The mission of the Louisiana Restaurant Association Education Foundation (LRAEF) is 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 focus.

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.
2017 LRAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:
Peter Sclafani, Chair, Ruffino’s Restaurant
Paul Rotner, Vice Chair, Acme Oyster House
Matt Massey, Secretary/Treasurer, Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Donna Stephenson, Past Chair, Atmos Energy

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Stan Harris, LRAEF President & CEO
Greg Reggio, 2017 LRA Chair, Taste Buds Management, LLC
Bill DiPaola, Dat Dog Enterprises, Industry Representative
Dr. Yvette Green, University of New Orleans, Academic Advisory Representative

LRAEF PROSTART® PROGRAMS
55 Programs Statewide With More Than 1,800 Students

Abbeville High School
Academy of Our Lady
Albany High School
Alfred Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School
Ascension Parish ProStart
Broaddrum 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
Eunice Career & Technical Education Center
Fontainebleau High School
French Settlement High School
Iberia Parish Career Center
John Ehret High School
Lafourche Parish School
District ProStart
Lakeshore High School
Leesville High School
Live Oak High School
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
Rayne High School
Red River 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
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
Zachary High School
The LRAEF, in conjunction with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, hosted the 16th Annual Louisiana ProStart Student Invitational March 30-31, 2017 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center. More than $3.8 million in scholarship opportunities were available to the students whose teams placed in the top five in the culinary and management competitions.

The competition features two primary components: the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation Culinary Competition which showcased the culinary and creative talents of ProStart students from 17 high schools and the Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers Management Competition, which featured the conceptual restaurant development and marketing ingenuity of ProStart students from 11 high schools.

The winning teams in 2017 were: Lakeshore High School in Culinary and Academy of Our Lady in Management. Both teams received an expense-paid trip courtesy of the LRAEF to represent Louisiana in the National ProStart Invitational in Charleston, South Carolina in April 2017.

The LRAEF Scholarship Fund provides resources to qualified students and industry employees. Eligible applicants may apply for any of the five scholarships within the program—the LRAEF ProStart Scholarship, the LRA Board Fund Scholarship, the Jim Funk Scholarship, the LRA Cenla Chapter Scholarship and the Louisiana Seafood Scholarship.

- In 2017, the LRAEF awarded $57,000 in scholarships to 34 students.
- From the Fund’s inception in 2009 to 2017, the LRAEF has awarded $390,000 in scholarships.

This celebration recognized the 2017 LRAEF Scholars on March 30, at Generations Hall in New Orleans. This event honored students and the LRAEF’s partner organizations. It featured amazing cuisine from some of the most popular restaurants in New Orleans and an evening of entertainment that also included our competitors participating in the Louisiana ProStart Student Invitational.
2017 LRAEF SCHOLARS

LRAEF PROSTART® SCHOLARSHIP

Presented to students who have or are pursuing the National ProStart Certificate of Achievement.

The 2017 scholars are:

Ryan Alack, graduate of Hammond High Magnet School, attending the Culinary Institute of America

Gabrielle Clayton, graduate of Lutcher High School/St. James Career & Technology Center, attending Nicholls State University

Jenna Duryea, graduate of Lakeshore High School, attending Nicholls State University

Taylor Guidry, graduate of Dutchtown High School/Ascension Parish ProStart, attending Nicholls State University

Kyong Han, graduate of Dutchtown High School/Ascension Parish ProStart, attending Nicholls State University

Evan Landry, graduate of Denham Springs High School, attending Nicholls State University

Ty Lassere, graduate of St. James High School/St. James Career & Technology Center, attending Nicholls State University

Claire LeBlanc, graduate of Fontainebleau High School, attending Nicholls State University

Meifung Liu, graduate of Fontainebleau High School, attending Nicholls State University

Taylor Mattox, graduate of West Feliciana High School, attending Nicholls State University

Mallory Miller, graduate of Sulphur High School, attending Nicholls State University

Rachel Opbroek, graduate of Caddo Magnet High School/Caddo Career & Technology Center ProStart, attending Northwestern State University

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

Joshua Wheater, graduate of Career Magnet Center/Lafourche Parish ProStart, attending Nicholls State University

LRA BOARD FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Presented to students who intend to pursue a career in the restaurant, foodservice, tourism or hospitality industry. This Fund is supported through a generous annual donation by the LRA Board of Directors.

