FLORIDA CHEFS WIN "HEALTHY, FAST, 'FRESH FROM FLORIDA' CHALLENGE" AT WORLD FOOD CHAMPIONSHIP



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Kissimmee, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are pleased to announce the winners of the "Healthy, Fast, 'Fresh From Florida' Challenge." Louis Robinson, Sherri Williams and Rochelle Vincent competed live at the World Food Championship in Kissimmee, FL and were awarded first, second and third place, respectively.

"This challenge demonstrates that healthy meals, made with fruits and vegetables grown right here in Florida, can be prepared quickly and economically," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "I want to thank the competitors for inspiring Floridians to prepared healthy meals for themselves and their families."

"From Pensacola to Key West, Florida's farmers produce and harvest a wide variety of fresh, wholesome products that are available year-round. I congratulate these winners on rising to the challenge to make delicious meals using Florida's premier fruits and vegetables," said Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam. "With hundreds of healthy and easy-to-prepare recipes at FreshFromFlorida.com, you don't have to be a competitive chef to take advantage of all that Florida has to offer."

Presented by Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the competition challenged Floridians to quickly create healthy meals using Fresh From Florida fruits and vegetables.

Each recipe entered in the competition was required to be less than 500 calories, include at least three colors, be low in sodium, contain at least two Fresh From Florida fruits or vegetables and one source of protein and take no more than five minutes to cook. All submissions were also required to be original.

The competitors and their dishes included:

- First Place: Louis Robinson of Lakewood Ranch for Florida Fresh Agua Chile;
- Second Place: Sherri Williams of Crestview for <u>Poached Chicken and Carambola Rice</u> Bowl; and
- Third Place: Rochelle Vincent of Oviedo for Florida Citrus Shrimp Lettuce Wrap.

Dishes were judged on execution, appearance and taste by Chef Jermaine Allen of Chop.Cook.Eat personal chef service, Chef Macy Macnealy of Publix Aprons cooking school and Chef Jennifer Denlinger of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts.

For more information on the World Food Championship, or to plan your visit to next year's event, visit https://worldfoodchampionships.com/.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at <a>@HealthyFla and on <a>Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <a>www.FloridaHealth.gov.

About the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services helps support Florida's \$123 billion agriculture industry. As part of this effort, the department administers the "Fresh From Florida" program to help Florida producers market their products. For more information, visit FreshFromFlorida.com.

About Healthiest Weight Florida

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, notfor-profit organizations, businesses and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living. To learn more about how to be active and make nutritious food choices, visit www.healthiestweightflorida.com.