

Alex Askew

President, BCAGlobal
(formerly Black Culinarian Alliance)

New York, New York

Alex Askew believes in the power of connections. He connected to his first employer when he was only 14 years old. That's when he landed a job as a personal chef through his high school's culinary work program.

This early experience sparked a passion within him. It led to a series of restaurant jobs in New York City, and eventually brought him to the Culinary Institute of America. He graduated in 1989.

As a young graduate, Askew realized how hard it could be for young minority students to connect to each other. It was equally difficult to connect to leaders in the food and hospitality industries. So he cofounded the Black Culinarian Alliance in 1993.

"I realized that young people like myself lacked the connections needed to be successful in the industry. They also lacked the skills to build a network," he said. "Education is important. But you also need to know how to use relationships to create more opportunities."

The organization is now called BCAGlobal, because of its global work. It provides awareness and exposure to more than 150 students each year by connecting education with the food industry. It pairs students with thriving professionals who give real-life advice. It works to create more career paths within the food service, restaurant and hospitality industries.

BCAGlobal also connects students with the culinary history of African Americans. "Helping young people understand the awesome legacy of

African American cooks, chefs and others in food history builds their confidence. Knowing where your roots start makes it easier to see what's possible and where you can go," he said.

Askew is growing this work through a Kellogg Foundation fellowship in Leadership and Racial Equity Healing. He is working with other leaders to help lift up communities in need. "There's a close connection between racial equity healing, food and the community. A lot of it starts with our mindfulness and appreciation of food. We need to understand food traditions and value in our lives," Askew said. "If we can get young people excited about food, talking about food, learning to appreciate food and mindful of food, we can raise the spirit of the community."



Chili-Dusted Pan-Seared Chicken Medallions with Roasted Apple & Black-Eyed Pea Relish

The flavors in this recipe, from the slightly tart Granny Smith apples to the sweet, spicy chili mixture, meld together to create the perfect dinner-party dish.

For recipe, visit AAHCalendar.com/recipes/january.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1863: Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation. New Year's Day	2 1965: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. calls for nonviolent protests if Alabama blacks are not allowed to register and vote.
3 1624: William Tucker, first African child born in America.	4 1971: The Congressional Black Caucus organized.	5 1943: George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist and inventor, dies.	6 1831: The World Anti-Slavery Convention opens in London.	7 1890: William B. Purvis patents fountain pen.	8 2015: Andraé Crouch, legendary gospel performer, dies.	9 2014: Franklin McCain, one of the "Greensboro Four," dies.
10 1864: George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist and inventor, born.	11 1940: Benjamin O. Davis Sr. becomes U.S. Army's first black general. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed	12 1948: Supreme Court rules blacks have right to study law at state institutions.	13 1990: L. Douglas Wilder inaugurated as first African American governor (Virginia) since Reconstruction.	14 1975: William T. Coleman named secretary of Transportation.	15 1929: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a major voice for civil rights in the 20th century, born.	16 1978: NASA names African American astronauts Maj. Frederick D. Gregory, Maj. Guion S. Bluford Jr. and Dr. Ronald E. McNair.
17 1942: Three-time heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay), born.	18 1856: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer heart surgeon, born. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed	19 1918: John H. Johnson, editor and publisher of Jet and Ebony magazines, born.	20 2009: Barack H. Obama sworn in as the 44th president of the United States of America, becoming the first African American to hold the office of U.S. commander-in-chief.	21 1947: Jefferson Evans becomes first black graduate of The Culinary Institute of America.	22 2009: Susan Rice confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, becoming the first African American woman to represent the nation before the world in this capacity.	23 1891: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams founds Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first training hospital for black doctors and nurses in the U.S.
24 1865: Congress passes 13th Amendment, which, on ratification, abolishes slavery.	25 1851: Sojourner Truth addresses first Black Women's Rights Convention, Akron, Ohio.	26 1977: Andrew Jackson Young Jr. becomes the first African American to serve as the United States ambassador to the United Nations.	27 1961: Leontyne Price, world-renowned opera singer, makes her Metropolitan Opera debut.	28 1998: Sarah "Madam CJ" Walker, first black female millionaire, honored on U.S. postage stamp.	29 1926: Violette Neatly Anderson becomes first black woman lawyer to argue a case before the Supreme Court.	30 1844: Richard Theodore Greener, first African American to graduate from Harvard, born.
31 2006: Coretta Scott King, widow of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who enshrined his legacy of human rights and equality, dies.						

When you think of peanuts, do you think of shampoo, soap and ink? Luckily, George Washington Carver did. In the 1900s, he developed hundreds of products from peanuts and became one of America's most distinguished scientists.¹



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