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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GARGIULO EDUCATION CENTER RECEIVES \$3,000 CULINARY GRANT TO EMPOWER AT-RISK STUDENTS AND SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

(Naples, FL) – November 26, 2024 - The Gargiulo Education Center is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Collier Community Foundation to support its Culinary Empowerment Program for at-risk K-12 migrant students. This innovative program not only equips students with valuable culinary skills but also integrates essential mental health components through its partnership with the S.M.A.R.T. (Serenity, Meditation, Awareness, Respect and Trust) Building Emotional Intelligence initiative.

Led by renowned chef Marco Maccioni, the Culinary Empowerment Program focuses on teaching students safe food handling, earning culinary certifications, and preparing nutritious meals. Beyond these skills, the program fosters teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence while addressing food insecurity in Collier County. The inclusion of the S.M.A.R.T. initiative ensures students receive emotional support, building resilience and mental well-being to thrive in academics and beyond.

By combining hands-on learning, nutritional education, and mental health support, this program directly aligns with the Gargiulo Education Center's commitment to improving the lives of students and their families.

About Gargiulo Education Center:

The Gargiulo Education Center provides enriching academic and entrepreneurial opportunities in a caring environment to students from agricultural, migrant, and at-risk populations with the goal of improving the future of families, one child at a time.

For more information, please contact Mary Asta at mary@gargiuloed.org or visit [Gargiulo Education Center](https://www.gargiuloed.org).

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