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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lamar Educational Awards Foundation Hosting Annual Men Who Cook Fundraiser

January 17, 2024 – Rosenberg, Texas – Get your taste buds ready! In less than 30 days, district staff, community members and business partners are putting on their aprons and chef hats to compete in the tastiest event in Fort Bend County, the annual Lamar Educational Awards Foundation (LEAF) Men Who Cook fundraiser. This year's gala event will be held on Saturday, February 10 from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM at Texas Safari Ranch, located at 11627 FM 1464, Richmond TX 77407.

This year's gala is presented by First Financial and PBK, and will feature a friendly food competition, live music, and silent auction. LEAF welcomes all community members, foundation supporters, and residents to join us for this event. Come dance the night away with tunes from Ken and the Mondshine Band, satisfy your taste buds, and raise funds to increase enrichment opportunities for all students.

The fundraiser features men in our community or, "Celebrity Chefs," who will prepare an appetizer, side dish, entrée or dessert and offer bite-sized samples to more than 800 attendees in a friendly and spirited competition. Attendees serve as competition judges and prizes are awarded for the dish with the highest number of votes. Grand prizes are awarded for the tastiest dish with the highest number of votes.

There is no fee to participate as a Celebrity Chef, however, all chefs are responsible for providing their own ingredients. Interested participants are welcome to reserve their spot on this year's culinary event team by completing the registration form <u>HERE</u>.

A vital part of Men Who Cook is securing quality items for the auction. LEAF welcomes themed curated gift baskets and donations such as sports memorabilia, vacation timeshares, sports tickets, hunting/fishing packages, gift cards and memorable experiences. To donate an item for this worthy cause, please complete the form <u>HERE</u> by Wednesday, January 31.

Signature events like Men Who Cook help further the LEAF mission by providing resources, enrichment programs and educational scholarships for the students and staff of Lamar CISD. Visit our event website <u>HERE</u> to learn more and purchase your tickets. For all inquiries, email <u>LEAF@LCISD.org</u> or call 832.223.0334.

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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.