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**International Association of Women Chefs & Restaurateurs (WCR)  
Announces 2019 Board of Directors**  
*Eight New Members Join this Industry-Leading Organization*

The International Association of Women Chefs & Restaurateurs (WCR) is pleased to announce its 2019 Board of Directors. The current board increases its roster of directors to 16, adding more voices to this nonprofit organization focused on the support and advancement of women across the broad spectrum of the culinary landscape. WCR is a leader in this industry, striving for change and innovation, which is reflected in this diverse roster.

"As the newly elected president for WCR and long-time member of the organization, I am thinking about all of the multi-talented women who have worked hard and diligently to get us to where we are today," says Chef Elizabeth Falkner. She adds her enthusiasm for the growth of WCR, "This is a new era for women across all industries. I am thrilled, and focused on getting WCR in a position where we are connecting and evincing all of the diverse and talented women today across the expansive world of food and beverage."

Joining Chef Falkner at the helm as vice president is Kelly Fields, Chef/Owner of Willa Jean. Fields shares, "I am incredibly inspired to have the opportunity to work with WCR as we continue to grow the organization into a resource for every single woman working in all aspects of food and beverage today."

The full board roster includes (in alphabetical order):

Karen Akunowicz (MA); Kim Bartmann (MN); Michelle Battista (OR); Gwyneth Borden (CA); Amanda Cohen (NY); Tiffani Faison (MA); Elizabeth Falkner (NY); Kelly Fields (LA); Kara Maciel (DC); Bonnie Moore (VA); Erika Nakamura (NY); Jacqui Pressinger (FL); Surbhi Sahni (NY); Elle Simone Scott (MA); Daniella Senior (D.C.); and Carrie Summer (MN).

"This new board is in response to an overwhelming industry interest in the mission of WCR," says Executive Director Kristen Lee-Charlson. "Representing a wide range of some of the most talented women in the industry, this shift elevates WCR to lead the conversation around needed change in culture, while convening a broad community of leaders across the culinary landscape."

Founded in 1993 by eight of the nation's top women chefs and restaurateurs, WCR celebrates its more than 25-year history with a membership of thousands of women, from culinary students, line cooks, pastry chefs, and executive chefs to educators, food writers, farmers, media professionals, culinary consultants, wine experts, food stylists and more. A nonprofit organization with a mission to advance women across the culinary industry through education, promotion, connection, and inspiration, WCR offers opportunities for professional development, advocacy, and mentorship, and hosts their flagship annual National Conference celebrating and spotlighting women in food every spring. The [2019 National Conference](#) will be held in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota on April 27-29, 2019.

[WCR Website](#)

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