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 mathematics and chemistry, business and management, leadership, presentation and communication skills. The LRAEF Scholarship Fund provides qualified individuals seeking a degree or certificate program awards of up to $4,000 in the culinary and hospitality industries. The LRAEF is governed by a group of volunteer industry leaders who serve as its board of directors and provide guidance, oversight and strategic vision.
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2018 LRAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:
Paul Rotner, Chair - Acme Oyster House
Matt Massey, Vice Chair - Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Rocky Weigand, Secretary/Treasurer - Coca-Cola Bottling Company United
Peter Sclafani, Immediate Past Chair - Down South Hospitality

Directors:
Dwight Barnes, Crescent Crown Distributing
Dickie Brennan, Dickie Brennan & Company
Scot Craig, Katie’s Restaurant & Bar
Craig Dennison, Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots
Bill DiPaola, Ballard Brands
John Eastman, Auto-Chlor Services
Alan Guilbeau, PJ’s Coffee
Greg Hamer, B&G Food Enterprises
Dave Merchant, BJ’s Pizza

Ex-Officio:
Stan Harris, LRAEF President & CEO
Rob King, 2018 LRA Chair, Pitt Grill

Dr. Yvette Green, University of New Orleans, Academic Advisory Representative
2018 REVENUE: $439,727

• Contributions from the nine LRA chapters (made possible through their fundraisers) totaled nearly 30% of the overall revenues for the LRAEF. The majority of this funding supports the LRAEF’s administrative and operating costs.
• Approximately 28% of revenue was derived from the support of our Annual Partners.
• The remainder of revenue was from grants, sponsorships, special events and other gifts.
• The LRAEF ended 2018 with over $1.3 million in net assets.

2018 EXPENSES: $389,631

• More than $234,000 in 2018 funded Louisiana’s ProStart program.
• $51,000 to LRAEF Scholarships.
• $50,000 was allocated through the LRAEF School Support Fund.
• Served 55 schools and more than 1,600 students.
Abbeville High School
Academy of Our Lady
Albany High School
Alfred Bonnabel Magnet
    Academy High School
Ascension Parish ProStart
Broadmoor Senior High School
Caddo Career & Technology Center
Caldwell High School
Castor High School
Chalmette High School
College Street 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
Hammond High Magnet School
Iberia Parish Career Center
Jefferson Davis Parish ProStart
Kenner Discovery Health
    Sciences Academy
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
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 &
    Technical High School
W. D. & Mary Baker Smith
    Career Center
Walker High School
Washington Career & Technical
    Education 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 17th Annual Louisiana ProStart Invitational February 26-27, 2018 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center. More than $1.2 million in scholarship opportunities were available to the students whose teams placed in the top five in the culinary and management competitions.

The competition featured two primary components: the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation Culinary Competition which showcased the culinary and creative talents of ProStart students from 22 high schools and the Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers Management Competition, which featured the conceptual restaurant development and marketing ingenuity of ProStart students from eight high schools.

The winning teams in 2018 were: Hammond High Magnet School in Culinary and West Feliciana High School in Management. Both teams received an expense-paid trip courtesy of the LRAEF to represent Louisiana in the National ProStart Invitational in Providence, Rhode Island in April 2018.
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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 2018, the LRAEF awarded $51,000 in scholarships to 21 students.
- From the Fund’s inception in 2009 to 2018, the LRAEF has awarded $438,000 in scholarships.

This celebration recognized the 2018 LRAEF Scholars on February 26, at Generations Hall in New Orleans. This event also honored 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 Invitational.
The LRAEF ProStart® Scholarship is presented to students who have or will receive the National ProStart Certificate of Achievement.

The 2018 scholars were:

**Sara Baiamonte**, attending Hammond High Magnet School,  
*will attend Nicholls State University*

**Janesa Buras**, attending Fontainebleau High School,  
*will attend Nicholls State University*

**Blane Coley**, attending West Feliciana High School,  
*will attend Nicholls State University*

**Jenna Duryea**, graduate of Lakeshore High School,  
*attending Nicholls State University (third year recipient)*

**Ida Henry**, graduate of John Ehret High School,  
*attending Delgado Community College*

**Claire LeBlanc**, graduate of Fontainebleau High School,  
*attending Nicholls State University (second year recipient)*

