Fostering Louisiana’s Foodservice Future

The Louisiana Restaurant Association Education Foundation (LRAEF) was created to enhance the industry’s service to the public through education, promotion of career opportunities and community engagement.

Raising the image of the industry, enlightening students on career opportunities, and encouraging growth of the industry’s workforce are the cornerstones of the LRAEF’s mission.

The LRA, through its statewide chapters, supports the LRAEF mission and provides significant funding to support ProStart® and post-secondary scholarship awards.

Through the LRAEF-administered ProStart—a high school culinary and management program—students learn valuable skills like mathematics and chemistry, business and management, leadership and communication, to name a few.

The LRAEF Scholarship Fund assists qualified individuals in advancing their education through financial support of those seeking degree or certificate programs in the culinary and hospitality industries.

The LRAEF is governed by a group of industry leaders who serve as its board of directors, providing guidance and strategic vision. The varied background and life experiences of the LRAEF board enhances the Education Foundation’s mission and service to the public, as well as the foodservice industry.
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**OFFICERS:**
- Donna Stephenson
  - Chair
  - Atmos Energy
- Paul Rotner
  - Secretary/Treasurer
  - Acme Oyster House
- Peter Sclafani
  - Vice Chair
  - Ruffino's Restaurant
- Lenny Raymond
  - Past Chair
  - Ben E. Keith

**DIRECTORS:**
- Dwight Barnes
  - Crescent Crown Distributing
- Dave Merchant
  - BJ’s Pizza House
- Octavio Mantilla
  - Besh Restaurant Group
- Rocky Weigand
  - Coca-Cola
- Matt Massey
  - Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

**EX-OFFICIO:**
- Stan Harris
  - Louisiana Restaurant Association
- Randy Cheramie
  - Chef John Folse Culinary Institute Academic Advisor
- Katy Casbarian
  - 2016 LRA Chair
  - Arnaud's Restaurant
- Rachael Schexnayder
  - St. James Parish Career & Technology Center Academic Advisor
- Steve Trotter
  - Centerplate Industry Representative
PROSTART, the premier, nationally recognized two-year culinary arts and management programs includes: classroom curriculum, kitchen labs and a 400-hour internship designed for high school juniors and seniors.
2016-2017 LRAEF ProStart® Programs
65 PROGRAMS STATEWIDE WITH MORE THAN 1,700 STUDENTS

Abbeville High School
Academy of Our Lady
Albany High School
Alfred Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School
Arlington Preparatory Academy
Ascension Parish ProStart
Belaire High School
Broadmoor Senior High School
Caddo Career & Technology Center
Castor 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 St. John High School
Edible Schoolyard New Orleans/
Joseph S. Clark High School
Edna Karr High School
Eunice Career & Technical Education Center
Fontainebleau High School
Franklinton High School
French Settlement High School
Hammond High Magnet School
Iberia Parish Career Center
John Ehret High School
Lafourche Parish School District ProStart
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 Central High School
North Vermilion High School
Northeast High School
Northshore High School
Northshore Technical Community College ProStart
Pearl River High School
Rayne High School
Red River High School
Richwood High School
Ringgold High School
Saline High School
Salmen High School
Slidell High School
Springfield High School
St. Charles Satellite Center
St. James Parish Career & Technology Center
St. Martin Parish College & Career Readiness Center
Sulphur High School
Tara High School
Terrebonne Career & Technical High School
W.D. & Mary Baker Smith Career Center
Walker High School
Washington Career & Technical Education Center
West End Instructional Center
West Feliciana High School
West Monroe High School
West St. John High School
Woodlawn High School
Workforce Career Academy
Zachary High School
The LRAEF hosted the 15th Annual Louisiana ProStart Student Invitational March 9-10, 2016 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, La. More than $1.2 million in scholarship opportunities were offered to the students whose teams placed in the top three in the culinary and management competitions.

The competition features two primary components: the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation Culinary Competition, where teams demonstrate their creative abilities through the preparation of a three-course meal, with at least one type of Louisiana seafood, and the Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers Management Competition, where teams 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.

The winning teams in 2016 were: Hammond High Magnet School in Culinary and Lakeshore High School in Management. Both teams received an expense-paid trip to represent Louisiana in the National ProStart Student Invitational in Dallas, Texas in April 2016.
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The purpose of the LRAEF Scholarship Fund is to provide an opportunity to further educate ProStart students, culinary and hospitality students, industry employees and educators. Candidates may apply for one of two scholarships within the LRAEF Scholarship Fund—the LRAEF/NRAEF Co-Branded Scholarship and the LRA Culinary and Hospitality Leadership Scholarship.

