



2021  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Louisiana Restaurant Association  
Education Foundation

# MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1995, the Louisiana Restaurant Association Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that exists to serve the public and restaurant industry – raising its image, enlightening individuals on career opportunities, and encouraging growth of the workforce are the cornerstones of the LRAEF's focus.

## The LRAEF pursues its mission three ways:

1. Management and culinary skill development
2. Workforce development
3. Scholarship programs

The LRA, through its nine statewide chapters, supports the LRAEF's mission and provides significant financial support to fund the organization and its efforts. Hundreds of students rely on the programs and career initiatives produced by the LRAEF. In addition to the LRA's support, partnerships are crucial to the success of these programs. The LRAEF is governed by its Board of Directors, comprised of volunteer industry leaders who provide guidance, oversight and strategic vision.

# 2021 LRAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Guilbeau, President  
Ballard Brands

Craig Dennison, Vice Chair  
Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots

Jason Jones, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sysco

Matt Massey, Immediate Past Chair  
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

Bruce Attinger  
Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux

John Eastman  
Auto-Chlor System

Forrest Bethay III  
Triple B's Cajun Corner

Greg Reggio  
Taste Buds Management

Michael Carmouche  
Ecolab

Octavio Mantilla  
BRG Hospitality

Tammy Smitherman  
Heartland Payment Systems

Tony D'Angelo  
MMI Culinary

Scot Craig  
Katie's Restaurant & Bar / Francesca by Katie's

Michael Eastman, LRAEF Industry Representative  
Auto-Chlor System

Dr. Yvette Green, Academic Advisor  
UNO Kabacoff School of Hotel,  
Restaurant & Tourism Administration

# 2021 Revenue and Expenses

**REVENUE**  
\$ 459,333

In 2021, the LRAEF's revenue was impacted by the ongoing pandemic. Our increase in revenue was attributed to our LRA Chapters, who were again hosting fundraising events in support of the LRAEF, a Department of Labor Registered Youth Restaurant Apprenticeship Grant, and supplemental funds from the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation.

**EXPENSES**  
\$ 391,923

- \$43,170 supported overhead costs for ProStart
  - \$36,984 was additionally distributed back to ProStart schools through the School Support Fund
- \$113,777 funded Apprenticeship Program
- \$44,000 in scholarships was distributed to postsecondary schools as part of our LRAEF Scholars Program

## Thanks to the LRA Chapters for their generosity!

<b>Baton Rouge Chapter</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Bayou Chapter</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>CENLA Chapter</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>New Orleans Chapter</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>

## Thanks to the LRA Staff for investing in our industry's future!

Through the Denim for Dollars Program, the LRA staff raised **\$1,895** in 2021. Denim for Dollars is a fundraising campaign for LRA staff members who can opt to donate \$1 a week to the LRAEF in order to participate in Blue Jean Fridays at the office.

# 2020-2021 LOUISIANA PROSTART PROGRAMS



ProStart is a high school culinary and management training curriculum, where students learn math and chemistry, leadership, presentation and communications skills – all tools vital for future success.

## 55 Programs Statewide With More Than 1,500 Students

Abbeville High School  
Academy of Our Lady  
Albany High School  
Alfred Bonnabel High School  
Ascension Parish ProStart  
Caddo Career and Technology Center  
Caldwell High School  
Castor High School  
Central High School  
Chalmette High School  
College Street T & I Vocational Center  
Covington High School  
Donaldsonville High School  
Denham Springs High School  
East Iberville High School  
East St. John High School  
Eunice Career and Technical Education Center  
Fontainebleau High School  
French Settlement High School  
Hammond High Magnet School

Istrouma High School  
Jefferson Davis Parish/  
SOWELA Morgan Smith Jennings Campus  
Kenner Discovery High School  
Lafourche Parish Career Magnet Center  
Lakeshore High School  
Leesville High School  
Live Oak High School  
Louisiana School for the Deaf  
Mamou High School  
Mandeville High School  
Mansfield High School  
Morgan City High School  
Natchitoches High School  
Northeast High School  
Northshore High School  
Pearl River High School  
Plaquemine High School  
Rayne High School  
Red River High School

Saline High School  
Salmen High School  
Slidell High School  
Springfield High School  
St. Charles Satellite Center  
Sulphur High School  
Tara High School  
Terrebonne Career and  
Technical High School  
W. D. and Mary Baker Smith  
Career Center  
Walker High School  
Washington Career and  
Technical Education Center  
West Feliciana High School  
West Monroe High School  
West St. John High School  
Woodlawn High School  
Zachary High School

# EMERIL LAGASSE FOUNDATION

Donates Vlogging Kits to ProStart Classrooms for Virtual Learning

Over the course of the most recent school year, 100 percent of participating ProStart schools shifted to distance learning or hybrid classes - a mix of in-person and virtual learning. The LRAEF had to immediately expand its programming to incorporate technology and respond to the constant challenges of bridging the gap between virtual and in-person learning.

