Workforce Insider

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By Tony Burton ♦ Nov 11, 2026

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In this month's Workforce Insider:

- **Introducing HMEF'S New Program Director:** Megan Krohn
- **2026 Stars of the Future Fundraiser:** Coming to Minneapolis Thursday, November 19
- **Registered Apprenticeship Summit:** Coming to St. Paul Friday, November 13
- **Podcast:** Listen About Pathways After High School in Rural Minnesota
- **Hospitality Student Career Expo Recap**
- **Ensure Food Safety:** Get ServSafe Certified At a Class Near You!

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Support the Foundation and its work of investing in our industry's future by training the workforce of today and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow:

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Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation Welcomes Megan Krohn as Program Director



Welcoming our new Program Director: The Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation (HMEF) is pleased to welcome Megan Krohn as its new Program Director. Megan will support educators, grow ProStart and Hospitality & Tourism Management (HTM) programs statewide and lead events that celebrate student achievement.

- **About Megan:** Megan brings more than 13 years of youth program leadership from Youth Frontiers, where she oversaw more than 800 school workshops a year across 12 states. As Vice President of Member Services at the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, she built partnerships across industries and led more than 100 events annually.

  Megan is thrilled to bring her passion for supporting youth and her experience building community partnerships to HMEF. Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

Get in touch: Megan can be reached at megan@hospitalitymn.com or at 651-225-4017.

Read More!

In Case You Missed It: Stars of the Future Featured on WCCO Ahead of Celebrations Next Thursday!



HMEF Program Director Megan Krohn Joins Chef Blake Chapman on WCCO to Promote Stars of the Future!

The countdown is on! Stars of the Future is Thursday, November 19, at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot, and there's still time to grab your tickets.

- **Why it matters:** One night, ten Minnesota ProStart schools, and a room full of people who believe in the next generation of hospitality.

In case you missed it: ProStart was in the spotlight on WCCO! Chef Blake Chapman and Megan Krohn of Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation joined Susan-Elizabeth Littlefield on WCCO Sunday Morning to cook up some fun and get Minnesota excited for Stars of the Future. Watch the segment.

- **Yes, and:** Our emcee this year, Stephanie Hansen, just added three more regional Emmys to her shelf at the 2026 Regional Emmy Awards. Come celebrate with her as she brings the night to life.

Register Here!

Registered Apprenticeship Summit Coming to St. Paul Nov. 13



The details: Apprenticeship Minnesota, part of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, is hosting a half-day summit for employers who are thinking about starting a registered apprenticeship program. Sessions cover the basics, costs and funding, and a panel of current program sponsors.

- **When:** Friday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m.–noon
- **Where:** Goodwill-Easter Seals Financial Industry Training, 1270 Energy Lane, Suite 157, St. Paul

Register Here!

Podcast: Pathways After High School in Rural Minnesota



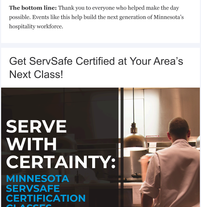
The details: The Center for Rural Policy and Development (CPRD) talks with Sourcewell's Ed Soo podcast about how young people move into college and the workforce. The conversation covers career and technical education in rural communities.

Listen Here!

Coming up: CPRD is offering free regional sessions this week in Hutchinson and Worthington.

RSVP Here!

Hospitality Student Career Expo Recap



That's a wrap! Over 200 high school students from 13 different schools across Minnesota filled the Minneapolis Convention Center for HMEF's 2026 Hospitality Student Career Expo, and it was a success!

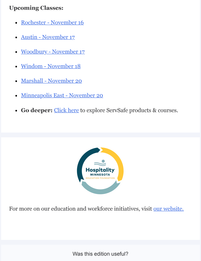
- **Why it matters:** The Expo gave students a firsthand look at the hospitality industry and a day full of skill development, industry understanding, and career discovery. For many, it may be the first step toward a future in hospitality.

At the Expo, students:

- **Discovered** the wide variety of careers in the food service and hospitality industry.
- **Rolled up their sleeves** in hands-on culinary labs and demonstrations.
- **Learned** what Destination Management Organizations do and how they impact communities.
- **Connected** with hospitality professionals and saw their passion for the industry up close.

The bottom line: Thank you to everyone who helped make the day possible. Events like this help build the next generation of Minnesota's hospitality workforce.

Get ServSafe Certified at Your Area's Next Class!



Did you know: Minnesota law requires at least one certified food manager on staff at nearly every food establishment. We've partnered with Food Safety Guy to make certification simple—check our Event Calendar for upcoming ServSafe classes!

Upcoming Classes:

- Rochester - November 16
- Austin - November 17
- Woodbury - November 17
- Windom - November 18
- Marshall - November 20
- Minneapolis East - November 20
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