



## 2021-22 LRAEF SCHOLARS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

**Application Deadline: March 25, 2021**

### LRAEF SCHOLARS

The purpose of the LRAEF Scholars program is to provide funds to advance the continuing post-secondary education of qualified individuals pursuing a career in the culinary and/or hospitality industry. Scholarship awards are merit-based and may vary based on available funds. The LRAEF reserves the right to make exceptions based on each applicant's unique circumstances. Payments will be made directly to the educational institution after confirmation of the student's full-time enrollment is received. Funds may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Funds are awarded for one school year cycle (fall – spring). **Students must reapply each year to be considered for a scholarship in the next cycle.**

### AWARDS:

The 2021-22 scholarship awards are listed below. Applicants will only need to submit one application for any of the following scholarships based on eligibility criteria established by the LRAEF Scholars Committee:

- ❖ **Jim Funk Scholarship: (One)** The LRAEF's highest award honoring the contributions of longtime LRA CEO Jim Funk who founded the LRAEF. This scholarship is provided from scholarship reserves dedicated to this purpose.
- ❖ **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers LRAEF Scholars: (Seventeen)** Awarded to qualified Louisiana students who intend to pursue a career in the restaurant, foodservice, tourism, or hospitality industry. Those LRAEF ProStart student graduates who complete the Certificate of Achievement are also eligible.
- ❖ **Louisiana Seafood Scholarship:** Established through a generous gift from the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board, this scholarship is awarded to a qualified applicant who expresses an interest in cultivating, protecting, and promoting Louisiana seafood.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must be accepted or currently enrolled in an undergraduate (bachelor/associate) or graduate degree program for at least two (2) consecutive semesters/terms reflecting a full school schedule (as defined by the school the student is attending). Courses of study can include but are not limited to culinary, hospitality & tourism, business, culinary/FACS teaching degree, or management programs to pursue a career in the restaurant, foodservice, tourism, or hospitality industry and teaching culinary education. Funds cannot be utilized for certificate programs. Applicants chosen as scholarship recipients must be full-time students. (Full-time: enrolled in at least 12 hours or the equivalent defined by the school the student is attending.) The student must have currently attained and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 while receiving participating the in the LRAEF Scholars program (any award) throughout the school year.

Students must be a Louisiana high school graduate (or current LA high school senior) and/or a college student attending a Louisiana culinary/hospitality program.

LRAEF Scholars will be notified of their selection no later than April 5, 2021 and will be advised of the deadline to confirm or accept the award. LRAEF Scholars are required to submit information for media release upon announcement of the awards. The LRAEF may host an event to recognize the accomplishments and awards of the LRAEF Scholars at some time during the summer.

**APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT ALL INFORMATION BY 11:59 PM, MARCH 25, 2021:**

1. **Completed Online Application** (found at <http://www.lra.org/scholarships.html>)
2. **Additional documents** (send to [LRAEF@lra.org](mailto:LRAEF@lra.org) or uploaded in the application portal):
  - a. **Two (s) Letter of Recommendation Forms**- Letter of Recommendation Forms should be completed by a foodservice or hospitality employer (preferred) and an instructor you have worked with during the past year. A form from an additional instructor or another type of employer will be accepted if you have not worked with foodservice or hospitality employer; no family members.
  - b. **Current Transcript with fall 2020 grade information** (Students will be required to send the completed spring 2021 transcripts must be sent after grades are posted. Transcripts must be official in a digital or paper format.
  - c. **Copy of ProStart® Certificate of Achievement** (if applicable)\* Note- if the applicant is a current high school student planning to enroll as an incoming college freshman, he or she must be able to present the **COA** by their projected high school graduation date.

**INFORMATION REQUIRED ON APPLICATION:**

**Student profile information:**

- Necessary personal information (name, address, email address, essential demographic information)
- Parent/legal guardian name and contact information (if the applicant is under the age of 18 at the time of application)
- ProStart and Louisiana ProStart Invitational history if the information applies to the applicant
- Secondary school information (address, graduation date, current GPA, cumulative GPA, current official transcript.)
- Post-secondary school information (Financial Aid Office address and phone number, expected graduation date, classification, degree type and academic program/major, student ID/enrollment verification number)
- Information about academic honors and achievements, leadership positions held, community service, and extracurricular activities or awards.
- Hospitality work experience (including employer name and address, job title, job duties, supervisor name, and contact information, dates worked, and approximate hours worked per week/month)

**Short answer questions on application:**

- What area in foodservice or hospitality are you most interested in and why?
- Briefly describe your career goals and aspirations in the foodservice or hospitality industry
- Describe an experience from your life and explain how it has influenced your career choice.
- Briefly describe why earning a scholarship award from the LRAEF is essential to you.
- Briefly describe one academic or workplace challenge you have faced and how you overcame it.
- Are you interested in promoting and protecting Louisiana Seafood? If so, why?

**Please contact the LRAEF office with any scholarship application questions**

**Email:** [LRAEF@lra.org](mailto:LRAEF@lra.org) / **Phone:** (504) 454-2277

