

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Culinary Students Compete for Scholarships

Restaurant Industry Creates Own Workforce of the Future

(Columbia, Maryland) On March 4, 2009, the Maryland ProStart Student Invitational (MPSI) will feature exciting culinary and management competitions for teams of local high school students judged by national foodservice professionals.

WHO: Maryland's most impressive rising culinary and hospitality management students from 23 high schools across the state will compete for over \$600,000 in college and continuing education scholarships, state-wide bragging rights and the opportunity to represent the State of Maryland at the national competition in San Diego, CA in April 2009.

Baltimore City - Edmondson Westside HS; Baltimore National Academy Foundation HS

Baltimore County - Carver Center for Arts and Technology; Sollers Point Technical HS

Cecil County - Rising Sun HS

Garrett County - Southern Garrett HS

Howard County - Howard County Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL); Oakland Mills HS; Howard HS

Montgomery County - Albert Einstein HS; Gaithersburg HS; Quince Orchard HS; Springbrook HS

Prince George's County - Bowie HS; Crossland Evening HS; Duval HS; Fairmont Heights HS;
Forestville Military Academy; High Point HS; Laurel HS; Suitland HS

Washington County - North Hagerstown HS; South Hagerstown HS

WHAT: The 5th annual Maryland ProStart Student Invitational, hosted by the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF) includes a one hour "iron chef" culinary competition to create an appetizer, an entrée and dessert. Professional industry judges will be scoring each team on proper food safety and sanitation procedures, proper cooking methods, food taste, team work and menu difficulty. MPSI also includes a management competition that incorporates a management level case study and a team versus team quiz bowl.

WHERE: Martin's Crosswinds | 7400 Greenway Center Drive | Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

WHEN: Wednesday, March 4, 2009 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (EDT)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Press Conference

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Featuring Marshall Weston, Executive Vice President of the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation as well foodservice professionals and teachers from area schools to discuss the competition.

Embassy and Terrace Ballrooms

(continued)

Culinary Competition

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Product Check-In
8:00 AM – 12:45 PM	Knife Skills
8:00 AM – 12:45 PM	Mise en Place
8:45 AM – 2:15 PM	Cooking

Embassy and Terrace Ballrooms

Management Competition - CLOSED TO MEDIA

7:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Case Study - <i>Maryland Ballroom</i>
11:30 AM – 2:25 PM	Quiz Bowl - <i>Regency Ballroom</i>

College / Career Fair

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<i>Martin's Crosswinds Lobby</i>
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Awards Dinner

6:00 – 9:00 PM	Pre-Purchased Ticket Holders Only <i>Embassy and Terrace Ballrooms</i>
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WHY:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation in partnership with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation uses ProStart as its School-to-Career program to create a highly-skilled workforce for the Maryland Restaurant and Hospitality industry. ProStart is a high school curriculum that is recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education as an official Career and Technology Education (CTE) program and is currently used by 80 schools in the state. Whether students are looking to enter the job market directly or making plans for college, ProStart will teach them the skills to help them get there.

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The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) has remained relevant to restaurateurs for over 80 years by maintaining core principles born out of the first national financial crisis. In 1927 a small group of Baltimore area restaurateurs met to deal with some of the challenges facing the economy and the Foodservice Industry. Today, RAM is a 2,000 member strong statewide trade association operated for the purpose of promoting, protecting and improving the foodservice industry in the State of Maryland. Since the very beginning, the Association has been run by restaurateurs and suppliers working not only for the benefit of dues paying members, but also for the restaurant industry as a whole. For more information about the restaurant industry in Maryland please visit our website at www.marylandrestaurants.com.