

By Tony Burton • May 14, 2025

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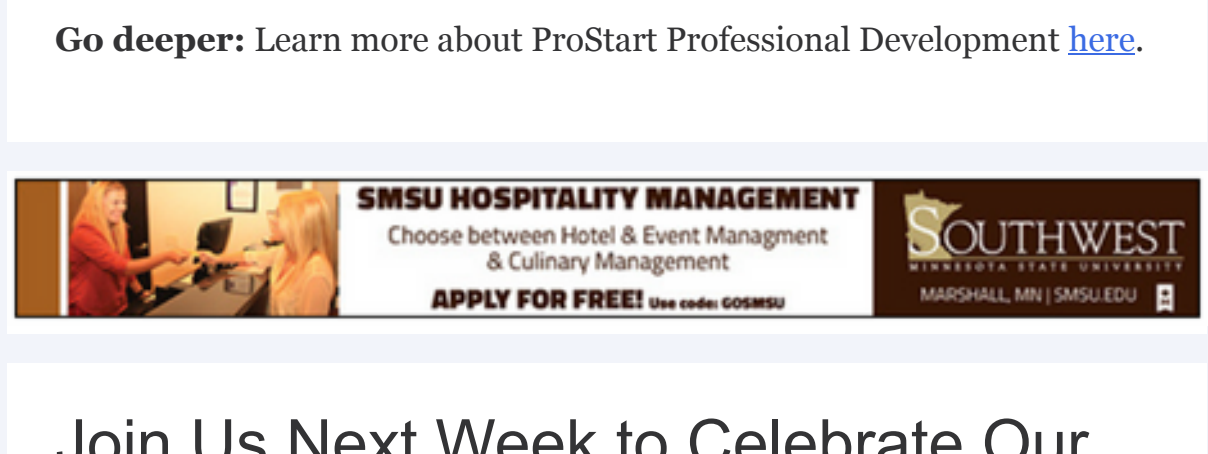
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We would like to thank our Workforce Insider Sponsor - [Sheraton Minneapolis Downtown Convention Center](#) - for their contributions and commitment to Minnesota's hospitality industry!

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Six Minnesota Instructors Awarded Grants to Attend 2025 National ProStart Professional Development

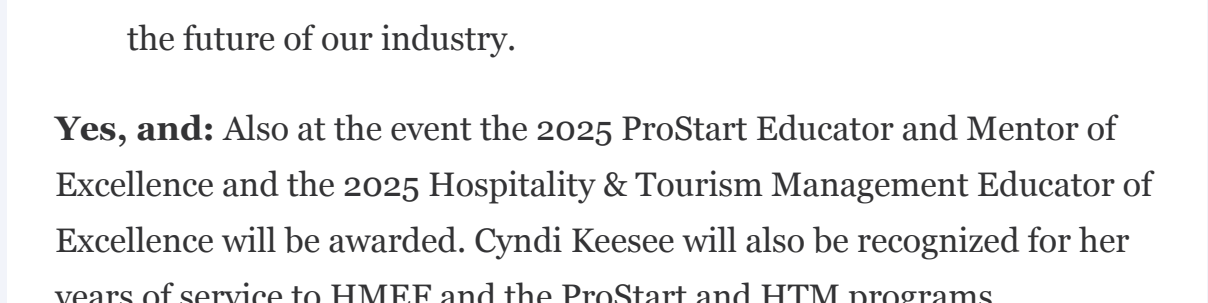


We're excited to share that six of Minnesota's ProStart Program instructors have been awarded grants to attend the [2025 National ProStart Professional Development](#) training this July in New Orleans!

- **What educators in attendance can expect:** The National ProStart Professional Development (ProStart PD) provides educators with tools and resources to improve their students' experiences and inspire them to pursue careers in the restaurant and hospitality industries.

Why it Matters: These \$2,000 grants will cover the cost of registration, and hotel accommodations at the Roosevelt New Orleans and allow first-time attendees to take advantage of professional development that will help support their programs in the school year.

Go deeper: Learn more about ProStart Professional Development [here](#).



Join Us Next Week to Celebrate Our 2025 Scholarship Recipients!



You're invited: Join Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation for our annual [Scholarship Luncheon](#) next Thursday, May 22, 2025, at the [Sheraton Minneapolis Downtown Convention Center](#) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Why it matters: This year is significant because HMEF is launching our newest scholarship, the Sue Zelikson Scholarship, to it's first ever recipients!

- About the Sue Zelikson Scholarship: Managed through the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation in collaboration with [Women Who Really Cook](#), this award provides critical scholarships to women pursuing careers in culinary, hospitality, foodservice, food science, food systems and other food-related fields.

