

JOHN O'CONNELL M.A.T

EXECUTIVE CHEF

CONTACT

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www.chefjohnoconnell.com

SKILLS / CERTIFICATES

DRIVE (NBO) / FMS

Market Connection

Coaching & Training

Creativity

Strategic thinking

Servsafe Manager

Servsafe Instructor /Proctor

PA Vocational Educator 1

EDUCATION

Johnson & Wales University

2010-2012

MAT-Food Service Education

Johnson & Wales University

2006-2009

BS in Culinary Arts

Minor in Baking & Pastry

PROFILE

Dynamic, seasoned Executive Chef with a proven track record of leading high performing culinary teams and creating exceptional dining experiences. Bringing over a decade of experience of management, menu development, mentoring, and teaching experience. Experienced in training and leading staff, ensuring high-quality food production through hands-on leadership, and exceeding customers' expectations through innovative menus and events. Skilled in strategic planning, procurement, mentoring, fostering an environment of collaboration, and interacting with C-Suite level clients.

EXPERIENCE

Executive Chef III – Caron Treatment Center - Sodexo

March 2019 – Present

Set the culinary vision and led the daily culinary operations including procurement and inventory for a world-renowned Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center with 185 beds and managed a budget of 3.5 million.

Developed seasonal menus focused on scratch & just in time cooking techniques utilizing, when applicable, sustainable and local products to deliver a high-quality dining experience. Collaborated with the culinary team to deliver innovative monthly dining events, weekly pop-ups, and cultural dining menus.

Oversaw catering operations, including front of the house service, for high profile events including donor lunches, board dinners, and building dedications.

Managed and mentored a team of 35 Frontline Associates and 3 Chef Managers. Implemented a 1:1 coaching program to provide individualized mentoring and development for personal growth and unit success.

Served as Unit Safety Coordinator, ensuring proper onboarding of new employees, delivered weekly & monthly unit safety training, and managed the Audit program; Ecosure scores of 95+ over the last 3 audits.

Served as Region Culinary Lead for Northeast Region for Senior Segment. Coordinated monthly calls with District Culinary Leads. Served as Segment Subject Matter Expert for Menu Planning Systems, Market Connection, & Procurement.

Executive Chef II – The Pennington School - Sodexo

June 2016- Feb 2019

Led a Culinary Team of 20 Frontline Associates and 4 Sous Chefs for a highly selective boarding school in delivering a high quality dining experience focused on scratch cooking using local produce. Developed and implemented client sustainability playbook including waste reduction.

Developed and taught Culinary Courses for students including two for credit classes. Designed innovative menus for resident dining and catering events, including events in the residence of the headmaster, donor events, and board events.

Managed the procurement and inventory for a budget of 1.5 million yearly.

Implemented a 1:1 Development program to provide individualized training for professional growth. 3 Sous Chefs have moved on to Executive Chef and Operations Manager Roles.

Unit Safety Coordinator Ecosure scores of 98+ in final year of employment.

Culinary Arts Instructor – Lehigh Career & Technical Institute

August 2013-June 2016

Instructed Advanced Culinary Arts Courses for 75 level 3 & 4 Students split between AM/PM sessions with a focus in advanced techniques of culinary arts, restaurant operations including front of the house, catering & event management, and nutrition.

Oversaw the school's Restaurant and Catering Operations as Executive Chef.

Served as Team Manager/ Head Coach of Student Culinary Team leading our team and individual competitors to multiple medals in district, state, and national competitions.

Additional Industry Experience

Catering Sous Chef – Muhlenberg College- Sodexo

August 2012-July 2013

Seasonal Sous Chef – Lehigh Valley IronPigs

Feb 2012-Sept 2015

Graduate Teaching Fellow – Johnson & Wales University

Feb 2008- Nov 2011