

RESTAURANT



ASSOCIATION  
MARYLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MARYLAND'S TOP STUDENT CHEF'S  
AWARDED OVER \$1.4 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS**  
Washington County and Baltimore County Students  
to Represent Maryland in National Competition

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(Columbia, Maryland) Maryland's top culinary and hospitality management students from 22 high schools across the state competed yesterday in the Maryland ProStart Student Invitational (MPSI), hosted by the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation. Students competed for over \$1,400,000 in college and continuing education scholarships and the opportunity to represent the State of Maryland at the National ProStart Invitational in Overland, KS in April 2011.

"Each of the students that competed in yesterday's competition is to be commended for their commitment to their craft. The culinary arts and hospitality management are intense and highly skilled professions and these students took another step forward into a successful and rewarding career in the restaurant and hospitality industry," said Marshall Weston Jr., President & CEO of the Restaurant Association of Maryland and Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation.

A panel of 40 national and local foodservice professionals judged the students in both culinary and management competitions. Students trained for months to practice the preparation and execution of an appetizer, entrée and dessert, which they created from scratch in only one hour. All food was cooked with only two butane burners as heat sources, with no electricity or battery operated equipment allowed.

Judges scored participants on proper food safety and sanitation procedures, cooking methods, food taste, teamwork and menu difficulty. In the management competition, student teams presented judges with a business proposal for a new restaurant concept, developed prior to the event. Teams prepared a comprehensive written proposal, visual display and presented their concept to a panel of judges, who acted as potential investors in their new concept.

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**CULINARY COMPETITION WINNERS**

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1st Place: North Hagerstown High School (Washington County)  
2nd Place: Reservoir High School (Howard County)  
3rd Place: Glenelg High School (Howard County)

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**MANAGEMENT COMPETITION WINNERS**

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1st Place: Carver Center for the Arts (Baltimore County)  
2nd Place: Western School of Technology (Baltimore County)  
3rd Place: Howard County Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL) (Howard County)

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## 2011 MARYLAND PROSTART STUDENT INVITATIONAL

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“Thanks to the generosity of our industry and its supporters, these students will have the opportunity of a lifetime at their fingertips,” said Michael Birchenall, chairman of the RAMEF board of directors. “This was truly a statewide competition and I couldn’t be more proud of North Hagerstown High School and the Carver Center for the Arts for coming out on top.”

Also honored at last evening’s awards dinner at the Baltimore Convention Center, was the ProStart Teacher of the Year for the State of Maryland. Laura Safrit, Culinary Arts Teacher at the Rising Sun High School will be honored by the National Restaurant Association at their annual trade show in Chicago, IL this upcoming May.

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 over 90 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.

The Maryland ProStart Student Invitational is made possible by Platinum Scholarship Sponsor: McCormick and Company, Inc., Awards Dinner Sponsor: Centerplate, Culinary Competition Sponsor: Saval Foodservice, Management Competition Sponsor: Anne Arundel Community College, Scholarship and Official Seafood Sponsor: Whole Foods Market. Baltimore International College is the National Team Sponsor and will help pay the expenses necessary to send both teams to the National ProStart Invitational.

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The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) celebrates 75 years serving the restaurant and foodservice 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 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](http://www.marylandrestaurants.com).

RAMEF serves as the preferred source of Education, Training, Resources and Research for Maryland's thriving Hospitality and Tourism industry. RAMEF focuses on Improving the Hospitality Industry through Education by training the industry employees in Food Safety, Responsible Alcohol Service and Management Skills. RAMEF also supports the future of the Industry by preparing High School Students for Careers through the ProStart Program and offering Scholarships to encourage students to pursue Hospitality as a Career. For more information about the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation please visit our website at [www.ramef.org](http://www.ramef.org).