

## **Meritorious Inductee into the Class of 2014**

### **Mr. Keith Schultz**

Keith Schultz grew up in Shavertown, PA where he attended Lake Lehman School District K-12, graduating in 1989. Upon graduation, he attended Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, PA where he received an Associate Degree in Hospitality Management. He then took his collegiate career to Florida International University in Miami, Florida. While attending college in Miami, it allowed him to experience amazing opportunities in the food service arena some of which included managing venues for the Miami Dolphins, Florida Marlins, Lipton Tennis Tournament, Royal Caribbean Classic Golf Tournament and was one of three Marriott employees personally chosen to oversee the wellbeing of a Saudi Arabian Royal Family during their stay at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. In 1993, he earned a Bachelor's degree from Florida International University in Hotel Restaurant Management.

Upon graduation in 1993, he gained employment with Marriott International and accepted a position in their health care food management division. In 1998, the food management division of Marriott International was sold to Sodexo, a French food management company and is where he is employed today, 21 years later.

Keith's professional career started out in Ft Lauderdale, FL managing the Food and Nutritional Services Department at Holy Cross Hospital. From there, he relocated to New Orleans, LA taking a position at Children's Hospital. It was at that point in time two very important things happened that shaped his future into what it is today. First and most important, Children's Hospital is where he met his future wife Deborah now of 18 years. Second, Deborah being an Occupational Therapist introduced him to a whole new world of community outreach and volunteer work he never really had an interest in. After volunteering for numerous community outreach programs, it wasn't until he helped Deborah run a "Champ Camp" for pediatric amputees that his perception changed. After being surrounded by what most would call misfortune, the not a care in the world, happy go lucky attitude of these children left a permanent soft spot in his heart and is what he feels still drives his passion to help others today.

Now engaged, Keith and Deborah left New Orleans in 1995 and relocated to Boston, MA where Keith took a position with Sodexo managing two hospitals within Northeast Health System. Keith and Deborah were married in September of 1996 starting a family of their own. In December of 1998, Emily their first of four daughters was born. In January 2001, their second daughter Lauren was born. Six months later Keith took a new position within Sodexo at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, MA and is where he spent the next twelve years of his career. Still employed by Sodexo, his drive for success took him into the construction industry which was another one of his passions. In 2004 and 2005 he opened two companies and was

the President and COO of KMS Properties and M.A.K.S Development which designed and built condos and custom homes in the height of the housing market. In October 2005, his third daughter Jillian was born and in October 2008 Jenna, the last of his four daughters was born. In May 2014 Keith took another position within Sodexo and is currently the General of Partners North Shore Medical Center overseeing two hospitals just north of Boston.



In 2010, Keith's Father-in-Law Maarten Hemsley now retired and a Philanthropist was approached to take on a project that would provide career directed educational opportunities to resource limited adults and youth in Boston. The process began under the direction and with the support of Bill Strickland and the Manchester Bidwell Corporation located in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. It was decided that a culinary school would be the best fit. Maarten approached Keith to be the driving force behind the culinary design and development process for this project. After four years in development, NECAT officially opened its doors In October 2013 and is already one of the most recognized nonprofits in Boston.

NECAT, New England Center for Arts and Technology, is a FREE career- directed educational non-profit serving resource limited adults and youth. The job training offered allows the students the ability to obtain career ladder jobs in expanding and emerging employment sectors. These programs provide paths to economic stability and the securing of promising futures for students, their families and the community.

NECAT's vision is believing that all people regardless of age or circumstance can overcome educational, economic and social constraints to stable employment if they are supported by a nurturing learning community in an environment filled with hope, beauty and real world skill building.

NECAT is located in Boston's Newmarket district, an area going through economic revitalization. The center compares with most culinary art university programs and facilities; it offers state of the art, cutting edge classroom and kitchen amenities, which in most cases many universities currently do not have. The beauty and design of the center echoes Bill Strickland's belief that environment shapes behavior. If you put people in a world class environment, you get world class outcomes.

In the first year, NECAT has had two graduating classes all of which have been placed in permanent jobs.

Now that NECAT is up and running, Keith spends his time sitting on NECAT's advisory boards and watching NECAT transform the lives of everyone it touches.



Within the past year Keith started a new endeavor and is one of the five founders of a nonprofit organization called ROCKs. ROCKs, Reaching Out to Cook with Kids is a celebration of the power and passion of food bringing together families, businesses and culinary leaders to benefit kids wellness initiatives. In its short life, ROCKs has already partnered with Industry leaders such as Boston Children's Hospital, Sodexo, Snap Chef, and fellow nonprofits Health Care without Harm and the Bill Belichick Foundation.