



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11/02/2021**

Media Contact: Caroline Walsh
Communications Coordinator
703-237-0866 x103
cwalsh@lcnv.org

Alexandria Restaurant Partners Offers English as a Pathway for Employee Growth & Retention

The pandemic changed how people want to work and what they expect from their employer. In the face of dine-in closures and mass furloughs, many hospitality workers had to leave the industry during the pandemic and now that restrictions have been alleviated and business is on the rise, restaurants have to compete with the wages and benefits offered by other industries in addition to competitors in order to meet growing staffing needs.

Alexandria Restaurant Partners (ARP) is taking a unique approach to the daunting employee retention challenge. ARP is partnering with the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) to deliver a customized program to teach and enhance their employees' English skills and open greater pathways for personal career growth within ARP.

ARP's Director of Culinary Operations/Partner, Santiago Lopez, shared “Our biggest commitment in ARP is to nurture and grow our team from within. We invest in our people to be our future leaders. We chose the partnership with the LCNV after seeing the success rate their Destination Workforce® program had providing English classes with a workplace-focused approach. We in ARP are happy to have joined the partnership and believe the results will be long term for the growth of our staff.”

ARP owns, operates, and manages eight restaurants in Florida and Northern Virginia.

Want to learn more about the ARP and LCNV partnership?

LCNV is happy to organize an interview with Alexandria Restaurant Partners and Literacy Council of Northern Virginia leadership. For more information about LCNV’s partnership with ARP, contact Ruba Marshood Afzal (rafzal@lcnv.org), Director of Partnerships and Community Engagement.

LCNV's Destination Workforce® program is a bold initiative delivering language-based workforce training to English language learners at the lowest literacy levels. Through Destination Workforce®, LCNV teaches English language learners the foundational language, literacy, cultural skills, and even industry-recognized credential training they need to obtain, succeed, and advance in entry level jobs. With these courses, adults learn critical language and soft skills, while leveraging their employability and marketability.