

Elena Terry is the Founder and Executive Chef of Wild Bearies, a non-profit catering company that focuses on community outreach, education, responsible gardening practices and utilizing traditional ingredients in the daily lives of the participants. She has partnerships with Intertribal Agriculture Council, UW Madison and various tribal farms and producers where she promotes and supports their work by showcasing the ingredients in a way that builds connections. Elena also helps with Mobile Farmers Market in Dane County, sharing indigenous ingredients with the community. She is a member of the Hocak Nation in Wisconsin and considers herself a lifelong learner of their traditional ways and food sources of the woodland area. Elena's first role with NAFSA was in 2018 as one of the initial mentees in the pilot chef mentorship program. She represented in 2019 by coordinating the kitchen operations and chef mentorship program at Pokagon GLIFS. Elena is officially on board to continue the work of building a culinary community that's supportive, educational and nurturing all while promoting positive culinary representation of our indigenous ingredients.