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CASCADE CULINARY INSTITUTE

By Allen Cox

The newly opened Jungers Culinary Center at Central Oregon Community College's Cascade Culinary Institute in Bend is on a mission to create culinary stars—the "Best in the West," according to Chef Gene Fritz, the center's Director and Executive Chef. Not only is the Jungers Center a state-of-the-art facility most educational institutions would be envious of, but Chef Fritz brings a long and impressive industry background, including founding Director of Education at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Seattle. Students can choose one of two tracks: Culinary Arts or Baking & Pastry Arts. The modern and sustainable 15,000-plus sq. ft. Jungers Center has three instructional kitchens, a demonstration theater and a restaurant. The institute's capstone course takes place at the facility's handsome Elevation Restaurant, where real-world diners enjoy a several-course meal designed and prepared by students. Immediate feedback comes from diners in the form of on-the-spot electronic evaluations, a luxury most chefs will never have.

To make reservations at Elevation Restaurant in Bend, visit www.elevationbend.com or call (877) 541-2433; 2555 NW Campus Village Way, Bend, OR. For more information about travel in the Bend area, contact Central Oregon Visitor's Association at www.visitcentraloregon.com or call (800) 800-8334.