The goal was to provide each ProStart classroom with a digital Zoom camera or vlogging kit so teachers could live stream, record instructions, and scan all demonstrations and curriculums to make virtual learning more accessible to students.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, ProStart teachers across the state were provided with equipment to assist with virtual learning, including GoPro cameras and vlogging kits. Support was available to both confirmed programs and several curriculum-only programs.



Emeril Lagasse Foundation



## The following schools were recipients of grant funded equipment:

Abbeville High School  
Academy of Our Lady  
Albany High School  
Alfred Bonnabel High School  
Ascension Parish ProStart  
Caddo Career and Technology Center  
Caldwell High School  
Castor High School  
Central High School  
Chalmette High School  
College Street T & I Vocational Center  
Covington High School  
Denham Springs High School  
Donaldsonville High School  
East Iberville High School  
East Jefferson High School  
East St. John High School  
Eunice Career and Technical Education Center  
Fontainebleau High School

French Settlement High School  
Hammond High Magnet School  
Istrouma High School  
Jefferson Davis Parish/  
SOWELA Morgan Smith Jennings Campus  
Kenner Discovery High School  
Lakeshore High School  
Lakeview High School  
Leesville High School  
Live Oak High School  
Louisiana School for the Deaf  
Mamou High School  
Mandeville High School  
Morgan City High School  
Natchitoches Central High School  
Northeast High School  
Northshore High School  
North Caddo High School  
Pearl River High School  
Plaquemine High School

Rayne High School  
Red River High School  
Saline High School  
Salmen High School  
Slidell High School  
Springfield High School  
St. Charles Satellite Center  
Sulphur High School  
Tara High School  
Terrebonne Career and Technical High School  
W. D. and Mary Baker Smith Career Center  
Walker High School  
Washington Career and Technical Education Center  
West Feliciana High School  
West Monroe High School  
West St. John High School  
Woodlawn High School  
Young Audiences Charter High School  
Zachary High School



# 2021 SCHOOL SUPPORT FUND

In fall 2021, the LRAEF donated \$25,500 to 25 schools across the state through its School Support Fund. The School Support Fund, which is funded through grants and donations, exists to provide financial support for ProStart schools areas where it's needed most.

The School Support Fund is open to all approved ProStart programs in need of additional financial support beyond limited state funding. Funds were used to finance field trips and industry interactions as well as to provide basic grocery supplies. The money was also used towards Louisiana ProStart Invitational preparation.

These funds were made possible through the NRAEF and J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation.

## The following schools received this funding:

Ascension Parish ProStart	Pearl River High School
Caddo Career and Technology Center	Plaquemine High School
Chalmette High School	Mansfield High School
Denham Springs High School	Red River High School
Eunice Career and Technical Education Center	St. Charles Satellite Center
Fontainebleau High School	Springfield High School
Jefferson Davis Parish/ SOWELA Morgan Smith Jennings Campus	Sulphur High School
Kenner Discovery High School	Tara High School
Lafourche Parish School District	W.D. and Mary Baker Smith Career Center
Lakeshore High School	Washington Career and Technical Education Center
Leesville High School	West St. John High School
Louisiana School for the Deaf	Woodlawn High School
Northeast High School	



# LRAEF SCHOLARS

In 2021, we awarded **\$44,000** through its LRAEF scholars program thanks to generous donations from the New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, and Louisiana Seafood. In total, **19** scholarships were awarded.

## Jim Funk Scholarship funded by New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots

### Jamie Warrick

Warren Easton High School  
University of Holy Cross

## LRA Board Scholarship funded by Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

### Morgan Boquet

Lakeshore High School  
Nicholls State University

### Carmella Bosco

Lakeshore High School  
Nicholls State University

### Jason Danna

Chalmette High School  
Nunez Community College

### Gaye Kramer

West Nassau Senior High School  
Delgado Community College

### Peyton Spurgeon

Buckeye High School  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

### Kacey Lyon

Academy of Our lady  
Louisiana College

### Abbey Warren

Ruston High School  
Nicholls State University

### Angela Wilson

Hahnville High School  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

### Brock Nichols

Sulphur High School  
Nicholls State University

### Zoe Foster

Franklin Parish High School  
Nicholls State University

### Kierra Linden

Midland High School  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

### Savannah Flores

Archbishop Chapelle High School  
University of New Orleans

### Sarah Gassenberger

Academy of Our Lady  
University of Holy Cross

### Rebecca Gilson

Fontainebleau High School  
Nicholls State University

## Louisiana Seafood Scholarship funded by Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board

### Hunter Perk

Edward Douglas White Catholic High School  
Nicholls State University



The Restaurant Youth Registered Apprenticeship Program (RYRA) grew significantly in 2021 via continued program awareness and the assembly of a dedicated group of employers, schools and non-profits fully committed to the program's objective. Together, all parties are working to build sustainable career pathways and strengthen the industry overall.

