



ProStart students participate in a black box cooking competition during Grand View Lodge's De'Vine weekend.

State's Hospitality Businesses Provide Amazing Opportunities for ProStart Students

Our Spring newsletter is one we always look forward to! Not only is the season turning warmer and greener but there is much good news to share. The Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation (HMEF) has worked with many schools and classrooms this year and has seen great opportunities for our hospitality and culinary programs. We want to share our gratitude for the teachers that have partnered with us this year with the ProStart culinary program and the Hospitality & Tourism Management Program (HTMP). You are an inspiration to us and we value your commitment to teaching these programs. This year we had 44 high schools teaching ProStart and six schools teaching HTMP in Minnesota. Our programs are growing!

We wanted to share a couple stand-out opportunities where schools have partnered with the industry to aid students learning and expand their experiences:

- Grand Casino Hinckley hosted ProStart classes from North Branch and Cambridge for a half-day field trip to learn about the banquet process and functions. The combined 32 students were able to tour multiple on-site restaurants as well as a production kitchen and banquet department. Additionally, they held break-out learning sessions on the front of the house, sales, event planning, facility setup and logistics, as well as the back of the house.
- Grand View Lodge in Nisswa included ProStart classes from Elk River and Sauk Rapids-Rice for its popular De'Vine weekend. This popular resort weekend includes many special events such as wine and culinary demonstrations and classes. The ProStart students participated in a black box competition with celebrity judges, with Elk River taking home the prize.

The work of the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation is to:

- promote the hospitality industry as a career of great promise
- implement career-building educational programs, ProStart and HTMP, that promote the hospitality industry to high school students
- raise funds for and award academic scholarship for students pursuing careers in the hospitality industry

Thank you to our industry partners that make up our Leaders Fund! The financial support from these partners makes the Foundation's work possible:

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Lynette Uetz
HMEF Executive Director

Betty Fisk
HMEF Administrative Coordinator



Burnsville High School was a first-time competitor in this year's Minnesota ProStart Invitational.



Rogers High School made its first appearance in the management competition in 2017.

Competition Fierce at Minnesota ProStart Invitational

On March 9th, our Minnesota ProStart Invitational was held at Sysco Minnesota headquarters. We welcomed 14 culinary and 3 management teams:

Culinary Competition: Buffalo High School, Burnsville High School, Elk River High School, Hopkins High School, Indus School, Integrated Arts Academy, Osseo Senior High, Park Center Senior High, Pillager High School, Rocori High School, Rogers High School, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School - 1, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School - A, and Washington Technology Magnet School

Management Competition: Indus School, Rogers High School, and Sauk Rapids-Rice High School

[Click here for more details and photos from our state competition.](#) We are always excited to welcome new teams to competition as this is a significant learning opportunity for students. Not only are students learning high level culinary skills, but they also learn how to work under time/pressure, how to partner as a team and cultivate communication skills. We invite more schools to join us next year!

Our 2017 Minnesota state winners included Elk River High School for culinary and Sauk Rapids-Rice for management. These two teams advanced to the national competition April 28-30 in Charleston, SC. We are pleased to report that the Elk River culinary team placed seventh at the national level and the Sauk Rapids-Rice team gave an excellent presentation. This is always an intense competition and we are proud of our participating students and teachers!

ProStart is the epitome of what happens when education, mentorship, industry support and passion comes together.

Monique Sabby - Elk River High School ProStart instructor



The Eagan High School HTMP class took a field trip to Red Wing to tour the historic St. James Hotel.

Eagan High School Grows Its Hospitality & Tourism Management Program

The Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTMP) program has seen significant growth this year. This curriculum is created by our national partners, the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute. We caught up with one of our Minnesota HTMP teachers to learn how the year went with her new curriculum.

Patsy Keech has been teaching work experience programs at Eagan High School for the past 10 years. She is in her second year of teaching Hospitality Management. The program is offered to juniors and seniors and has fluctuated between nine and 17 students per trimester. However, next year the program will increase to 24 students each trimester.

She said, "When I first began using this curriculum, I brought it directly to the hotels in my area. I was confident that my years of teaching communications would aid in teaching customer service. But I was a little nervous because I had limited experience working in the hotel and restaurant industries. I needed partners that could help me provide a hands-on experience for my students." She added, "Five hotels committed to working with me and my students directly. Collectively, we planned a two-week rotating job-shadow experience so students could experience different careers in the following areas: General Manager, Housekeeping, Sales and Marketing, Security and Maintenance. The rotating factor also allowed students to see similarities and differences between the hotels. The students tracked their key learnings throughout the project and at the end of this experience, they hosted a Learning Summit for our hotel partners."

