



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2010

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Statewide Culinary Students to Convene in March 2-3, 2010 for ProStart® Culinary and Management Competition

Metairie, LA—The Louisiana Restaurant Association Education Foundation (LRAEF) will host its 9th Annual Louisiana ProStart® Student Competition, March 2-3, 2010 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center, Hall D. The competition showcases the culinary and academic talents of high school junior and senior ProStart® students from 25 schools across Louisiana. The competition features two primary components: the Culinary Competition and the Management Competition.

During the **Culinary Competition, Tuesday, March 2 from 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, teams will demonstrate their creative abilities through the preparation of a three-course meal consisting of: a soup, salad or appetizer; a protein such as meat, fish or fowl, vegetable and starch; and a cold or flambé dessert. Judges from the foodservice industry, the Department of Health and Hospitals and post-secondary educational institutions will observe and rate their performance during the hour-long competition.

Teams participating in the **Management Competition, Wednesday, March 3 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, will demonstrate their knowledge of the restaurant and foodservice industry by developing a restaurant proposal, delivering a verbal presentation and applying critical thinking skills to challenges managers face in day-to-day operations. Their performance will be observed and rated by judges from leading colleges and universities and industry professionals.

The 2010 LRAEF ProStart® Student Competition **Sponsors** include: **Diamond**—Auto Chlor Services and the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation; **Platinum**—Louisiana Culinary Institute; **Gold**—Alack Refrigeration Company, Brown's & Barbe's Dairy, Jose Garcia II Photography, LRA Northeast Chapter, MPress, and Sysco; **Bronze**—Mr. Mudbug, Serranos Salsa Company and TLC Linen Services; and **Friends**—ConAgra Foods, Mestizo Restaurant in Baton Rouge, Notini's Restaurant in Bossier City and Ruth's Chris Steak House.

ProStart® is a two-year comprehensive culinary management course for juniors and seniors in high school with two primary outcomes: to provide students with access to a network of culinary programs across Louisiana and to train students to go directly to work in Louisiana's foodservice industry. The LRAEF pairs ProStart® students and LRA members together in a mutually-beneficial relationship. Students are required to complete a 400-hour paid internship, thus providing hands-on training. Many of LRA members serve as mentors to ProStart® students.

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Page 2/LRAEF 2010 ProStart® Student Competition

The participating schools are:

Bogalusa High School
Bonnabel Magnet Academy
Covington High School
Cuillier Career Center
Dutchtown High School
East Iberville High School
Fontainebleau High School
Grace King High School
Hammond High School
H.L. Bourgeois High School
Istrouma High School
John Ehret High School
Mandeville High School
North Caddo High School
Northside High School
North Vermillion High School
Rayne High School
St. Charles Satellite Center
Salmen High School
Slidell High School
Sulphur High School
Thibodaux High School
WD Smith Career Center
Welsh High School
Westgate High School

-30-

ProStart® is a two-year, culinary management program for high school juniors and seniors with a curriculum designed to teach students culinary techniques as well as restaurant management skills. ProStart® is in more than 40 high schools statewide and more than 1,000 students participate in the program.

The Louisiana Restaurant Association is one of the largest business organizations in the state, representing more than 7,500 restaurant operations and related businesses. The restaurant industry in Louisiana is the state's largest private employer with 140,000 employed directly and another 55,000 indirectly employed. Restaurant sales in Louisiana are expected to reach \$4.8 billion in 2010.

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