

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Buy Local, Hire Local

Sharing Success Stories



Student: John Higgins

OCVTS Program: Culinary Arts

Instructors: Jim O'Donnell, Bruce Van Sickle, and Kevin Musto

Employer: Ohana Grill, Lavallette, NJ

Website: ohanagrill.com

Class of: 2006

Center: Brick

In John's own words... A few comments about me: I grew up loving to cook, and watching cooking shows as much as I could. I like to experiment and try new food combinations. Thankfully, I have had many opportunities to compete in multiple cooking competitions. Modestly, I am proud to say that I placed in all of them, including two of them for the OCVTS while a student in their culinary program. I enjoyed and learned a lot of the fundamentals of cooking which I built on in college and in the workforce. During my time at OCVTS, I got involved as much as possible in competitions, special events, and helping out where I could. I went on to use my skills while in college at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island. I graduated with a BA in Culinary Science (pictured below).

Being employed at the Ohana Grill in Lavallette as a chef, I have the pleasure of working alongside owner James Costello. We serve Asian, Hawaiian, and American Fusion culinary cuisine out of an open kitchen in a casual atmosphere. Ohana Grill also does many charitable events and special wine dinners monthly. The business has grown immensely. I like to think that I have been an important part of this success.

Hello, James Costello here, owner and Head Chef at the Ohana Grill in Lavallette. John Higgins has been working with us for five years. He is an incredible asset to us in all aspects of running our restaurant. John, while, an incredibly talented and a creative chef, also excels at managing employees and inventory. I am very lucky that he is part of our team at Ohana Grill.

All of the instructors in the culinary department at OCVTS remember John as a determined young man with a passion for cooking. Pictured below are examples of the culinary creations at Ohana Grill. Bon Appetit!

