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Contact: LeRoy Lewis III, Indiana State Fair Media Department

Ph: (317) 927-7577 | llewis@IndianaStateFair.com

Indianapolis' Own Collin Hilton Wins 2025 World Food Championships

Indianapolis, IN - The World Food Championships (WFC) is delighted to announce that Indianapolis native Collin Hilton has been crowned the 2025 World Food Champion! Hilton triumphed over champions from 12 distinct categories, securing the grand prize of \$150,000 and the prestigious title at the 12th annual event.

The competition took place at Brightwater: A Center for the Study of Food in Bentonville, Arkansas, where an esteemed panel of judges oversaw three intense challenges over two days. The Final Table featured an impressive lineup of culinary masters, including Hilton, who represented Indianapolis with pride.

Hilton's journey to victory was marked by his exceptional storytelling, creativity, and technique, earning him the highest score of 93.75 in the "My Culinary Journey" challenge. His winning dish, spring pea cappellacci in chicken broth with recado negro, sugar snap peas, cashew salsa macha, and Meyer lemon, wowed the judges and secured his place at the top.

Hilton's path to the championship included top performances in the following challenges:

- 1st place in the "Taste & Recreate" challenge (Score: 94.875)
- 2nd place in the "Retail Gourmet" challenge (Score: 94.625)

"It was truly inspiring to witness twelve culinary masters, each already a champion, come together to compete for the coveted title of World Champion and the \$150,000 prize," said Mike McCloud, Founder of World Food Championships. "Although only one could take the top spot, I want to extend my thanks to all the competitors and everyone who helped craft such a distinctive and challenging Final Table. And, of course, a huge congratulations to Collin Hilton on his remarkable victory."

Exciting news for local food enthusiasts: the World Food Championships will return to Indianapolis this fall! Since its inception in 2012, WFC has garnered a global following, offering unique culinary experiences at its events and through numerous live and made-for-TV shows. Beyond popularizing competitive cooking, WFC has significantly impacted the food industry, creating over 10,000 new dishes and supporting communities through partnerships with local non-profits, charities, and food banks across the United States.

For more information and updates about the Indiana State Fair's hosting of the World Food Championships, please visit www.worldfoodchampionships.com.

About World Food Championships

The World Food Championships (WFC) is the highest stakes Food Sport competition in the world. This multi-day, live event culinary competition showcases some of the world's best cooks who compete for food, fame and fortune in 12 categories (Bacon, Barbecue, Burger, Chef, Dessert, Live Fire, Rice, Noodle, Sandwich, Seafood, Soup and Vegetarian). Each year as Food Sport kicks off in January, thousands of cook teams try to earn their way into WFC by winning a Golden Ticket at an official qualifying event. Almost 40 countries and every state in America have been represented at WFC's Main Event since its inception in 2012.

About the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center

The Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center is a modern public event facility that annually hosts more than 400 meetings, shows, sports and agricultural events, including the Indiana State Fair. The year-round management of the Fairgrounds is overseen by the Indiana State Fair Commission which is a quasi-governmental agency that was established in 1992, with the mission to preserve and enhance the Indiana State Fairgrounds and the annual Indiana State Fair for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana. For more information visit www.indianastatefair.com.