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Press Release

Public Schools of Robeson County

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Culinary Art Showcase Spotlights Creative Talent in the School Cafeterias

Norma Johnson watched in anticipation as the judges walked past her school's entry of a strawberry pizza at the Public Schools of Robeson County's School Nutrition Association's Culinary Art Show. Johnson's entry from Lumberton Senior High School was among 170 submissions from more than 30 cafeteria staffs' from across the district.

"It is fun as we get together, talk and have a good time. It is interesting to see all the things the staff members can make," Johnson said.

The event was hosted at Fairmont High School where contestants could enter 18 different categories such as *Culinary Arts Division, Dessert Miscellaneous, Breads* or *Seasonal Decoration*. The entries went beyond food preparation to creative decorations to include animal shapes made from vegetables as well as fruit. The overall winner was Rowland Norment Elementary with an entry in the *Seasonal* category.

For Darlene Baily, it was her first time to the Art Show. Her co-workers at Union Elementary School submitted a Chef Salad. "This is the first time I have participated in the show. It is nice to meet other employees. It was really pretty and very creative," Baily said.

Child Nutrition managers and directors from across the region judged the show. It was a tough job as the judges scored the entries even down to the food products used in the recipes. The winning entries received a trophy.