

Canadian Bocuse d'Or Representative helps coach local teen for competition

The Art Institute of Vancouver's Best Teen Chef Local Competition winner, Patrick Cantin-Gayton, received some special assistance this week when he was visited by Chef David Wong, Canadian representative for the prestigious Bocuse d'Or Competition 2009.

Patrick, of White Rock, BC, won the Best Teen Chef Local Cook-off Competition at The Art Institute of Vancouver in March 2009 and is preparing to compete against 33 other local competition winners in the final round of the competition at The Art Institute of Charlotte on May 9, 2009. "I am very excited to be in the final round of the competition," said Patrick. "My future is in the culinary arts and this opportunity is an amazing way to start my career."

David, who placed in the top ten at the 2009 Bocuse d'Or Competition in Lyon, France, was able to pass on valuable tips and feedback to Patrick as he went through a practice session in the kitchens of The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Vancouver. "Competition experience is an essential part of any culinary professional's training," said David. "The Best Teen Chef competition is a great opportunity for Patrick to get high profile experience at an early stage in his career."

The top prize winner in the Competition can earn a full-tuition scholarship toward a bachelor's degree, an associate's degree, certificate program or diploma program to study Culinary Arts at one of the more than 30 participating Art Institutes schools.

In addition to a full-tuition scholarship and the title of Best Teen Chef 2009, the national first place winner, in partnership with Food Network, will be an "Intern for a Day" at Food Network Kitchens in New York City. The winner will also receive a tour of Food Network's studios, dinner for two at a Food Network chef's restaurant and a library of Food Network Kitchens cookbooks.

The Art Institutes created the Best Teen Chef competition in 2000 to encourage and recognize young culinary talent. According to Paul Vernall, Academic Director for Culinary at The Art Institute of Vancouver, "The interest in culinary arts among young people has literally soared in recent years." Vernall explains, "This is due to many factors, including working parents, the proliferation of cooking shows on television, and the desire to participate in family traditions."