

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 2026

Plating with Purpose! Culinary Partnership Sparks Opportunity

The poster features a black background with white and gold text. At the top, it reads 'A TASTE OF great futures' in a mix of fonts, with a gold fork icon inside the 'o' of 'great'. Below this is 'Culinary & Spirits Tasting Event' in a cursive font. To the right, the date 'APRIL 17TH, 2026' and time '6PM - 9PM' are in gold. Below the date, it says 'HOSTED at the Wisconsin Rapids Campus at MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE' and the address '500 32nd Street North Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494'. On the left, it says 'all proceeds benefit' next to the Boys & Girls Club logo and 'BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA www.bgcwra.org'. A gold illustration of a spoon, fork, and whisk with a green herb sprig is on the right.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area is proud to announce an exciting new collaboration with Mid-State Technical College that brings education, mentorship, and community impact together in a powerful way. This year's A Taste of Great Futures event will spotlight the college's Culinary Arts program students, who are now hard at work designing and crafting an elevated sampler menu for event guests.



Under the guidance of their instructors, Chef Ryan Petrouske and Richard Neumann, students are leading the creative process of developing signature sampler dishes, refining presentation, and preparing for real-world service. During the event, they will showcase their culinary talents while gaining hands-on experience that prepares them for careers in hospitality, food service, and event production. The opportunity allows students to apply classroom learning in a professional environment, interact with guests, and build confidence in their skills.

This partnership reflects a shared mission between the Boys & Girls Club and Mid-State: when learning is engaging, hands-on, and meaningful, it builds essential life skills that last far beyond the classroom. Both organizations are committed to creating learning experiences that inspire growth, creativity, teamwork, and leadership. By connecting students with a community event that gives back, the collaboration demonstrates how education and service can work hand in hand to strengthen futures for everyone involved.

At the same time, the event serves an even larger purpose. Proceeds directly support the Boys & Girls Club programs that provide local youth with a safe place to belong, caring mentors, academic support, healthy meals, character and leadership, and life-changing opportunities during critical out of school times. Every sponsor and attendee helps ensure kids and teens in our community have access to experiences that build confidence, character, and great futures.



Community Invited to Get Involved

You're invited to be part of this unforgettable evening! Tickets go on sale March 17, 2026 and may be purchased at the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area (501 W. Grand Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495) or at Richard's Liquors (3033 8th Street S, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494). Tickets are \$75 each, with all proceeds directly benefiting Club youth. Availability is limited and expected to sell quickly.

Businesses, community leaders, and you are encouraged to attend, sponsor, and help make this one-of-a-kind event possible. Your support brings together culinary excellence and community impact, investing in local youth today while creating brighter futures for kids across our community.

Contact: Katie Johnson, Marketing & Special Events Director
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Learn more at www.bgcwra.org/a-toast-to-great-futures

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING EVENT SPONSORS OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



ABOUT

MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE MISSION IS TO TRANSFORMS LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF TEACHING AND LEARNING.

Mid-State is ready to help you achieve your educational goals. We offer a range of opportunities, from individual coursework to associate degrees. We are one college with five campuses, located in Wisconsin Rapids, downtown Stevens Point, Marshfield, Adams, and our Virtual Campus. We are positioned and ready to serve you, no matter what your needs may be.

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE WISCONSIN RAPIDS AREA MISSION IS TO INSPIRE AND EMPOWER YOUTH TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL FOR GREAT FUTURES.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area provides a safe and supportive environment for youth and teens ages 6-18, offering programs that inspire Health & Well-being, Character & Leadership, Academic Success and Life & Workforce Readiness. Serving the Wisconsin Rapids area, including Nekoosa and Port Edwards, the Club offers Jumpstart morning programs, after-school programs, summer activities, and no-school day options to meet the needs of local families. With a focus on academic support, personal growth, and mentorship, the Club empowers young people by providing enriching experiences, opportunities, and positive role models, helping them build a strong foundation for a great future.