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**Chef Colby Garrelts of bluestem and rye restaurants in Kansas  
City wins prestigious James Beard Foundation award!**

*Best Chef: Midwest title awarded to chef in New York City ceremony!*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (May 7, 2013) - - - On Monday evening, May 6, at Lincoln Center ceremonies in New York City, Colby Garrelts, the chef and co-owner of bluestem and rye restaurants in Kansas City, was awarded the James Beard Foundation Best Chef: Midwest title. Chef Garrelts took his wife Megan, pastry chef and co-owner, to the podium to receive his award. The James Beard Foundation awards are the most prestigious in the country and recognize outstanding professionals in the food and beverage industries. This year's ceremonies were hosted by Oliver Platt.

Commenting on his award, chef Garrelts stated, "I am extremely honored to receive this award. It is the recognition that every chef in America strives for in their career. I need to thank my wife and partner in the restaurant, Megan, and our outstanding staffs. It is more than a chef award, it is a win for our restaurants and entire team!"

**bluestem** specializes in Progressive American Cuisine and New Varieties of American Desserts. The restaurant, located at 900 Westport Road in Kansas City, Mo., serves dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The Wine Lounge is open Tuesday through Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. Sunday brunch is offered from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. For more information on the restaurant, please call 816-561-1101, or go to [www.bluestemkc.com](http://www.bluestemkc.com).

**rye** is located at 10551 Mission Road in Leawood, Kan., and celebrates Midwestern cuisine, traditions and culture. Rye is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. For more information on the restaurant, please call 913-642-5800, or visit [www.ryekc.com](http://www.ryekc.com).

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