Multiple challenges were overcome including employers hobbled by staffing shortages and two pandemic surges. Most non-profit, pre-apprenticeship programs and schools remained virtual well into 2021, making it difficult or nearly impossible to connect with students/participants. By year end, strong participation commitments were secured from eight employers, two ProStart schools, and five non-profit partners. Efforts were focused on New Orleans, positioning pre-apprentices to be matched with employment opportunities heading into 2022.



# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



Category	Number	Partners
Apprentices enrolled/served	3	Creole Bagelry, Windsor Court Hotel
Pre-apprentices enrolled/served	13	Café Reconcile, Liberty's Kitchen
Employer Partners	8	Creole Bagelry, Slidell Down South Hospitality, Baton Rouge Link Restaurant Group, New Orleans Lotus Bistro, New Orleans Taste Buds Management, Various QED Hospitality, New Orleans Wakin' Bakin', New Orleans Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans
Pre-Apprenticeship Partners	7	Café Hope, Gretna Café Reconcile, New Orleans Liberty's Kitchen, New Orleans New Orleans Job Corps, New Orleans Chalmette High School, Chalmette Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, Kenner New Orleans Career Center, New Orleans
Engagement/Recruitment Meetings	84	Employer Accelerator Sessions (17) Individual Employer Meetings (21) Pre-Apprenticeship (21) Post-Secondary (18) Local Workforce Agency (8)
State Advisory Board Meetings	11	No meeting in September due to Hurricane Ida
Job Fairs	6	Focus on New Orleans area

## INNOVATIVE NEW STRATEGIES

### Bridge Program

In many cases, pre-apprentices coming out of non-profit training programs are not yet ready to be fully immersed in a full-time employment situation. To serve those individuals and help them further improve their readiness, a partnership with New Orleans-based restaurant Wakin' Bakin' was established, and a "bridge program" was created. The program aims to provide an additional 12 weeks of intensive on-the-job training, after which individuals will receive support with their transition into an apprenticeship with a local employer. This concept has not been implemented elsewhere. The NRAEF is excited about this alternative training model and has invested additional funds to help test the concept, which will serve 15 pre-apprentices in its first year.

### Fast Forward/Dual Enrollment

Chalmette High School, a ProStart partner, has also taken a leadership role in designing a dual enrollment program for pre-apprentices who will likely satisfy the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Education's Fast Forward Program. If approved by the state, a student at any Louisiana high school offering ProStart can opt into pre-apprenticeship as a junior, and through a partnership with a local community college, have all of their related training requirements (ServSafe, etc.) for the apprenticeship completed by the time they graduate high school. This track would also enable a pre-apprentice to earn the 800 hours of work experience needed to become a ManageFirst Professional by the time they graduate. This model will hopefully be embraced by ProStart schools across the state.

### Outreach/Promotion

- Participation in six virtual job fairs
- Offered two apprenticeship-related presentations at the LRA Showcase in August
- Leveraged significant grant funding to launch an aggressive promotion and outreach campaign over the summer, shifting the narrative about the restaurant industry and highlighting opportunities for professional growth through apprenticeship. Geographic areas of focus were New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette. The results of the program included:

**398,000** billboard plays

**741,000** online media ad impressions

**54,000** WDSU ad impressions

**45,000** LinkedIn impressions

**77,000** YouTube video impressions, including

**44,000** completed plays

# Annual Partners

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers  
ACME Oyster House  
Auto-Chlor System  
National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation  
Louisiana Restaurant Association  
Emeril Lagasse Foundation  
JP Morgan Chase Bank Foundation  
Sysco  
Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots  
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United  
Fore! Kids Foundation  
Crescent Crown Distributing



# 2021 LRAEF DONOR HONOR ROLL

## \$25,000 & ABOVE

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers  
National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation  
Louisiana Restaurant Association

## \$15,000 - \$24,999

ACME Oyster House  
Auto-Chlor System  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Emeril Lagasse Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$14,999

JP Morgan Chase Bank Foundation

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Sysco  
Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots  
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United  
Octavio Mantilla  
Tammy Smitherman

## \$1 - \$4,999

Scottie's Creole Cooking & Catering  
LRA Staff  
Fore! Kids Foundation  
Crescent Crown Distributing  
Authentic Title



# MEET OUR STAFF

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