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## **CHEFMAKERS NAMED AS FINALIST IN 2005 AMERICAN BUSINESS AWARDS<sup>SM</sup>**

*The Stevies<sup>TM</sup> will be presented on June 6 in New York City*

**Pacific Palisades, CA – May 4, 2005** – Chefmakers Cooking Academy was named a Finalist today in the Corporate Website – Animation category in the third annual American Business Awards.

Hailed as “the business world’s own Oscars” by the New York Post (September 22, 2002), The American Business Awards are the first national, all-encompassing business awards program honoring great performances in the workplace.

Nicknamed the Stevies<sup>TM</sup> for the Greek word “crowned,” winners will be announced during presentations on Monday, June 6 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. The ceremonies will be videocast on the Internet and broadcast on radio. Donald J. Trump will receive the first Lifetime Achievement Stevie Award that evening.

More than 1,200 nominations from companies of all sizes and in virtually every industry were submitted for consideration in more than 40 categories, including Best Overall Company, Best Executive, Best New Product or Service and Best Support Staffer. Chefmakers will be competing in the Corporate Web Site category for Best Animation.

Chefmakers Cooking Academy is a new cooking school concept dedicated to aspiring home cooks of all ages. Its philosophy of “edutainment” extends to its virtual presence on the web with a beautifully designed and user friendly website at [www.chefmakers.com](http://www.chefmakers.com). “We made an important strategic decision early on to provide our customers with a first-class experience on the web integrating a robust on-line registration system,” said Richard Klein, founder and CEO of Chefmakers.

Members of the Awards' Board of Distinguished Judges & Advisors and their staffs will select Stevie winners from among the Finalists. Finalists were chosen by business professionals nationwide during preliminary judging in February through April.

The elegant Stevie trophy was designed by R. S. Owens, the same company that makes the Oscar and the Emmy.

“The Stevie Award has quickly become the most coveted business honor in America,” said Michael Gallagher, founder and president of The Stevie Awards. “We began the Stevies in 2002 with the mission to generate recognition of deserving companies and individuals among the business community, the press, and the general public. Being selected as a Finalist is an important achievement, because it means that independent judges have agreed that the Finalist is worthy of national recognition. We congratulate all of the Finalists on their achievement and wish them well in the competition.”

“We are very excited to be included as a finalist in the American Business Awards program” said Richard Klein. “We thank Imagistic and APT for their creativity and hard work in creating a website truly reflective of our quest for excellence. It is a real honor.”

Details about The American Business Awards and the list of Finalists are available at [www.stevieawards.com/aba](http://www.stevieawards.com/aba).

### **About Chefmakers Cooking Academy**

Chefmakers is a cooking school and kitchenware retail store designed for people who live to cook, want to learn how to cook or simply loves great food. Creative cooking classes are available for all age groups, as are team-building classes for executives, wine tasting/education and more. For more information and a schedule of upcoming classes please visit [www.chefmakers.com](http://www.chefmakers.com) or call (310) 459-9444.

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