The 2017 scholars are:

Jenna Allen, graduate of Erath High School, attending University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Yajarrah Curtis, graduate of Baker High School, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute

Ciara Finley, graduate of McDonogh 35 Senior High School, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute

TaShira Green, graduate of Zachary High School, attending Nicholls State University

Shanna Legier, graduate of False River Academy, attending Louisiana Culinary Institute

Dakota Mackles, graduate of St. Charles Catholic High School, attending Nicholls State University

Taylor Mason, graduate of Anacoco High School, attending Nicholls State University

Katie Ontiveros, graduate of Vista High School, attending University of New Orleans

Rachel Pierce, graduate of Parkway High School, attending 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

Steven Van Zandt, graduate of St. Paul’s School, attending University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Cierra Varnado, graduate of New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, attending Nicholls State University

Joni Watson, graduate of Early College Academy, attending University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Kiersten Wegmann, graduate of Chalmette High School, attending Nicholls State University
In 2017, Kerry Ford received the LRAEF’s most prestigious award, the Jim Funk Scholarship, for the third consecutive year. It is named for the former LRA President & CEO who guided the creation of the LRAEF. 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 Alex Migliore and Hunter Trahan in 2017.

The scholarship criteria seeks qualified applicants who express an interest in cultivating, protecting and promoting Louisiana seafood. Migliore is a graduate of Brother Martin High School and is attending the University of New Orleans and Trahan in a graduate of Lakeshore High School and is attending Nicholls State University.

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 2017, the LRA Cenla Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Durr, a graduate of Glenbrook School and attending Northwestern State University; and for a third consecutive year, Bianca Jones, a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School and attending Louisiana State University.
POST-SECONDARY PARTNER SCHOOLS

Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University
18 LRAEF Scholars

Louisiana Culinary Institute
4 LRAEF Scholars

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
3 LRAEF Scholars

Northwestern State University
2 LRAEF Scholars

University of Holy Cross
2 LRAEF Scholars

University of New Orleans
2 LRAEF Scholars

Culinary Institute of America
1 LRAEF Scholar

Louisiana State University
1 LRAEF Scholar

Southeastern Louisiana University
1 LRAEF Scholar

Additional Schools Offering Scholarships:
(from the Louisiana ProStart Student Invitational)

Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts
Culinary Institute of Virginia
The International Culinary School at the Art Institutes
Johnson & Wales University
Kendall College
Mississippi University for Women
New England Culinary Institute
Sullivan University
University of South Carolina-Beaufort
ANNUAL PARTNERS

FIVE DIAMOND

Acme
Auto-Chlor
Emeril Lagasse Foundation
Louisiana Hospitality Foundation
Louisiana Restaurant Association
NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
Raising Cane's

FOUR DIAMOND

PERFORMANCE

THREE DIAMOND

Atmos Energy
Delmar
Keith Foods
Delaware North
ECOLAB

TWO DIAMOND

Louisiana Culinary Institute

Louisiana Gas Association
$25,000 and Above
Louisiana Restaurant Association Board of Directors
LRA Greater Baton Rouge Chapter
LRA Greater New Orleans Chapter
National Restaurant Association Educational 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
LRA Acadiana Chapter
LRA Cenla Chapter
Performance Foodservice Caro

$5,000 - $9,999
Atmos Energy
Baton Rouge Epicurean Society
Delaware North
Ecolab
Louisiana Culinary Institute
LRA Bayou Chapter
LRA Northeast Chapter
LRA Northshore Chapter
LRA Southwest Chapter