Keech listed a variety of fulfilling experiences this year for her Hospitality & Tourism Management Program class:

- Creating decorations for an International Doula Conference at the University of Minnesota.
- Taking the Amtrak train to Red Wing and toured the St. James Hotel. After that we traveled to nearby Wabasha where we toured the Anderson Inn.
- Hosting a WOW (Works of Wonder) Breakfast at Eagan High School, honoring 200 teachers and students for just being amazing people.
- Hosting a Veteran's Day assembly for 150 veterans and their families.
- Researching food allergies and tasting the difference between grass fed vs. regular beef, gluten free products vs. non-gluten free.
- Creating the menu and making lunch for 30 children at the Minneapolis Crisis Nursery.
- Serving as tour guides for the 2017 Summit Avenue Homes Tour in St. Paul.
- Visiting Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- Planning a Somali cultural event for the community of Eagan, entertaining and feeding over 400 people.
- Partnering with the local senior center and planning an outing for 10 senior citizens.
- Hosting a district-wide event for 500 students featuring Vance Zohorski, a local Shark Tank contestant who owns Line Cutterz. He gave an inspiring presentation and Q & A for students about Entrepreneurship.

Keech said, "My students are all skillful event planners...they love to plan, market and host big events. Preparing the meal for the children at the Minneapolis Crisis nursery was a huge hit! Taking the train and the job shadowing at the hotels were also high on the list of enjoyable projects. "

"My personal definition of hospitality is 'creating a positive and meaningful experience for someone else.' Prior to using this curriculum I would struggle with the big question...How do I teach a feeling?" Keech said. "By using the HTMP curriculum I have been able to incorporate concrete techniques that we have included in every event we have hosted this year."

HMEF to Award \$97,000 in Scholarships

The HMEF staff and board of directors look forward to this time each year. With the support of our many generous industry donors we are able to award aspiring students scholarships to pursue their hospitality career goals. This year the Foundation has approved up to \$97,000 in scholarships to 31 students. We are inspired as we read the scholarship applications and hear about their passion for the industry and their drive to succeed. We are honored to partner with these talented students to reach their goals!



ProStart alumnus and former state and national ProStart Invitational competitor Joshua Walbolt is Chef de Partie at Bellecour in Wayzata.

Minnesota ProStart Alumnus Spotlight:

Joshua Walbolt, Chef de Partie at Bellecour, Wayzata

Joshua began as a high school student at Elk River High School. He was part of the school's ProStart program and for both 2011 & 2012 won the state level ProStart Invitational and advanced to the national competition. In his first year, he won 2nd place with his knife skills. Walbolt shares, "I would take any chance to practice my knife skills, go over my recipes and costing. My ProStart teammates would be frustrated as I often changed my mind on how to make a dish better."

That drive and passion paid off. Currently, Joshua is Chef de Partie at Bellecour, the recently opened Wayzata restaurant under ownership of Chef Gavin Kaysen. "I prepare all the sides coming from the rotisserie as well as plan prep lists for our station so can function has a team."

[Read Joshua's full story.](#)

Get Involved!

The Foundation could not do this work alone! We succeed by partnering with our volunteers and donors. Here is how you can get involved:

Donate a scholarship - our scholarship program is successful only through the generous contribution of donors and partners. In 2017 the Foundation will

award \$97,000 to 31 students pursuing a degree in the hospitality industry. Please consider donating a scholarship!

Share your time - There are many ways to support the work of our students including:

- Share your industry knowledge as a guest speaker in the classroom
- Offer students a tour of your business
- Mentor a team for competition
- Make a donation to support the program or provide a scholarship

Contact Betty Fisk at (651) 925-4012 or betty@hospitalitymn.com to learn more about how you can get involved.

Upcoming HMEF Events:

May 18	ProStart Educator of Excellence Awards, Chicago
May 24	HMEF Scholarship Luncheon (for scholarship recipients, donors and invited guests only)
June 15	Teacher Roundtable
August 10	ProStart Teacher Training
October 5	Minnesota Hospitality Conference & Expo
November 5	Stars of the Future (tasting fundraiser)

The Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation is the 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable foundation of the Minnesota Restaurant, Lodging and Minnesota Resort & Campground Associations.



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