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Here's hoping you'll Crave her food

Call it a test kitchen on wheels.

Holyoke Community College culinary student Nicole Ortiz hopes to take her business concept on the road this summer.

Also a participant in the Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll) initiative in Holyoke, she wants to bring her training and her love of fresh food to the streets this summer with a new venture: Crave Food Truck.

She will give her menu its first reveal on Sunday at the Holyoke Community College-MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St., with seatings at 5 and 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 and must be reserved in advance.

Ortiz says her dream "is to provide fresh food options, with a focus on bright and healthful breakfast foods for busy commuters in Holyoke and Springfield."

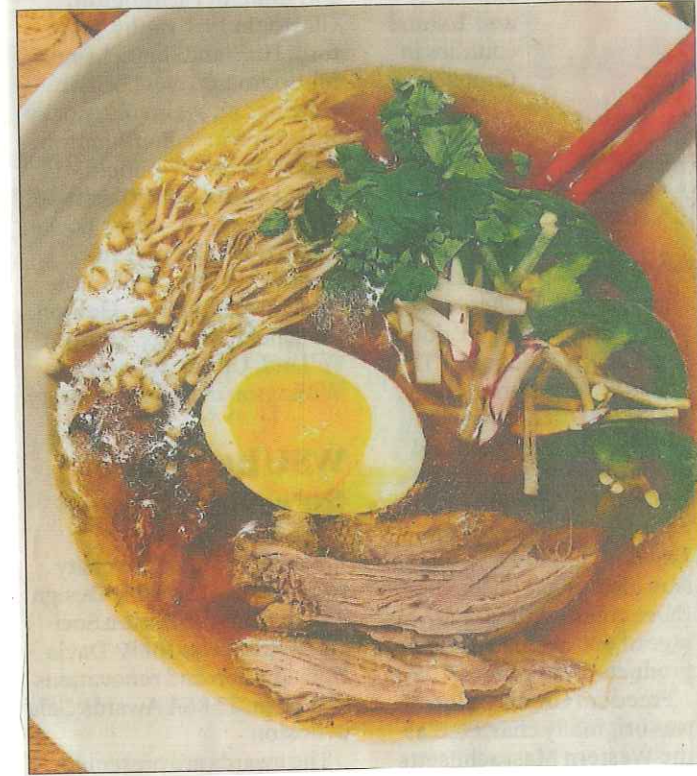
As she gears up for graduation in May, Ortiz is testing her business idea by surveying community needs and sampling her recipes to select groups of diners. The weekend event is one of those sampling opportunities.

Ortiz says her time at the culinary arts institute has provided her experience with a range of food styles.

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Nicole Ortiz is starting a food truck - Crave Food Truck - in Holyoke this summer. She will give her menu its first reveal on Sunday at the Holyoke Community College-MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St. On the menu Sunday will be Ortiz's signature ramen dish, right.



Crave

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The upcoming sampling menu will showcase different dishes and flavors, tied together by Ortiz's love of "local foods, strong flavors and fresh, bright produce."

It will include vegan tostones, beet hummus and avocado crostini. Also on the menu will be a signature ramen dish.

The meal will take place in the dining room of the culinary institute, where she's honed her skills alongside

other aspiring chefs. Guests will be encouraged to provide feedback on the emerging menu, which will eventually shape the offerings of the Crave Food Truck.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time, and I'm excited for this first step," says Ortiz. "I've seen a need in my hometown for a wider variety of food options and I can't wait to do my best to bring some fresh, new options to my neighbors in Holyoke and Springfield."

Ortiz joined the EforAll business accelerator program in the fall. A free program,

it is offered twice a year with participants provided immersive business training, mentorship and access to an extended professional network. The successful Holyoke Hummus Co. was among the initial participants in the program.

Ortiz's pop-up dinner will be the first of several benchmark goals that Ortiz outlined for her business during her EforAll training.

Those interested in attending the dinner can go online to [Facebook.com/cravefoodtruck](https://www.facebook.com/cravefoodtruck) for tickets and information.