$2,500 - $4,999
Louisiana Gas Association
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group
Reily Foods Company
Republic National Distributing Company
Sysco Foodservice of New Orleans
Taste Buds Management

$1,000 - $2,499
B & G Food Enterprises
Centerplate
Community Coffee
Drago’s Seafood Restaurant
Great American Seafood Cookoff
Jones Walker
Leidenheimer Baking Company
LRA Northwest Chapter
Barbara Freiberg
TLC Linen Services

$1-$999
David Accardo
Parris Adolph
Victor Balbuena
Bridgit Bellini
Michelle Bertucci
Bud’s Broiler
Debbie Cuccia
Ellyn Davis
Dickie Brennan & Company
Melissa Dixon
Ernest's Orleans Restaurant
Alison Greffenius
Linda Hudgins
Jennifer Jeansonne
Linda Lagasse
Gwen Leavell

2017 LRAEF DONOR HONOR ROLL

Danielle Leger
Jan Macaluso
Carol Osborne
Leann Poirier
Jan Provenzano
Steven Queyrouze
Ruffino’s Italian Restaurant
Denise Schmidt
Barbara Schultz
Debra Scott
Cynthia Stewart
Pamela St. Pierre
Barbara Weaver
Jodi Williams
Marybeth Yrle
2013-2016
LRAEF DONOR HONOR ROLL

$25,000 and Above
George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts
Louisiana Restaurant Association
Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board
LRA Cenla Chapter
LRA Greater Baton Rouge Chapter
LRA Greater New Orleans Chapter
National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group

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

$10,000 - $14,999
Ecolab
LRA Acadiana Chapter
LRA Cenla Chapter
LRA Greater Baton Rouge Chapter
Performance Foodservice—Caro
Sysco Foodservice

$5,000 - $9,999
Atmos Energy
B & G Food Enterprises, LLC
Ben E. Keith Foods
Camellia Brand
Capitol City Produce
Delaware North
Louisiana Culinary Institute
LRA Acadiana Chapter
LRA Bayou Chapter
LRA Cenla Chapter
LRA Executive Committee
LRA Northeast Chapter
LRA Northshore Chapter
LRA Southwest Chapter
Mother’s Restaurant
Mr. Mudbug/MMI Culinary Services
New Orleans Food & Wine Experience

$2,500 - $4,999
Arnaud’s Restaurant
Ben E. Keith Foods
Chef Paul Prudhomme’s “Sea of Hope”
Coca-Cola United
Commander’s Family of Restaurants

$1,000 - $2,499
Baton Rouge Epicurean Society
Batory Foods
Bev Inc.
Capital One
Capitol City Produce
Catfish Cabin
Caesar’s Entertainment
Coca-Cola United
Darrell’s

Community Coffee Company
Crescent Crown Distributing
Drago’s Seafood Restaurant
Alice & Brodie Glenn
Stan & Michelle Harris
Louisiana Culinary Institute
Louisiana Gas Association
LRA Northeast Chapter
LRA Northshore Chapter
LRA Northwest Chapter
LRA Southwest Chapter
Mr. Mudbug/MMI Culinary Services
National Restaurant Association
New Orleans Wine & Food Experience
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group
Reily Foods Company
Reinhart Foodservice
Sysco Food Services of New Orleans
TLC Linen Services
US Foods
Venture Marketing Corporation
Whole Foods Market
Drago’s Seafood Restaurant
Entergy
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Funk
Giacona Container Company
Griffin Industries
Stan & Michelle Harris
Heartland Payment Solutions
Jones Walker
LRA EXPO
LRA Northwest Chapter
LRA Self Insurer’s Fund
LRA Southwest Chapter
Midlands Management
New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau
Outback Steakhouse
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Realty Taste Buds Management
Reily Foods
Reinhart Foodservice
Ruffino’s Restaurant
Select Properties, Ltd.
Swiss Chalet Fine Foods
Tiger Athletic Foundation
TLC Linen Services
Whole Foods Market

