



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STUDENTS FROM PLYMOUTH-CANTON AND COLDWATER TRIUMPH (AGAIN) AT
MICHIGAN PROSTART® COMPETITION**
Winning Teams Headed to Minneapolis, MN for National Invitational

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association Educational Support Foundation (MRA ESF) is pleased to announce that it will send the culinary team from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in Canton and the management/entrepreneurship team from Branch Area Careers Center in Coldwater to compete in the 13th annual National ProStart® Invitational in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both teams took first place in their respective disciplines at the Michigan ProStart Competition held on March 23 and 24, 2014, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing.

This is the third consecutive year that the culinary team from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park will represent Michigan at the National Invitational. And this is the second consecutive year that the management/entrepreneurship team from Branch Area Careers Center will represent Michigan at the National Invitational.

Fifty-two (52) teams representing eighteen (18) career and technical centers from across Michigan competed in four disciplines during the two-day event: culinary, management/entrepreneurship, nutrition/marketing, and knowledge bowl. Industry professionals as well as leading college and university instructors observed and rated all portions of the competition.

“The talent of these young people never fails to amaze,” said Ken Wasco, MRA ESF board chairman. “We’re so proud of all the teams in this year’s competition. They represent the brightest and best talent from across the state and truly are tomorrow’s industry leaders. The winners will serve as ambassadors of the State of Michigan’s foodservice industry at the National Invitational, and we are confident they will represent our state well.”

The winning culinary team, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (Canton), prepared a three-course meal – an appetizer of scallop with cucumber and orange, an entrée of turkey breast with asparagus and root vegetables, and a coconut and passion fruit dessert. The team had one hour and only two butane burners to complete their meal.

Branch Area Careers Center (Coldwater), the winning management/entrepreneurship team, developed a comprehensive plan for a Mexican restaurant, Casa Bravo, featuring an authentic, flavorful, and wholesome menu with items found in Mexican Taquerias. They made a verbal presentation and applied critical thinking skills to questions about challenges restaurant managers face in day-to-day operations.

The winner of the ServSafe knowledge bowl was Roseville High School (Roseville). The winner of the nutrition/marketing component was West Shore ESD (Ludington).

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The top teams divided more than \$500,000 in scholarships to help the students pursue careers in the foodservice industry.

The Michigan ProStart Competition owes a great deal of its success to its generous sponsors. The culinary discipline was sponsored by Sysco of Michigan and the management/entrepreneurship discipline was sponsored by Gordon Food Service. PepsiCo sponsored the Nutrition/Marketing discipline and Van Eerden Foodservice sponsored the ServSafe Knowledge Bowl. Other sponsors included: Ashby's Sterling Ice Cream, BIGGBY Coffee, Coca Cola, Domino's Pizza, DTE Energy, Mercer, and Valley City Linen.

The final standings for the Michigan ProStart Competition 2014:

Culinary Discipline

- First Place – Plymouth-Canton Educational Park; Canton, MI
- Second Place – Saginaw Career Complex; Saginaw, MI
- Third Place – Capital Area Career Center; Mason, MI
- Fourth Place – SWWC @ Saline; Saline, MI
- Fifth Place - LISD Tech Center; Adrian, MI

Management/Entrepreneurship Discipline

- First Place – Branch Area Careers Center; Coldwater, MI
- Second Place – Plymouth-Canton Educational Park; Canton, MI
- Third Place – LISD Tech Center; Adrian, MI
- Fourth Place – Saginaw Career Complex; Saginaw, MI
- Fifth Place – Van Buren Technology Center; Lawrence, MI

Nutrition/Marketing Discipline

- First Place – West Shore ESD, Ludington, MI
- Second Place – Capital Area Career Center; Mason, MI
- Third Place – Plymouth-Canton Educational Park; Canton, MI
- Fourth Place – IOSCO RESA; Tawas City, MI

ServSafe Knowledge Bowl

- First Place – Roseville High School; Roseville, MI
- Second Place – Careerline Tech Center Team A; Holland, MI
- Third Place – IOSCO RESA; Tawas City, MI
- Fourth Place – Saginaw Career Complex; Saginaw, MI
- Fifth Place – LISD Tech Center; Adrian, MI

ProStart is a nationwide, two-year high school 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 nearly 5,000 students participating. For more information about ProStart, contact Amanda Smith at 800.968.9668, visit michiganrestaurant.org/prostart, or find us on Twitter and Facebook.

The 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 almost 400,000 people and creating more than \$13.4 billion in annual sales.

PHOTOS ATTACHED: WINNING TEAMS

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