

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN CHEESE SOCIETY CONGRATULATES INAUGURAL CLASS OF CERTIFIED CHEESE PROFESSIONALS™

Denver, CO – The American Cheese Society (ACS) is proud to announce the first class of Certified Cheese Professionals M. 121 individuals passed the inaugural exam, which was held on August 1, 2012 in Raleigh, NC, immediately prior to the 29th Annual ACS Conference. This prestigious group (see below or visit www.cheesesociety.org for a full list) consists of cheese professionals from the United States and Canada.

The Certified Cheese Professional Exam™ was established to encourage the highest standards of comprehensive knowledge and service for cheese professionals. The exam is based on the knowledge and skills required to successfully perform cheese-related tasks in jobs across the industry. Testing encompasses a broad range of topics including raw ingredients, the cheesemaking process, storing and handling cheese, selecting distributors, marketing and communicating about cheese, nutrition, regulations, and sanitation.

ACS would like to congratulate the 121 cheese professionals who passed the inaugural exam. They received an official lapel pin, an embroidered patch, a certificate, and the right to call themselves an ACS Certified Cheese Professional TM or ACS CCP^{TM} . They must demonstrate continued participation and professional development within the industry to maintain their credentials, and they must recertify every three years.

"I am proud to see the industry's first certification program come to fruition after so many years of hard work and collaboration by ACS and industry leaders" says Nora Weiser, ACS Executive Director. "Customers can now visit stores and restaurants with ACS CCPs™ on staff knowing they have the level of knowledge and expertise that is demanded of skilled professionals working in the industry today."

The inaugural Certified Cheese Professional™ Exam was made possible through the generous support of many national and international sponsors and supporters including Charter Sponsor Emmi Roth-Käse USA and Patron Sponsors Affinage Retail and The Cheeses of France Marketing Council.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 Certified Cheese Professional™ Exam, which will be held on July 31, 2013 at Monona Terrace in Madison, WI. Cheese industry professionals who meet the eligibility requirements outlined on the ACS website are encouraged to apply at www.cheesesociety.org.

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About the American Cheese Society (ACS)

ACS is the leading organization supporting the understanding, appreciation, and promotion of farmstead, artisan and specialty cheeses produced in the Americas. At 1,500 members strong, ACS provides advocacy, education, business development, and networking opportunities for cheesemakers, retailers, enthusiasts, and extended industry. ACS strives to continually raise the quality and availability of cheese in the Americas. Since its founding in 1983, ACS proudly hosts the foremost annual educational conference and world-renowned annual cheese judging and competition. The 2013 ACS Conference & Competition will be held in Madison, WI from July 31-August 3, 2013. For more information, visit www.cheesesociety.org.



THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF ACS CERTIFIED CHEESE PROFESSIONALS™

| John | Balmer | Denver | СО | USA | Ellen | Fox | Shelburne | VT | USA |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----|-----|-----------|----------------|----------------|----|------|
| Lisa | Battilana | Woodstock | VT | USA | Lisa | Futterman | Chicago | IL | USA |
| Jessica | Beer | Boulder | CO | USA | James | Gentry | Seattle | WA | USA |
| Christine | Bentz | San Diego | CA | USA | Sarah | George Wehling | Plano | TX | USA |
| Bryan | Bergmann | Laguna Niguel | CA | USA | Denyse | Gervasoni | Davie | FL | USA |
| Kimberly | Blanco | Pompano Beach | FL | USA | Odysseas | Gounalakis | Toronto | ON | Can. |
| Stacy | Braga | Ontario | CA | USA | Barbara | Gramigni | Hypoluxo | FL | USA |
| Lincoln | Broadbooks | Olathe | KS | USA | Michele | Haram | Austin | TX | USA |
| John | Brody | Plymouth | WI | USA | Jason | Herbert | Chicago | IL | USA |
| Eliza | Brown | Cambridge | MA | USA | Kirsten | Hindes | Atlanta | GA | USA |
| Evan | Brown | Wellington | FL | USA | Jennifer | Hodges | Edina | MN | USA |
| Saxon | Brown | Denver | CO | USA | Ceteka | Holder | Atlanta | GA | USA |
| Anedina | Canzian | Baltimore | MD | USA | Miriam | Holmes | Toronto | ON | Can. |
| Matt | Caputo | Salt Lake City | UT | USA | Andrea | Horton | Palmetto | GA | USA |
| Erika | Carlson | Tampa | FL | USA | Rori | Jackson | Houston | TX | USA |
| Kathryn | Carter | Arlington | VA | USA | John | Knapp | Atlanta | GA | USA |
| Brianna | Clark | Boston | MA | USA | Michele | LaCatena | Holly Springs | NC | USA |
| Rachel | Cohen | Petaluma | CA | USA | David | Landau | Durham | NC | USA |
| Christine | Coleman | Herndon | VA | USA | Michael | Landis | Lutz | FL | USA |
| Ashley | Cooper | Raleigh | NC | USA | Stephanie | Leone | Jacksonville | FL | USA |
| Michael | Cox | Anaheim | CA | USA | Robyn | Mac Adams | Houston | TX | USA |
| Judy | Creighton | Angels Camp | CA | USA | Kathleen | Madsen | Pasadena | MD | USA |
| Julia | Cummings | Roswell | GA | USA | Lora | Mazzonna | Vancouver | ВС | Can. |
| Tiffany | Cunningham | Austin | TX | USA | Patrick | McCroy | Chicago | IL | USA |
| Matt | Curl | Lawrenceville | GA | USA | Jonathan | McDowell | San Diego | CA | USA |
| Jennifer | Dakin | Brookline | MA | USA | Leah | McFadden | Santa Clara | CA | USA |
| Brad | Daschbach | New Orleans | LA | USA | Cristi | Menard | Chicago | IL | USA |
| Michelle | Dawes | N. Charleston | SC | USA | Janica | Moore | Worcester | MA | USA |
| Hebe | Denis | North Miami | FL | USA | Clay | Nordyke | Tyler | TX | USA |
| Jeffrey | Di Maio | Bradenton | FL | USA | Shaun | O'Keefe | Barrington | NJ | USA |
| Laura | Downey | Fairfield | CT | USA | Dana | Passaro | Jersey City | NJ | USA |
| Adam | Engle | Baltimore | MD | USA | Kristin | Payne | Vancouver | ВС | Can. |
| Richard | Eplawy | Jacksonville | FL | USA | Veronica | Pedraza | Tallahassee | FL | USA |
| Randall | Felts | Birmingham | AL | USA | Rachel | Perlstein | Washington | DC | USA |
| Andy | Fitzgerrell | Salt Lake City | UT | USA | Troy | Petersen | Salt Lake City | UT | USA |
| Kari | Foley | Fort Lauderdale | FL | USA | Debbie | Peterson | Winston-Salem | NC | USA |
| Jennifer | Ford | Los Angeles | CA | USA | Crystal | Poon | Miami | FL | USA |



THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF ACS CERTIFIED CHEESE PROFESSIONALS™ (CONT.)

| • | Julia | Powers | Tacoma | WA | USA | Kelly | Snyder | Sarasota | FL | USA |
|---|----------|------------|--------------|----|------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----|-----|
| | Aaron | Price | Acworth | GA | USA | Matt | Soucy | Chicago | IL | USA |
| | Poul | Price | Brooklyn | NY | USA | Scott | Stroud | Atlanta | GA | USA |
| | Amanda | Puckett | Naples | FL | USA | John | Stueland | Edina | MN | USA |
| | Lisa | Purrington | Plano | TX | USA | Amy | Thompson | New York | NY | USA |
| | William | Randle | Raleigh | NC | USA | Annie Laurie | Thompson | Baton Rouge | LA | USA |
| | Ed | Reynolds | Sicklerville | NJ | USA | Caleb | Thompson | Palm Beach Gardens | FL | USA |
| | Janet | Ribera | Boca Raton | FL | USA | Jessica | Tice | Seattle | WA | USA |
| | Louis | Risoli | Ashland | MA | USA | Katie | Turner | Winston-Salem | NC | USA |
| | Ben | Rose | Boulder | СО | USA | Chad | Underwood | Ashville | NC | USA |
| | Emma | Rose | Charlestown | MA | USA | Tom | Van Voorhees | Central Point | OR | USA |
| | Joe | Rudat | Atlanta | GA | USA | Keegan | Walker | Denver | CO | USA |
| | Dimitri | Saad | New York | NY | USA | Jesse | Watlington | Chattanooga | TN | USA |
| | Elena | Santogade | Brooklyn | NY | USA | Joey | Wells | Fort Lauderdale | FL | USA |
| | Zachary | Schell | Durham | NC | USA | Brian | Welter | Fort Lauderdale | FL | USA |
| | Arwen | Schiesler | Houston | TX | USA | Ned | White | Bothell | WA | USA |
| | Brandon | Schilling | Atlanta | GA | USA | Casie | Wiginton | Austin | TX | USA |
| | Kenneth | Scholl | Plainville | MA | USA | Caleb | Williams | Nashville | TN | USA |
| | Andrew | Seay | Providence | RI | USA | Suzanne | Wolcott | Chicago | IL | USA |
| | Andy | Shay | Toronto | ON | Can. | Elizabeth | Wood | Louisville | KY | USA |
| | Sasha | Shreders | Durham | NC | USA | Nial | Yager | Pullman | WA | USA |
| | Danielle | Slater | Granite Bay | CA | USA | Allison | Young | Sarasota | FL | USA |
| | Lindsay | Slevin | Ferndale | WA | USA | LeeAnn | Zubay | Rochester | MN | USA |
| | Rebecca | Smith | Dallas | TX | USA | | | | | |
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