



## **Who Am I: Chef Darryl Wong's Journey of Advocacy and Mentorship**

I am Chef Darryl Wong, a proud Tucson native who's deeply committed to empowering students, especially Asian minorities, to advocate for the success of underserved communities. As someone who graduated from Catalina HS magnet school and pursued my undergraduate studies at Pima Community College, I understand the importance of fostering a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and culturally.

Growing up with immigrant parents from China and the Philippines, I embody the experiences of a first-generation American-born Chinese. My journey continued at the University of Arizona's Eller College, where I confronted the challenges of cultural identity and decision-making within our community to have a voice.

With over 30 years of experience in the restaurant industry, both behind the scenes and in the dining room, I've dedicated myself to serving patrons and my fellow professionals.

As a board member for the Arizona Restaurant Association and an executive board member for Tucson Originals, I strive to advance educational equity for Asian professionals entering the workforce.

My passion lies in mentoring and guiding students, ensuring they know the opportunities available, from scholarships to tutoring assistance, at institutions like Pima College. By fostering a sense of community and inclusivity, I aim to ignite the same drive and passion that fuels success in the hospitality industry. Let's create a future where every individual can excel and thrive.