Annual Conference Session Suggestions

2025 Survey Feedback

"Please let us know what education session topics you would like to see offered in the future:"

1. **Scratch Cooking Skills**
   a. Standardized recipe building
   b. Spice pairing & flavor boosts
   c. Knife skills & safety
   d. Speed-scratch techniques

2. **Director Roundtables & MDE Updates**
   a. Longer director roundtables
   b. MDE multi-topic briefings
   c. Open Q&A with MDE
   d. Peer-to-peer problem solving

3. **Procurement & Commodities**
   a. Procurement reviews & FBG
   b. USDA Foods diversion
   c. Buy American compliance
   d. Policy/code change impacts

4. **People Management**
   a. Difficult staff conversations
   b. Team dynamics & buy-in
   c. Communication skills
   d. Customer service refreshers

5. **AI in Nutrition**
   a. Hands-on AI (with laptops)
   b. Menu planning use cases
   c. POS/apps workflow tips
   d. Practical "how-to" labs

6. **Menu & Marketing**
    a. Participation growth tactics
    b. Special menu days playbook
    c. Social media & photography
    d. Parent/community outreach
7. **Emergency Preparedness**
    a. Kitchen emergency planning
    b. Crisis response procedures
    c. Staff training checklists
    d. Safety drills & roles
8. **Allergen Training**
    a. Special diets workflow
    b. Allergen updates & labeling
    c. Cross-contact prevention
    d. Documentation practices
9. **OVS & Production**
    a. OVS essentials
    b. Production records 101
    c. Portioning & sanitation
    d. Thermometer use & logs
10. **Budget & Forecasting**
    a. Building a program budget
    b. Forecasting tools & methods
    c. Cost controls & KPIs
    d. Data-driven purchasing