

D211 Culinary Students Serve Up Soup and Fight Hunger



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If this were really the gridiron, it would have been a touchdown for District 211 culinary students.

The students represented each of the District's five high schools at a Souper Bowl fundraiser hosted by the Schaumburg A.M. Rotary Club Foundation – for the first time joining top area restaurants to dish out cups of homemade steamy soups in a joint effort to fight local hunger.



The students first competed against classmates to determine whose dish would make it to the event, and then came with six gallons each of their creative recipes to serve the crowd.

Their work impressed attendees and restaurant owners alike, who burst into applause when the schools and students were introduced at the event's delicious conclusion.

“We are so grateful to the Rotary for hosting us as part of this event,” said Michele Napier, District 211’s director of college and career readiness. “The dedication and talent of our students, teachers and department chairs was on full display, and it was a huge win for career and technical education. The skills we’re providing in classes like culinary arts, automotives, building construction and manufacturing will serve them long beyond their high school years.”

Event attendees were able to vote on the soups, with Palatine’s cream chicken wild rice recipe nabbing first place in the high school division, Conant’s cowboy soup taking second and Schaumburg’s roasted red pepper and tomato nabbing third. Hoffman Estates’s chicken tortilla and Fremd’s jambalaya put up tough competition, with many



saying it was impossible to choose.

Proceeds from the event will support the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry and the District 54 Education Foundation's Food 4 Thought Program, which provides food for students in need.

Napier promised the schools will be back for next year's cook-off, which provided real-world learning for District 211 culinary students, some of whom will pursue the field professionally.

