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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE LEAF's Men Who Cook Fundraiser Sizzles with Success

February 16, 2024 – Rosenberg, Texas – The annual Lamar Educational Awards Foundation (LEAF) Men Who Cook fundraiser raised approximately \$190,000 in sales revenue. The funds will support student enrichment opportunities and enhance educator resources across the District.

The fundraiser was held on February 10, and was presented by First Financial and PBK Architects. There were 76 "celebrity chefs" who whipped up their tastiest dishes in a friendly competition. Guests also enjoyed live music, a silent and live auction.

For more than 10 years, the fundraiser has continued to receive support from community partners such as OakBend Medical. "We are thrilled to back such a great cause and extend a big thank you to everyone involved in making it a memorable and impactful evening," Oakbend Medical CEO Joe Freudenberger said.

Throughout the evening, attendees worked their way through every food station and enjoyed a savory and sweet culinary surprise. This year's "Bite of Night" was awarded to Shane Light of Tight BBQ for Smoked Pork Burnt Ends and Elote Corn Casserole and Secundino Alameda, Saul Hernandez, AJ Torres, and Alfred Torres of Mezcal Mafia for Smoked Beef Cheek Tacos.

In addition to the title sponsors, there were more than 52 event sponsors including 9 underwriters: Equitable Advisors, Houston Methodist, Johnson Development, Kay Danziger, Signorelli, Firetron, MCA, Kaluza Inc., and Pfluger. Sugar Land Councilman, William Ferguson served as this year's auctioneer raising almost \$30,000 in live auction donations. Additionally, LEAF was honored to have Lamar CISD Chief Communications Officer Sonya Cole-Hamilton serve as the event emcee.

"We are incredibly honored to have the full support of foundation partners, business supports, district staff and community leaders supporting us every step of the way," LEAF Executive Director Kameela Lewis said.

As part of the fundraising effort, the foundation is accepting interest inquiries for the Named Scholarship Program. To learn more, please contact us at LEAF@LCISD.org or call 832.223.0334.

To view photos from this event, please click [HERE](#).

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ABOUT LAMAR EDUCATIONAL AWARDS FOUNDATION

Established in 2000 to benefit the students of Lamar CISD, this 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is governed by a volunteer board of directors that includes local business, industry, and community leaders. The Foundation will provide funds beyond the normal operating budget for educational programs and activities for students and staff. Since its inception in 2000, and with the support of Lamar CISD staff, local foundations, community/business partners and parents, LEAF has distributed more than \$5 million to fund teacher grants during the last 20 years. The foundation also provides funding for district-level programming such as a summer Social Skills Camp, Girls on the Run, STEAM Camp, scholarships, Spring Book Festival, New Teacher Dinner, and classroom stipends for novice teachers.