:: In 2016, the LRAEF awarded nearly $70,000 in scholarships to 38 students.

:: From the fund’s inception in 2009 to 2016 the LRAEF has awarded $340,000 in scholarships.

The 2016 scholarship recipients were recognized at the LRAEF Five Star Futures Gala August 6, 2016 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.
The LRAEF/NRAEF ProStart Scholarship is a co-branded scholarship awarded to students who are former ProStart students and those who have received the ProStart Certificate of Achievement.

The 2016 recipients were:

Todreion Amos, *graduate of Ponchatoula High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute

Colin Berthelot, *graduate of Lutcher High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute (second year recipient)

Jae'Veric Bradley, *graduate of West Monroe High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University

Jenna Duryea, *graduate of Lakeshore High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University

Kyarah Golden, *graduate of Hammond High Magnet School*, attending the University of New Orleans

Kevin Huynh, *graduate of Salmen High School*, attending the Culinary Institute of America

Tate Jones, *graduate of Dutchtown High School*, attending Johnson & Wales University (third year recipient)

Evan Landry, *graduate of Denham Springs High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University

Meifung Liu, *graduate of Fontainebleau High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University (second year recipient)

Taylor Mason, *graduate of Anacoco High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University

Michaela Matherne, *graduate of Springfield High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute

Taylor Mattox, *graduate of West Feliciana High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University

Mallory Miller, *graduate of Sulphur High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University (second year recipient)

Gianna Nastasi, *graduate of Lakeshore High School*, attending Southeastern Louisiana University

Rachel Opbroek, *graduate of Caddo Magnet High School*, attending Northwestern State University (second year recipient)

Sadie Poche, *graduate of Lutcher High School/ St. James Career Center*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University (third year recipient)

Hillary Scott, *graduate of Allen High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University (fourth year recipient)

Jackson Stewart, *graduate of West Feliciana High School*, attending Louisiana State University

Kiersten Wegmann, *graduate of Chalmette High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University
The LRA Culinary and Hospitality Leadership Scholarship is awarded to students who are currently enrolled or have been accepted in a hospitality or culinary degree program.

The 2016 recipients were:

- **Jenna Allen**, *graduate of Erath High School*, attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- **Caitlin Lawless Castay**, *graduate of Seven Lakes High School*, attending the University of New Orleans
- **Briana Gainey**, *graduate of Hahnville High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University
- **Tashira Green**, *graduate of Zachary High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University (third year recipient)
- **Mikayla Hollier**, *graduate of Walker High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute
- **Valerie Huston**, *graduate of St. Mary’s Dominican High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute
- **Chayil Johnson**, *graduate of Abeka Academy/New Orleans Center for Creative Arts*, attending Johnson & Wales University (second year recipient)
- **Channing Maumus**, *graduate of Lusher Charter School*, attending the University of New Orleans
- **Jenna Millett**, *graduate of Clinton High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute
- **Rachel Pierce**, *graduate of Parkway High School*, attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University
- **Devin Powell**, *graduate of H.L. Bourgeois High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute
- **Valeria Radchenko**, *graduate of Academy of Our Lady*, attending University of Holy Cross
- **Zephyra Scott**, *graduate of Lee High School*, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute
- **Steven VanZandt**, *graduate of St. Paul’s School*, attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- **Leah Williamson**, *graduate of Academy of Our Lady*, attending University of Holy Cross
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In 2016, Kerry Ford received the LRAEF’s most prestigious award, the Jim Funk Scholarship for the second consecutive year. It is named for the former LRA President & CEO. Ford is a graduate of Destrehan High School/St. Charles Satellite Center and is attending the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University.

Louisiana Seafood Scholarship

Established through a generous gift from the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board, the Louisiana Seafood Scholarship was awarded to Mary Helen Hundley in 2016. The scholarship criteria seeks qualified applicants who express an interest in cultivating, protecting and promoting Louisiana seafood. Hundley is a graduate of Notre Dame High School and is attending the Louisiana State University at Eunice.