**Brock Nichols**, attending Sulphur High School,  
*will attend Nicholls State University*

**Kiara Smith**, attending Hammond High Magnet School,  
*will attend the University of New Orleans*
LRA BOARD FUND SCHOLARSHIP

The LRA Board Fund Scholarship is 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 2018 scholars were:

Autumn Canova, currently being homeschooled,
will attend Louisiana Culinary Institute

Elizabeth Cummins, graduate of Glenbrook High School,
attending Northwestern State University

Brighten Dudley, attending West Lafayette Junior-Senior High School,
will attend Louisiana Culinary Institute

Jesse Everett, graduate of National Guard—LA Youth Challenge Program,
attending Louisiana Culinary Institute

Dustin Rockwell, graduate of Slidell High School,
attending Nicholls State University

Madison Segura, attending New Iberia Senior High School,
will attend Nicholls State University

Daniel St. Etienne, attending Brother Martin High School/
New Orleans Center for Creative Arts,
will attend Nicholls State University

Jason Stant, attending Brother Martin High School,
will attend University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Cierra Varnado, graduate of New Orleans Center for Creative Arts,
attending University of Holy Cross (second year recipient)

Kiersten Wegmann, graduate of Chalmette High School,
attending Nicholls State University (third year recipient)
**JIM FUNK SCHOLARSHIP**

The LRAEF’s most prestigious award is named for the former LRA President & CEO who guided the creation of the LRAEF during his service with the organization. The 2018 recipients of the Jim Funk Scholarship are **Evan Landry** and **Kerry Ford**. Landry is a graduate of Denham Springs High School and is attending Nicholls State University. He is a third year recipient of a LRAEF Scholarship award. Ford is a graduate of Destrehan High School and is attending Nicholls State University. He is a fourth year recipient of a LRAEF Scholarship Award.

**LRA CENLA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP**

The LRA Cenla Chapter Scholarship is provided to students residing in central Louisiana who are pursuing a career in the culinary or hospitality industry. It was established in 2015 with a generous contribution from the LRA Cenla Chapter.

The recipient was: **Bianca Jones**, graduate of Natchitoches Central High School, attending Louisiana State University (third year recipient).

**PROSTART® EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE**

The LRAEF honored its ProStart Educator of Excellence, **Amy Dreher** of West Feliciana High School in St. Francisville. Dreher was recognized in May 2018, along with her counterparts from across the country, at the National Restaurant Association’s Educator of Excellence Awards in Chicago, for her exemplary dedication to the ProStart program.
POST-SECONDARY PARTNER SCHOOLS
Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University
12 LRAEF Scholars

Louisiana Culinary Institute
3 LRAEF Scholars

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
1 LRAEF Scholars

Northwestern State University
1 LRAEF Scholars

University of Holy Cross
1 LRAEF Scholars

University of New Orleans
1 LRAEF Scholars

Louisiana State University
1 LRAEF Scholar

Delgado Community College
1 LRAEF Scholar

Additional Schools and Companies Offering Scholarships: *(from the Louisiana ProStart Invitational)*

Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts
Culinary Institute of America
Culinary Institute of Virginia
The International Culinary School at the Art Institutes
Mississippi University for Women
New England Culinary Institute
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Sullivan University
Annual partners

five diamond

four diamond

two diamond

three diamond

One diamond
$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
LRA Cenla Chapter
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

$10,000 - $14,999
LRA Acadiana Chapter
LRA Southwest Chapter
Performance Foodservice Group–Caro

$5,000 - $9,999
Atmos Energy
Baton Rouge Epicurean Society
Ben E. Keith Co.
LRA Bayou Chapter
LRA Northshore Chapter

$2,500 - $4,999
B & G Food Enterprises
Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots
Louisiana Gas Association
LRA Northeast Chapter
PJ's Coffee
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group
Republic National Distributing Company
Sysco New Orleans
TABASCO®
Walk-On's Bistreaux & Bar

$1,000 - $2,499
Community Coffee Company
Crescent Crown Distributing
Barbara Freiberg
Global Staffing Solutions
Jones Walker
Katie's Restaurant & Bar
Leidenheimer Restaurant & Bar
Patrick J. Gros, CPA
Reily Foods Company
TLC Linen Services
Zea Rotisserie & Bar
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For more information, or to make a contribution, contact Julie Talbot, LRAEF Executive Director, at (504) 636-6526 or jtalbot@lra.org.