- **The bottom line:** You don't want to miss out on this celebration of the future of our industry.

Yes, and: Also at the event the 2025 ProStart Educator and Mentor of Excellence and the 2025 Hospitality & Tourism Management Educator of Excellence will be awarded. Cyndi Keesee will also be recognized for her years of service to HMEF and the ProStart and HTM programs.

[Learn More & Register!](#)

Give back: If you would like to donate toward our scholarship fund, [click here](#).

ProStart National Invitational Recap: Celebrating Minnesota's Champions

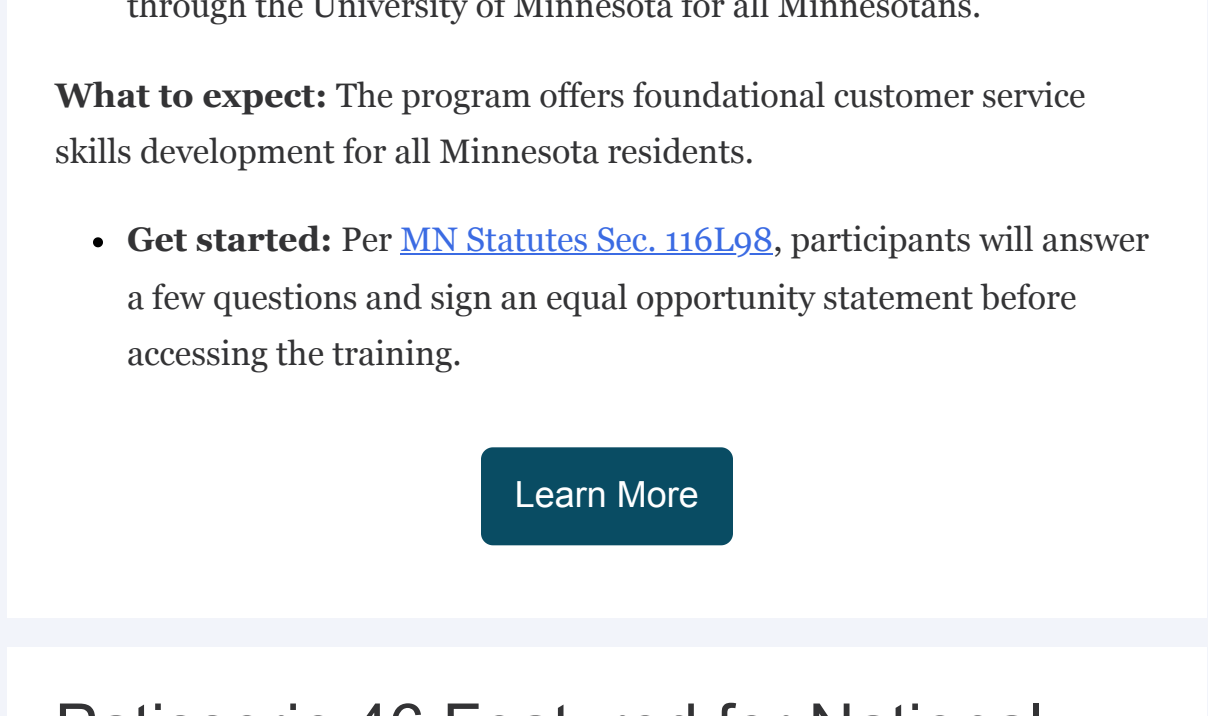


ProStart Update: Minnesota's ProStart Champions were in Baltimore May 1 - 5 for the [National ProStart Invitational](#).

- **The results:** Our management team from Sauk-Rapids Rice High School placed 6th out of 48, while our culinary team from Elk River High School placed 15th out of 48!

Go deeper: Watch the 2025 ProStart Awards Gala [here](#), and learn more about Minnesota's ProStart Programs [here](#).

Hospitality Tourism & Management Teacher Training Recap



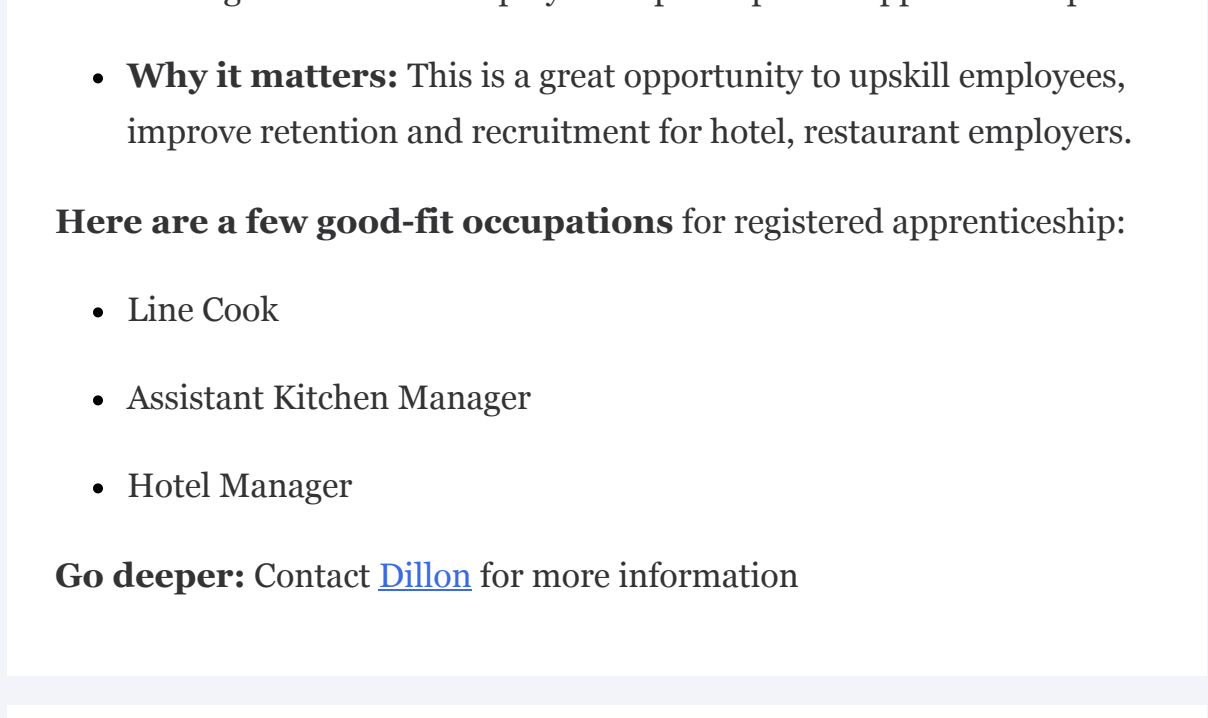
What happened: Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation (HMEF) hosted 20 teachers from across Minnesota for a Hospitality & Tourism Management professional development training on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at the Deluxe Building in downtown Minneapolis.

By attending this training teachers were able to:

- Understand the importance of the hospitality industry and its career pathways for students.
- Develop lesson plans/concepts with fellow Minnesota teachers.
- Find out more about the Hospitality & Tourism Management curriculum.
- Learn about Minneapolis' iconic attraction, First Avenue, with a back stage tour.
- Experience the W Minneapolis Hotel and their 30th floor Foshay Tower observation deck and museum.
- Connect with industry professionals from Marriott, Meet Minneapolis, Normandale Community College, and National Restaurant Association.

[Learn More About HTM](#)

Find Your Next Employee at a Job Fair This Summer!



Did you know: Minnesota currently has [30.000 unfilled hospitality jobs](#).

Get involved: One of the most effective hiring tools for employers is participating in job fairs. It's a great way to engage with people looking to work.

- **Stay connected:** Bookmark this link to the state's [CareerForce](#) events calendar, which is updated regularly with Job Fairs!

Go deeper: If you're new to job fairs or would like to learn more - contact [Dillon](#) for more information.

Enroll Today in Free Hospitality and Online Customer Service Training

Did you know: Hospitality Minnesota Minnesota and the University of Minnesota's Tourism Center proudly offer a [free online customer service training program!](#)

- **Some background:** Thanks to Hospitality Minnesota's advocacy, the Minnesota Legislature allocated funds to create a free training through the University of Minnesota for all Minnesotans.

What to expect: The program offers foundational customer service skills development for all Minnesota residents.

- **Get started:** Per [MN Statutes Sec. 116L08](#), participants will answer a few questions and sign an equal opportunity statement before accessing the training.

[Learn More](#)

Patisserie 46 Featured for National Apprenticeship Day

National Apprenticeship Day was April 20th, and Hospitality Minnesota member and workforce partner [Patisserie 46](#) was featured by the [Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#) for their baker/pastry chef apprenticeship.

Employer Funding Available for Apprenticeship Participation - Hotels and Restaurants

Did you know: State and federal programs have allocated funding and free training resources for employers to participate in apprenticeships.

- **Why it matters:** This is a great opportunity to upskill employees, improve retention and recruitment for hotel, restaurant employers.

Here are a few good-fit occupations for registered apprenticeship:

- Line Cook
- Assistant Kitchen Manager
- Hotel Manager

Go deeper: Contact [Dillon](#) for more information