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FIRST GRADUATE OF CHURCH'S HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM TO BE CELEBRATED AT RAYMONDVILLE LOCATION

ATLANTA, GA- [Church's Chicken®](#), the iconic fried chicken quick service restaurant chain, has brought its commitment to education into its kitchens and behind its registers in McAllen, Texas with the launch of a company-funded program designed to help its crew earn high-school diplomas in partnership with Penn Foster. Church's Stride for Success program currently includes 27 Church's crewmembers. McAllen, Texas is experiencing success with the first graduate set to receive her diploma early next month.

"We couldn't think of a better initiative to help our team members achieve their untapped potential than by helping them achieve this educational milestone," said [Ed Brett](#) Chief Human Resources Officer at *Church's Chicken*. "We're immensely proud of Joann for being the first to complete this program. She clearly has a desire to grow and learn, and as long as our team members have that mindset, we're committed to doing everything possible to assist them in becoming successful."

"Costs and scheduling time away from work can present insurmountable obstacles for many who want a high school diploma," continued Brett. "By taking care of 100 percent of the cost associated with the program, and by developing curriculum that can be accomplished online at our employees' convenience, those burdens are lessened considerably."

Joann Jaso of McAllen, Texas is the first graduate of Stride for Success, is set to receive her diploma in early November, with more expected to complete graduation requirements as the year continues. Input from participants will help the company make any modifications before rolling the program out company-wide in the upcoming months. "We want our employees to grow with us over the long haul. We want everyone to have the opportunity to make our brand the place they grow their careers. We believe this program will go a long way in helping many achieve this dream," he said.

The Stride for Success program, the brainchild of Chief Executive Officer [Jim Hyatt](#) and Chief Human Resources Officer Ed Brett, and is yet another way that the *Church's* brand contributes to education. Both executives were also instrumental in the creation and system wide rollout of it Church's Scholar Program, which offers scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors and, most recently, Church's employees as well.

About Church's Chicken

Founded in San Antonio, TX in 1952 by George W. Church, *Church's Chicken* is one of the largest quick service

restaurant chicken chains in the world. *Church's* specializes in Original and Spicy Chicken freshly prepared throughout the day in small batches that are hand-battered and double-breaded, *Tender Strips*®, sandwiches, honey-butter biscuits made from scratch and freshly baked, and classic, home-style sides all for a great value. *Church's* (along with its sister brand *Texas Chicken* outside the Americas) has more than 1,650 locations in 25 countries and international territories and system-wide sales of more than \$1 billion. For more information, visit www.churchs.com. Follow *Church's* on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchschicken and Twitter at www.twitter.com/churchschicken.

About Penn Foster

Founded in 1890, Penn Foster has been a leader in career-focused distance and hybrid learning for more than 100 years through its high school, career school and college. Through direct enrollment by students as well as partnerships with schools and businesses, more than 13 million people have taken Foster-enabled courses to further their education debt-free and better position them for life success. A Penn Foster high school diploma gives students the competitive advantage – and the confidence – they need, whether they're looking to enter the workforce, start a new career, earn more money, or prepare for college.

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