$1 - $999
AdGas/Bayou Boiler
Adler’s Jewelry
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Allen
American Luxury Limos
Glen Armantrout
Arnaud’s Restaurant
The Audubon Group at Morgan Stanley
Bridgit Bellini
B&G Food Enterprises LLC
Victor Balbuena
Baldwin Haspel Burke Mayer
Lisa Baldwin
Mr. & Mrs. Nash Barreca
   In Memory of Jim Hearn
Barcadia
Barmetrix
Holly Barrett
Baton Rouge Epicurean Society
Michelle Bertucci
Alexandre Bonin
Robert Breaux
Erica Burns
Caire Hotel and Restaurant Supplies
Cane River Kitchenware
Capital One
Cater 2 Cater
Carolyn Cenac
Centerplate
Centerpoint
Stacey Chalin
Randy Cheramie
Country Club of Louisiana
Ashley Courtney
Ryan Cress
Deborah Cuccia
Delgado Community College
Dickie Brennan & Company
Nadine Dix
Melissa Dixon
Doerle Food Services
Don’s Seafood and Steakhouse
Caitlin Dziedzic
E. Rusich Seafood Brokerage, Inc.
Kalee Eason
Emeril’s
Ernest’s Orleans Restaurant
Eventbrite
Jennifer Fedrick
Maureen Franz
Fulton Alley
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Funk
   In Memory of Jim Hearn & Nash Barreca
Galatoire’s Restaurant
Ellyn Gary
Gino’s Restaurant Corporation
Alice Glenn
Kellene Graci
Greater New Orleans Foundation / Ryan Crespino
Ground Pat’i, Inc.
Grub Burger Bar
Guidry’s Fresh Cuts, Inc.
Natalie Gunn
HARO
Stan & Michelle Harris
Cindy Hart
Mr. & Mrs. David Hearn
   In Memory of Kay Obergon,
   Gloria Steward, Meade Hearn,
   Winston Hearn, Nash Barreca & Louis Clouatre
Jeremy Hendrix
Leanne Higgins
Dennis Hymel
ImageOne Uniforms, Inc.
The International Culinary Schools at the Art Institutes
Jennifer Jeansonne
Mariane Jeansonne
Sophia Jeansonne
Jefferson Neurobehavioral Group
John Ward Interiors & Gifts
Johnson & Wales University
Johnson, Yacoubian & Pysse
Juban’s Restaurant and Catering
Kendra Scott/Marie Claire Bennett
Robert King
Laura Kowalski
LaFleur Dairy Products, Inc.
Linda Lagasse
Tommy Leffingwell
Leidenheimer Baking Co.
Yesenia Lockhart
Felicia Lovince
LRA Northshore Chapter
Jan Macaluso
Brandy Maher
Brandy Matherne
Joe Mayfield
Mel’s Diner
Colleen McCoy
Richard McCurdy
Merci Beaucoup
Mestizo Restaurant
Moody Dunbar, Inc.
Morton’s Seafood Restaurant & Bar
Mosca’s Restaurant
Nearly 35% of overall financial support was derived in 2017 from the contributions of the nine LRA chapters. The majority of the funding for the support of the LRAEF’s administrative and operating costs comes from the philanthropic efforts of our chapters across the state.

Approximately 34% of revenue was derived from the support of our corporate partners. The remainder of revenue was from grants, special events and other contributions.

2017 REVENUE: $376,715

• More than $111,000, or 29% of the total expenses in 2017, funded Louisiana’s ProStart program.
• $50,630 was allocated through the LRAEF Scholarship Fund.
• The LRAEF ended 2017 with over $1.3 million in net assets.
• Served 55 schools and approximately 1,868 students.

2017 EXPENSES: $387,463
For more information, or to make a contribution, contact Rachel Bolotte, LRAEF Program Manager, at (504) 636-6691 or rbolotte@lra.org.