**Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center**

**Presents**

 **The 5th Great Winter Soup Cook-Off**

**Introducing “Dueling Ladles”**

 **February 10, 2018**

**What:** A soul-warming community soup competition.

**Purpose**: Fundraiser to support Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center’s educational programs, enriching the lives of those in our community.

**Date and Time**: Saturday, February 10, 11am-3pm Awards ceremony 2:30 pm.

Related event: **Dueling Ladles**, a live iron chef faceoff 10 am (separate ticket needed)

**Place**: Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Grand Hall, One Partnership Circle, Abingdon, VA 24212.

**Competitors:** $20.00 registration per soup plus business door prize for **Professional Category;**

$20.00 registration per soup for **Amateur Category** (individual and/or group); [www.swcenter.edu/soupcookoff](http://www.swcenter.edu/soupcookoff).

**Judging**: A panel of culinary experts will taste and rate the soups in a blind tasting. The soups will be rated on a scale from 1-5 using 4 judging criteria (aroma, taste, appearance, texture).

**Event Host**: Chris McIntosh from Channel 11, Daytime Tri Cities, WJHL

**Awards**: **1st, 2nd, 3rd Cash Prizes** will be given in Professional and Amateur categories, including joint category, **People’s Choice** and **Rooted in Appalachia Awards**. Professional group 1st prize winner will also have a traveling trophy to display at business for one year. Special category awards will be presented by some sponsors. There will also be a **Showmanship Award** for the best booth decorations.

**Special Mini-Classes:** Scheduled cooking demonstrations and informative cooking classes.

**Admission: $10.00** Cook off **11am-3pm** Free for children under 5. Door prize eligibility with adult ticket purchase and People’s Choice vote

**20.00** Cook Off/Dueling Ladle Package **10 am (**includes admission to cook-off & reserved seating for Dueling Ladles)

Tickets available online at [www.swcenter.edu/soupcookoff](http://www.swcenter.edu/soupcookoff).

**Vendors:** Limited to culinary related products and services. $60.00 for booth space includes a covered table and two chairs and electricity.

**Perks**: Educational culinary classes; door prizes, culinary vendors, great media coverage and a full tummy; lots of fun!

**Contact:** Higher Education Center at 276.619.4300; swebb@swcenter.edu; jferreira@swcenter.edu