

Chef Daniel Hayes Bio

Daniel Hayes is Executive Chef and Catering Manager, at Wilson Avenue Hy-Vee Inc. He has been employed with Hy-Vee for over five years, but has been in the food industry for more than twenty-- holding positions from Head of Kitchen, Certified Corporate Trainer, Kitchen Manager, General Manager, Catering Manager, and Retail Chef, to Executive Chef. Daniel specializes in Cajun Food, & Southern Style Soul Food.

Daniel was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He graduated with the Jefferson High School class of 2000. After graduation, he worked for many different restaurants, before he decided to enroll in the Kirkwood Community College, School of Culinary Arts in 2011. At two months shy of his thirtieth birthday, with an eight year old son, a mortgage, and a full-time job, juggling a full-time school schedule after not having been in school for over ten years was quite a shock and very difficult at first! But Daniel finished his first college semester with a 3.75- -and after that, the scholarships came rolling in. Daniel excelled in college and managed a 4.0 every semester, graduating, with a 3.83 overall GPA. He received the prestigious "Outstanding Student Award", which is given annually to only two students per field of study in the entire College. Daniel Hayes graduated from The Hotel Kirkwood, in May of 2013, with his Culinary Arts degree and an Associates Degree in Science.

In spite of the offer of a full academic scholarship to the University of Kentucky, that same year.

Daniel took a job as a Retail Chef at the Mount Vernon Road Hy-Vee Inc. While working there he won many food competition awards.

He also instituted many special events at that Hy-Vee, including the *Fat Tuesday Extravaganza*, *Caribbean Night* and *Soul Food Sundays*—all of which were huge hits and brought out many folks to try his culinary creations.

Daniel has always been connected to his town; he loves teaching and giving time to the community he has lived in his entire life. He is still working hard with community and for the company he loves!

Daniel's hobbies are reading, fishing, golfing, playing pool, and watching sporting events live or on television; but most important is spending time with his 16 year old son, Bricen--who is his life!

Daniel Hayes is a member of The American Culinary Federation and also is a lifetime member of The Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity.