



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2016

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CALL FOR PRESS PASSES

Request Credentials for Michigan ProStart® Competition

Dates: Sunday, March 20 & Monday, March 21
Times: March 20 – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; March 21 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing, MI 48917

What is the Michigan ProStart® Competition?

The Michigan ProStart® Competition is a state-wide competition for high school students participating in the ProStart culinary and restaurant management education curriculum. Sixty-four teams representing the culinary programs at 20 career and technical centers from across Michigan compete in six disciplines: culinary, management/ entrepreneurship, food safety, nutrition, menu design, and table top design. In the culinary section, students have one hour to prepare a three-course meal (starter, entrée, and dessert) using only two butane burners. In the management/entrepreneurship portion, students are challenged to think like an entrepreneur and develop a full restaurant business plan.

Hosted by the Michigan Restaurant Association Educational Support Foundation (MRA ESF), the competition allows students to demonstrate skills they've learned in the ProStart program. The competition is open to the public.

The winning teams in the culinary and management/entrepreneurship portions will represent Michigan in Dallas, Texas, from April 29-May 1, 2016, competing against other teams from across the country at the 15th Annual National ProStart® Invitational. In addition, more than \$500,000 in scholarships to help the students pursue careers in the foodservice industry will be shared by the top teams in the Michigan competition. Industry professionals as well as leading college and university instructors observe and rate all portions of the competition.

ProStart is a nationwide, two-year high school culinary program that unites the classroom and industry to develop the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice leaders. In Michigan, 68 high schools and career centers use the ProStart curriculum with 5,000 students participating.

Who is Involved?

64 teams of high school students from:

- Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center
- Branch Area Careers Center
- Calhoun Area Career Center
- Careerline Tech Center
- Chippewa Valley Schools
- Clare-Gladwin RESD
- DCTC @ Riverview
- Gaylord High School
- Gratiot Isabella Technical Education Center
- LISD TECH Center
- Livonia Career Technical Center

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northwest
Petoskey High School
Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
Roseville High School
Saginaw Career Complex
South West Washtenaw Consortium (SWWC) @ Saline
Tuscola Technology Center
Van Buren Technology Center
West Shore ESD

Interested in attending and covering the Michigan ProStart Competition?

Simply reply to this e-mail and include the following information no later than March 18, 2016:

- Name
- Publication
- Date and time preference for Competition attendance

Learn more about the Michigan ProStart Program:

michiganrestaurant.org/prostart; [Twitter.com/ProStartMich](https://twitter.com/ProStartMich); [Facebook.com/MichiganProStart](https://facebook.com/MichiganProStart)

Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents nearly 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 421,000 people and creating \$15.4 billion in annual sales.

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