

EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Submitted By

El Centro College Student Government Association

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During this school year El Centro Student Government Chapter has organized many events like 9/11, Beto O'Rourke, student forum, mock elections, rock the vote voters stop shop, Halloween boo bash, breakfast to-go with SGA, Etiquette dinner, Welcome back free hugs event, pizza with our college president and so on. Out of all the events that we held during this school year, the one that stood out the most was the Etiquette dinner. This because we were able to gather and get all our students, faculty, staffs, and other colleges from the district to share a meal. The Etiquette Dinner event was held on December 6th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel-Campbell Centre at 7 pm. El Centro's SGA promoted this gathering in other to make our organization well known. We invited Chef Steve DeShazo who is the director of the food and hospitality institute of our college. Chef Steve Deshazo has a Master of Arts in teaching from Louisiana college and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Amberton University and he is the owner/operator of Gourmet on the Go which is a personal chef and catering service that existed from 1998 to 2003. Chef Steve DeShazo is also a certified executive chef through the American Culinary Association, he won the Time Warner Cable Teacher Award in 2009.

The etiquette dinner was organized for all our college students, student clubs, staff, faculty members, and non-members of our college. We also invited other colleges in the district. We charged students and staff \$20 for the etiquette and we charged non-ECC members \$40. We organized this event because it is important to know how to use proper etiquette when dining as a Leader. We also hosted this event in order to educate ourselves and others on the right things to do when we find ourselves in a professional dinner setting. As a leader many opportunities to dine at a professional dinner setting will arise therefore this training was an important step for all leaders.

The etiquette dinner was based on a four-course meal catered by Steve DeShazo. It comprised of soup, an appetizer, an entrée, and dessert. Our guests were served salad, tea, broccoli cheddar soup, chicken with bread rolls, mashed potatoes, rice, and green peas. During the meal, Chef Steve Deshazo taught us proper way to use napkins. Chef Steve explained to us how should unfold our napkin and place it on our lap within 1 minute of sitting at the table to dine. He taught us how to hold our knife, spoon, and fork. He educated us when to start eating and he mentioned that it good to wait until all are served at our table before eating. Chef Steve also educated us about how to excuse ourselves on the table in case of anything. He also taught us how to pass dishes and how to chew the food.

He also he also explained the rules and regulations while eating that, we should not talk with food in our mouth and we should chew with our mouth closed. While eating our meal, we all knew not to place our elbows on the table, keep our left hand in our lap unless we were using it. He also told us not to talk with our mouth full, not to talk excessively and loudly, and not bring up controversial conversations, but pleasant and cheerful talk. Chef Steve also educate us that it's wrong to clean spills with our own napkins or touch items that have dropped on the floor, but to politely ask our server to clean up. We're also taught that if we needed to blow our nose, we should excuse ourselves to visit the restroom. We learned that it is impolite to answer a phone call or chat during dinner and that using a toothpick or applying makeup at the dinner table is impolite.

After the speaker, Steve DeShazo taught us dining etiquette, he made room for questions to be asked, people asked many questions regarding what they encounter daily while eating; how to cough or sneeze, if it was proper to ask for more food, how to eat Tacos in a professional setting, if it was proper to not eat all the food on the plate, how to excuse themselves from the table, if it was proper to

ask for ice, where to place or put trash and so on. He answered all the questions nicely and without judgment. The event was very educative, funny and entertaining, towards the end, there was Santa Claus on the dance floor, people were also dancing, and photographs being taken. We got to meet and hear several innovative words from successful leaders, people get to know and connect with each other. All our guests learned the proper and good etiquette dinner. Everyone had a great time!

Here is the picture below







