



Miami Culinary Institute educates new generation of Hispanic chefs

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Miami – The Miami Culinary Institute, or MCI, is celebrating five years of educating more than 4,000 students, many of them Hispanics, who are working at renowned restaurants or have been recipients of scholarships from Europe's most prestigious culinary schools.

Chef Patrick McCurry told EFE he was proud to have been a MCI instructor for the past three years, helping students succeed in the industry.

McCurry said the institute, which is part of Miami Dade College, provided the best possible education to students, as well as good products and modern kitchen equipment and supplies.

Student Patricia Falcon told EFE she considered the MCI to be "family."

The 28-year-old Falcon, born in Cuba and raised in the Dominican Republic, said she was embarking on her future with confidence and determination, especially after being awarded a scholarship by Le Calabash, a prestigious cooking school.

Falcon dreams of studying hotel management at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, considered by many in the industry to have the top hospitality management program in the world, and then setting up her own catering business.

McCurry points out that MCI's graduates are currently working at innovative restaurants, such as Miami's Kyu, and hotels like the Cardozo Hotel in ritzy South Beach, while others are doing internships in Europe and Asia.

Jason McDonald will soon be moving to Japan to work as a kitchen intern in a restaurant near Tokyo.

The 23-year-old student said he viewed the two-year work contract as a unique opportunity to immerse himself in Japanese cuisine and learn the Asian nation's cooking techniques.

Since opening in 2011, MCI has been a mosaic of nationalities and backgrounds, drawing young people from different countries, with most students coming from Latin America.

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