.

Introduction:

The Dinner and Movie with Chef Ed Porter was a standout event, showcasing collaboration across campus and celebrating the San Joaquin Valley's agricultural heritage. External Relations, PASE-Protocol and Events, Lakeside Catering, and residential dining came together seamlessly to create an unforgettable experience. Chef Ed Porter, inspired by his visit to UC Merced, premiered *The Food That Fuels*, a short film about the region's farmers, which will soon be shared worldwide. Eugenia Renteria from Inspira Studios returned to document the evening through stunning photography and video, capturing the event's significance and ensuring its impact will resonate far beyond campus.

Essay:

The Chef Ed Porter dinner was more than an event; it was a celebration of community, collaboration, and storytelling that showcased the best of UC Merced and the Central Valley. The evening featured a private screening of *The Food That Fuels*, a powerful short film highlighting the stories of local farmers, UC Merced's Smart Farm, and the importance of agriculture. Guests were deeply moved and enjoyed a meal that can't be found in any restaurants within 100 miles of UC Merced.

The 5-course dinner following the film was a prime example of teamwork and culinary artistry. Lakeside Catering's culinary team, in partnership with UC Merced Dining's residential chefs, delivered a delectable menu featuring seasonal produce and products from farmers highlighted in the film. Lakeside's student catering team executed five-star service, earning high praise from attendees.

After the dinner, Chef Ed Porter mingled with guests, answering questions about his experiences on Netflix's Pressure Cooker and Guy's Grocery Games. Guests were thrilled to chat with him, hear his behind-the-scenes stories, and take photos, making the evening even more personal and memorable for all who attended.

Introduction:

The Chef Ed Porter "Dinner and a Movie" event at UC Merced showcases the collaboration between our team and renowned Chef Ed Porter. Originally invited by UC Merced Chef Anthony Pangelina to guest chef at residential dining, Chef Ed's involvement evolved into a transformative partnership. His three visits culminated in the award-winning short film, The Food That Fuels, a celebration of the Central Valley's farmers and cuisine. Enamored by Merced's spirit, Chef Ed continues to champion UC Merced Dining's vision, inspiring future collaborations, including a 2026 Food, Film, and Music Festival to elevate emerging talent in the region.

Essay:

The "Dinner and a Movie" event featuring Chef Ed Porter is a testament to the power of teamwork and storytelling and the connection he felt with UC Merced's mission, students, and community transformed his involvement into an enduring partnership.

Over three visits, Chef Ed contributed forged relationships with local farmers, and created The Food That Fuels, a short film that highlights the Central Valley's agricultural heritage. Personally funded and now showcased at international film festivals, the film represents Chef Ed's passion for storytelling. Through the film's worldwide presence at festivals, the story of UC Merced and our Central Valley farmers will reach audiences who may not even know where Merced is located, shining a spotlight on the region.

Chef Ed's enthusiasm for Merced continues to drive future projects, including plans for a 2026 Central Valley Food, Film, and Music Festival. This event will empower emerging local chefs, filmmakers, and musicians, giving them a platform to shine. The three-day festival will also serve as a significant economic driver for Merced's downtown area, boosting local restaurants, showcasing the arts, and increasing occupancy in hotels, creating a ripple effect of community support and growth.

Log in to nacufs.awardsplatform.com to see complete entry attachments.



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 1.4 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 2.1 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 2.8 MiB

PDF

[20241104 Event-...](#) 1.4 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 1.3 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 1.3 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 1.7 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 2.2 MiB



[2024 UCMerced...](#) 1.7 MiB



[TheFoodThatFu...](#) 2.8 MiB



[TheFoodThatFu...](#) 3.6 MiB



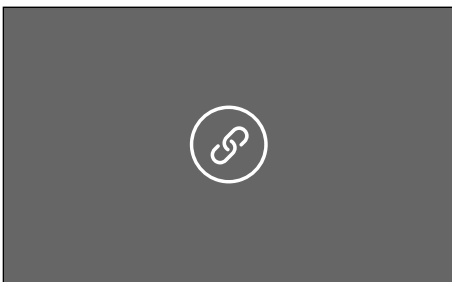
[TheFoodThatFu...](#) 3.2 MiB



[TheFoodThatFu...](#) 2.5 MiB

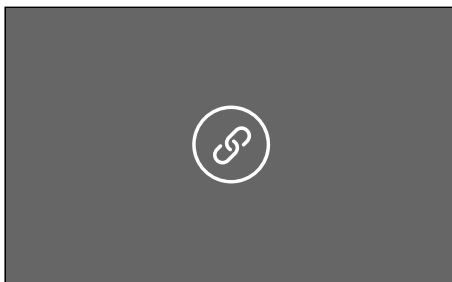


[TheFoodThatFu...](#) 1.9 MiB



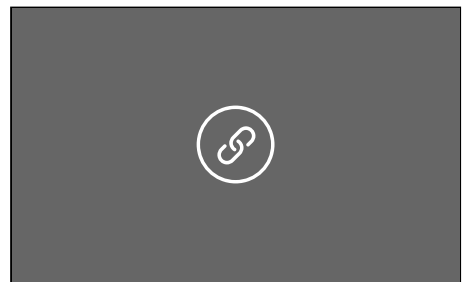
Attachment name

<https://thefoodthatfuels...>



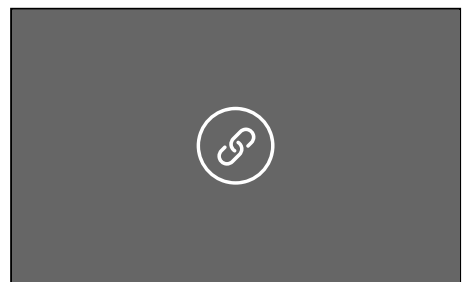
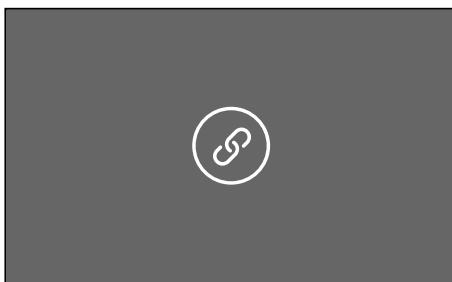
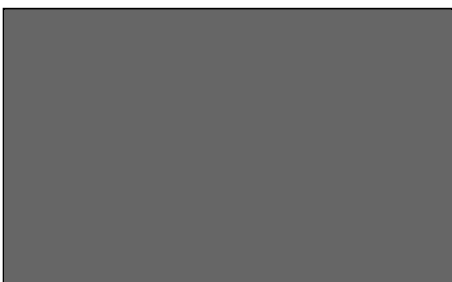
Attachment name

<https://chancellor.ucmer...>



Attachment name

<https://spokesman-recor...>



Attachment name
https://vimeo.com/1038...

Attachment name
https://filmfreeway.com/...

Attachment name
https://www.linkedin.co...