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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elegance and Education: ‘The Freedom 250 Dinner’ Showcases Student Talent and 250 Years of American History

Hampton, VA – The Hampton Roads Convention Center, in partnership with Hampton VA250, Hampton Master Gardeners, and Hampton City Schools, proudly presents “The Freedom 250 Dinner,” an engaging historical five-course dining experience celebrating America’s 250th anniversary. This unique event, taking place on Friday, January 16, 2026 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, will transport guests back to 1776, through immersive food, design, and storytelling of the Revolutionary era.

What makes this event truly special is that the concept and menu were developed entirely by students in the Phoebus High School’s Hospitality & Tourism Academy. This student-designed experience is the culmination of months of extensive research and creativity, including menu development aligned with authentic 18th-century ingredients grown locally with support from the Hampton Master Gardeners. This collaboration alongside the Hampton Roads Convention Center’s professional chefs, event managers, and banquet staff, which began as a mentorship, has blossomed into a full display of student ingenuity, reflecting the innovation and future leadership being developed right here in Hampton.

Guests, during this unforgettable evening, will enjoy a five-course dinner with wine pairings, historical reenactments and interpreters bringing 1776 to life, and live entertainment creating a colonial ambiance. Students will also be leading presentations on their creative and historical process.

[Tickets](#) are available for \$125 per guest, inclusive of dinner, wine pairings, live entertainment, and an unforgettable community celebration bridging the past and present. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to the Phoebus High School’s Hospitality & Tourism Academy. Dress to impress in your finest semi-formal or, if you’d like, Regency-inspired attire and join us!

Table sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information, contact Samantha Snead via email at ssnead@thehrcc.com or via phone (757)315-2200.

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Images attached [here](#): Phoebus High School's Hospitality & Tourism Academy students with Executive Chef Brian Johnson (*Hampton Roads Convention Center*) and Culinary Chef Travis Walker (*Phoebus High School*) preparing for this upcoming event!

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.