

Contact

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Top Skills

Culinary Skills

Catering

Menu Development

Certifications

Grant Writer

NEHA Certified HACCP Manager

ServSafe Food Protection Manager
Instructor

Publications

Arlene Coco's Prairie Kitchen Blog

Cajun Cooking Making It Easy

Living North Magazine

The Woman Today - Twin Ports Area
MN

Arlene Coco Buscombe

Culinary Specialist and Food Safety Instructor

Ontonagon, Michigan

Summary

Culinary Specialist / ServSafe Instructor / Culinary Instructor

I have a broad perspective of the food service industry and strong technical skills including production, sales and management. I am involved and have been for some years with the farm to table movement and have served on numerous volunteer boards in the region. I conduct food safety compliance classes for restaurants and institutions and conduct various types of training and cooking classes in the Midwest region.

As a businesswoman, chef, local foods advocate and food safety instructor, I have devoted my professional life to making a difference in the culinary community. I'm a Culinary Professional with a successful consulting business emphasizing food literacy in its various forms and teaching an appreciation and use of food through the culinary arts.

I interface with the larger regional culinary community on a daily basis and come to the table with over three decades of experience. In my work I am committed to safe, efficient, economical processes and systems for food preparation in an institutional setting and in the home.

Experience

Prairie Kitchen Food Safety Training and Culinary Instruction

Culinary Specialist and Food Safety Instructor

January 2014 - Present

Midwest Region

Recent Projects

Custom Culinary Instruction- Private and Public Consumer cooking classes

Farm to School Technical instruction - 3 school districts in MN

Nutrition Revitalization projects in Senior Centers- WI

Culinary Demonstrations in Grocery Stores -WI
Post Harvest Farm to Freezer Training for Schools- MN

Food Safety-

Full Day Initial Certification Courses, Half day refresher courses and 2 hour team food safety training.

Certified Food Protection in Instructor in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota.

Prairie Kitchen Specialty Foods

Owner / Operator

December 2008 - December 2014 (6 years 1 month)

Creator and Recipe Developer for specialty baking business.

Responsible for all phases of business including purchasing, production, sales and distribution.

Servsafe Food Protection Manager Instructor

Owner / Operator

February 2006 - December 2008 (2 years 11 months)

Servsafe Instructor - food safety compliance training

Coco's Catering Company

Owner/Operator

January 1996 - January 2006 (10 years 1 month)

Directly responsible for sales, marketing and operation of all catered events.

Operated Cocos to Geaux Restaurant including development of recipes and menus.

(Sold company to Legacy Restaurants in 2006)

Southern Foodservice Contract Management

Facility Manager

January 1994 - January 1995 (1 year 1 month)

Evanston, Illinois

Supervised staff of five employees

Responsible for daily food and beverage operations including corporate dining room for Bank One, Evanston.

Morrison's Hospitality Group

Director of Catering and Special Events- University of Illinois Circle Campus

January 1990 - January 1994 (4 years 1 month)

Managed catering operations with annual sales in excess of \$500,000.
Managed over 30 employees.
Responsible for planning foodservice and catering operations for all campus special events.
Research and Developed all menus and catering policies.

Faber Enterprises/Greyhound Ent

Corporate Catering Director

January 1987 - January 1990 (3 years 1 month)

Dallas/Fort Worth Area, Chicago

Developed and standardized procedures for thirty-nine restaurants and catering operations including menu development, operational guidelines and sales and marketing strategies.

Organized and supervised all employee special events .

Plan seasonal multi-unit promotions.

Education

Lee Barnes School of Cooking, New Orleans

Cooking and Related Culinary Arts, General · (1978 - 1980)

Louisiana State University

Journalism · (1975 - 1975)