

HEALTHY CHEF CHALLENGE 2024



DION DAWSON

JUDGING PANEL

Dion Dawson is a food-fighting social entrepreneur, philanthropic leader, and founder focused on health equity through an innovative and logistical lens.

Dion is the founder of Dion's Chicago Dream, a nonprofit organization that combats food insecurity through logistics & last-mile delivery. His system provides a week's worth of fresh produce to the door steps of food insecure recipients and has surpassed millions of pounds of fresh produce provided annually to the food system, numerous community jobs created and one powerful movement.

Dion is an award-winning military journalist, public relations & communications expert, philanthropist, and son of Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. His philanthropic achievements include being named an Echoing Green Fellow, 2023 Aspen Institute Food Leaders Fellow, 2023 University of Chicago Civic Leadership Academy Fellow, 2023 Chicago Bulls Martin Luther King Legacy Award recipient, 2021 American Express NGen Fellow and more. His writings have been featured in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, Crain's Chicago and a host of other publications.

His penchant for challenging the solvency of food insecurity through the stabilization of the supply chain has reinvigorated the traditional food distribution model and been met with worldwide attention. With data-driven operations, consistent quality, and a deep commitment to a resident-informed process that meets residents and recipients where they are, he prioritizes the end-user experience.