LRA Cenla Chapter Scholarship

Through the generous support of the LRA Cenla Chapter, this scholarship is awarded to qualified applicants from the chapter’s 11-parish area. In 2016, the LRA Cenla Chapter Scholarship was presented to Bianca Jones, graduate of Natchitoches Central High School and attending Louisiana State University. This is the second consecutive year she received this scholarship.
Additional Schools Offering Scholarships:

- Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University: 14 Scholarship Recipients
- Louisiana Culinary Institute: 8 Scholarship Recipients
- University of New Orleans: 3 Scholarship Recipients
- Johnson & Wales University: 2 Scholarship Recipients
- Louisiana State University: 2 Scholarship Recipients
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette: 2 Scholarship Recipients
- Culinary Institute of America: 1 Scholarship Recipient
- Louisiana State University at Eunice: 1 Scholarship Recipient
- Northwestern State University: 1 Scholarship Recipient
- Southeastern Louisiana University: 1 Scholarship Recipient
- University of Holy Cross: 1 Scholarship Recipient

Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts
The International Culinary Schools at the Art Institutes
Mississippi University for Women
New England Culinary Institute
Sullivan University
# POST-SECONDARY PARTNER SCHOOLS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Scholarship Recipients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chef John Folse Culinary Institute</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>at Nicholls State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana Culinary Institute</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of New Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Wales University</td>
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## ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS:
*(from the Louisiana ProStart Student Invitational)*

- Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts
- The International Culinary Schools at the Art Institutes
- Mississippi University for Women
- New England Culinary Institute
- Sullivan University
ANNUAL PARTNERS

FIVE DIAMOND

Acme Oyster House
Auto-Chlor System
Emeril Lagasse Foundation

FOUR DIAMOND

National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation
Louisiana Hospitality Foundation

THREE DIAMOND

Performance Foodservice - Cara
ATMOS Energy
KEITH
Delaware North
ECOLAB

TWO DIAMOND

Besh Restaurant Group
LCA
Whole Foods Market

ONE DIAMOND

Culinary Institute
2016 DONOR HONOR ROLL

$25,000 AND ABOVE
LRA Baton Rouge Chapter
Louisiana Restaurant Association
LRA Greater New Orleans Chapter
National Restaurant Association
   Education Foundation

$15,000 - $24,999
Acme Oyster House
Auto-Chlor System
Emeril Lagasse Foundation
Louisiana Hospitality Foundation
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers

$10,000 - $14,999
Ecolab
LRA Acadiana Chapter
LRA Baton Rouge Chapter
LRA CENLA Chapter
Performance Foodservice - Caro

$5,000 - $9,999
Atmos Energy
B & G Food Enterprises, LLC
Ben E. Keith Co.
Delaware North
Louisiana Culinary Institute
LRA Bayou Chapter
LRA Northeast Chapter
LRA Northshore Chapter
Mother’s Restaurant
New Orleans Wine & Food Experience

$2,500 - $4,999
Arnaud’s Restaurant
Commander’s Family of Restaurants
Crescent Crown Distributing
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Harris
Louisiana Gas Association
LRA Southwest Chapter
MMI/Mr. Mudbug
National Restaurant Association
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group
Reily Foods Company
Sysco Foodservice of New Orleans
**$1,000 - $2,499**
Capitol City Produce
Coca Cola Enterprises
Drago’s Seafood Restaurant
Heartland Payment Solutions
LRA EXPO
LRA Self Insurer’s Fund
New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau
Reinhart Foodservice
TLC Linen Services
Whole Foods

**$1 - $999**
Holly Barrett
Bridgit Bellini
Michelle Bertucci
Ryan Cress
Debbie Cuccia
Dickie Brennan & Company
Caitlin Dziedzic
Ernest’s Orleans Restaurant
Ellyn Gary
Alice Glenn
Greater New Orleans Foundation/
Ryan Crespino
Jennifer Jeansonne
Kendra Scott/Marie Claire Bennett
Laura Kowalski
Leidenheimer Baking Co.
Jan Macaluso
Brandy Matherne
Richard McCurdy
Petroleum Club of Lafayette
Leann Poirier
Jan Provenzano
Steven Queyrouze
Sandy Riddle
Denise Schmidt
Barbara Schultz
Debra Scott
Cynthia Stewart
Pamela St. Pierre
Taste Buds Management
Devienne Theriot
University of Holy Cross
Wendy Waren
Jodi Williams
Nearly 28% of overall financial support was derived in 2016 from the contributions of the nine LRA chapters. Approximately 25% of revenue was derived from the support of our corporate partners. The remainder of revenue was from grants, special events, and other contributions.

The LRA contributed $75,197 that supported the LRAEF Scholarship Fund and the annual ProStart School Support Fund.

More than $111,000, or nearly 24% of the total expenses in 2016 funded Louisiana's ProStart program. $68,772 was allocated through the LRAEF Scholarship Fund. The LRAEF ended 2016 with over $1.3 million in net assets, serving 65 schools and approximately 1,750 students.
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:: Served 65 schools and approximately 1,750 students
For more information, or to make a contribution, contact Alison Greffenius, LRAEF Executive Director, at (504) 210-2505 or agreffenius@lra.org.