



South Carolina Department of Agriculture **Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner**

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Governor Haley Announces 2016 Slate of South Carolina Chef Ambassadors

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley named chefs Teryi Youngblood of *Passerelle Bistro* in Greenville, Ramone Dickerson of *2 Fat 2 Fly & Wing City* in Columbia, Orchid Paulmeier of *One Hot Mama's* on Hilton Head Island and Forrest Parker of *Old Village Post House* in Mount Pleasant as the 2016 South Carolina Chef Ambassadors at a press conference held at the Governor's Mansion December 8, 2015.

“The unique and delicious dishes these talented individuals provide at their restaurants are a perfect sampling of the diverse culinary offerings found throughout South Carolina,” said Governor Haley. “I’m thrilled and honored to call these chefs our 2016 South Carolina Chef Ambassadors.”

The Chef Ambassador program recognizes chefs from the upcountry to the coast who embody the best of South Carolina’s food scene, both in the quality of their provisions, as well as their dedication to using healthy, locally-grown ingredients.

“This initiative showcases South Carolina’s wealth of agricultural resources,” said South Carolina’s Commissioner of Agriculture, Hugh Weathers. “These chefs, and many others, strive to consistently incorporate the state’s vast produce offerings into their menus – which is wonderful to see and taste.”

Throughout the year, the chef ambassadors will participate in a number of culinary and tourism specific events across the Southeast, hosting cooking demonstrations, conducting educational seminars and discussing the offerings found in the cities in which their establishments are based.

“Representing fantastic parts of our great state, this program allows these chefs to put a unique spotlight on not only their culinary talents, but the place in South Carolina in which they live, work and play,” said Duane Parrish, executive director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. “We encourage visitors and locals alike to make the trip and dine in each of these top-notch restaurants. You won’t be disappointed!”

In its second year, the South Carolina Chef Ambassador program was an initiative Governor Haley enacted in June of 2014 after the concept was brought to her by Chef Brandon Velie, executive chef at Juniper in Ridge Spring. Chef Velie, a 2015 South Carolina Chef Ambassador, will serve as the advisor to the 2016 slate.

The 2016 SC Chef Ambassadors:

Chef Teryi Youngblood

Chef Teryi Youngblood was named Chef de Cuisine of *Passerelle Bistro* when the restaurant opened in June 2013. With a menu full of French-inspired dishes, using the purest and freshest ingredients, Chef Youngblood does not believe in complicated food. Believing cooking should speak for itself, and the food should taste like what it is, she implements this thinking into her menu daily.

Chef Ramone Dickerson

The stuffed chicken wings created by Chef Ramone Dickerson and his business partner, Corey Simmons, landed a reality TV show on the Oprah Winfrey Network last year called *Wingmen*. Dickerson owns *Wing City* restaurant and the *2 Fat to Fly* food truck, both in Columbia, where their unique approach to stuffing chicken wings with collard greens and rice, macaroni and cheese, jalepeno / bacon and cheddar, has generated a flock of fans. They also appeared on the Steve Harvey Show earlier this year.

Chef Forrest Parker

From Opryland to the Lowcountry, South Carolina native Chef Forrest Parker joined the Hall Management Group team of acclaimed chefs in 2012. He leads the culinary team at the *Old Village Post House* Inn. Charleston-educated and trained, Parker includes Southern ingredients and elements in his cooking throughout his career.

Chef Orchid Paulmeier

Chef Paulmeier was a contestant in the seventh season of the hit show, *The Next Food Network Star*. She opened *One Hot Mama's* on Hilton Head Island in 2007. Blending time-tested Southern favorites like collards, cornbread and slow-cooked barbecue and ribs with her own homespun recipes, *One Hot Mama's* serves up "comfort food with a kick."

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About the South Carolina Chef Ambassador Project:

An initiative of Governor Nikki Haley, the South Carolina Chef Ambassador program was enacted in 2014 to highlight and showcase the culinary offerings and tourism destinations found throughout the state of South Carolina. The program operates in conjunction with Governor Haley, as well as the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. For more information about the South Carolina Chef Ambassadors, please visit www.agriculture.sc.gov.



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