



Student Servers Shine at UAlbany’s Annual Citizens Laureate Dinner

Every fall the University at Albany acknowledges the achievements of outstanding community leaders by hosting its capstone Citizens Laureate black-tie dinner. The University Events Office, along with the support of UAlbany Catering, spearheads this celebrated event. Among the glitz and glamor of those attending the dinner, there was another group that stood out, the student servers. Forty-four students, over half of whom are international students, dedicated their time, energy and enthusiasm to help ensure the evening was memorable for the 425 guests – and, in the end, themselves as well.

“This event could not have happened without the commitment and hard work of the student employees,” said UAlbany Catering Director Helene Coye. “They did everything from passing hors d’oeuvres, managing the appetizer stations, serving each course, and clearing the tables. They really made this event incredible.”

The time commitment and preparation by the students leading up to the Citizens Laureate dinner was significant. Coye held six formal student training sessions to make sure everyone understood

his/her role and was well-versed in proper ‘white glove’ serving techniques. Since the evening included speeches and awards, the team also had to expertly master a strict service schedule so not to



disrupt the program. “I learned a lot from this experience,” said senior Samantha Loucks. “The orchestration of a formal event like this teaches you the importance of teamwork and etiquette, skills that will definitely benefit me in the future.”

Loucks also commented how the added touch of listing her ‘home country’ and major to her name tag added to the engagement level between her and the guests she served. “The other servers and me enjoyed the interaction the name tags added to the night... we all felt special and valued.”

Coye acknowledged that watching the students ‘rise to the occasion’ and come away from the dinner feeling accomplished made all the hard work and long hours worthwhile. “I can genuinely say that working with students is the most gratifying part of my job.”

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