“In teaching Culinary Arts at Bloomingdale High School, I use the weekly Taste section of the Tampa Bay Times to enhance the curriculum, show my students relevant upcoming events and happenings, provide variety in my teaching and inspire students into reading.”

Rene was chosen as a 2018 Honorable Mention because of his targeted use of a special interest section to enhance career education.

The Taste section, which includes recipes, reviews and articles about cooking, food and restaurants, appears in the Times every Wednesday. Chef Rene uses the Taste section to familiarize his students with local food-related events and happenings, and to encourage them to read by providing them with up-to-the-minute content that is relevant and interesting to them.

Each week throughout the year, Chef Rene chooses one article from the Taste section. After reading the article, the students do a reflection on it, which they then share as a class. After school, students who are interested in that week’s section may take it home with them to read further.