

By Tony Burton • May 13, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...957 words

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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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Minnesota's ProStart Champions Place Favorably at the National ProStart Invitational



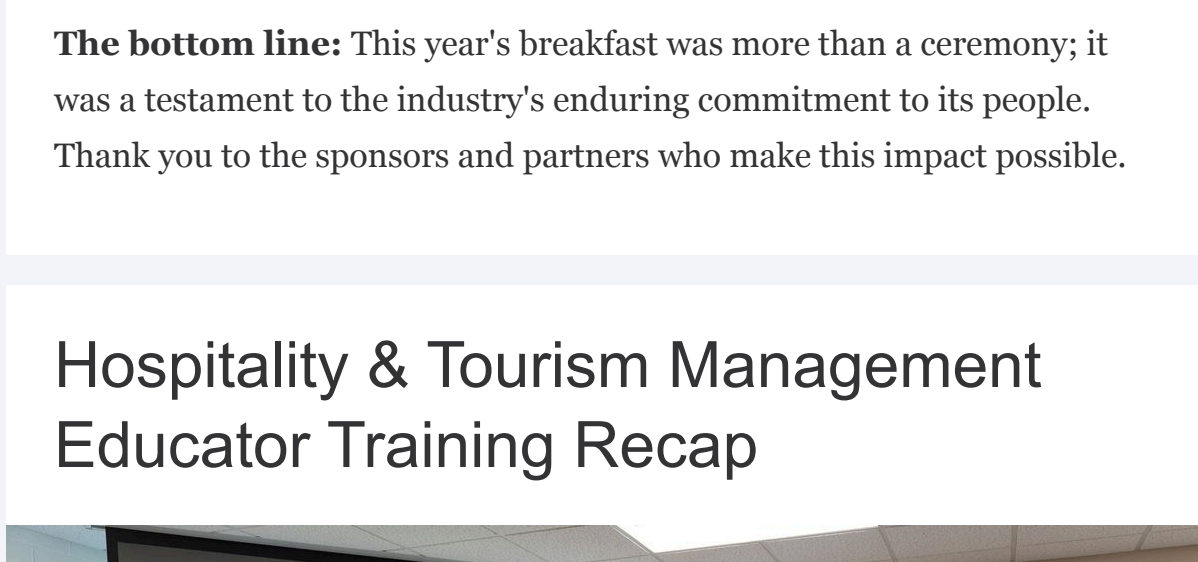
Minnesota ProStart Champions from Elk River High School (left) and Sauk Rapids-Rice High School (right) compete at the National ProStart Invitational.

ProStart update: Last month, [Minnesota's ProStart Champions](#) were in Baltimore for the National ProStart Invitational.

- **The results:** Our Culinary team from Elk River High School placed 9th out of 48 teams and our Management team from Sauk-Rapids Rice placed 13th nationally.

Go deeper: Learn more about the National ProStart Competition and watch the 2026 ProStart Awards Gala [here](#), and check out Minnesota's ProStart Programs [here](#).

Celebrating the Future: Scholarship Breakfast Recap



Photos from the 2026 Scholarship Breakfast

The big picture: On May 5, the hospitality community gathered to celebrate the [2026 HMEF and Sue Zelikson Scholarship Recipients](#). The event highlighted the academic achievements of Minnesota students as well as the educators and mentors who guide them.

Why it matters: Workforce development remains a critical pillar for the industry. By supporting students today with [HMEF Scholarships](#), we ensure a robust talent pipeline for Minnesota's restaurants, hotels, and resorts tomorrow.

- **Yes, and:** This year's celebration marked a special milestone as HMEF surpassed over \$1,000,000 in scholarship funds awarded!

Key Highlights

- **Sue Zelikson Scholarships:** We proudly celebrated the return of these awards, supporting women pursuing degrees in culinary arts, food science, and hospitality management.
- **State Champions:** The 2026 ProStart Culinary and Management State Champions were recognized for their technical skill and leadership.
- **Educators of Excellence:** Awards were presented to the 2026 [ProStart Educator of Excellence](#), the [Hospitality & Tourism Management Educator of Excellence](#), and the [ProStart Mentor of the Year](#) for their dedication to student success.

The bottom line: This year's breakfast was more than a ceremony; it was a testament to the industry's enduring commitment to its people. Thank you to the sponsors and partners who make this impact possible.

Hospitality & Tourism Management Educator Training Recap



In case you missed it: Last month, HMEF hosted [Hospitality & Tourism Management \(HTM\)](#) educators from across the state for our annual HTM Educator Training.

The HTM Educator Training included:

- Customer service training
- Hospitality and tourism industry insights
- Interactive, classroom-ready learning activities
- Opportunities to connect with fellow HTM educators
- Presentations from post-secondary faculty and hospitality and tourism professionals
- Site visit and presentation from Hilton Minneapolis Bloomington

Thank you to the industry partners that made this event possible.

[Learn More About HTM](#)

Fill Open Roles Faster at Upcoming Job Fairs



Looking for your team's next MVP? Job fairs let you meet promising candidates face-to-face and start hiring now.

Upcoming Job Fairs and Networking Opportunities:

- **Youth Job Fair:** [May 16, 10 AM - 12 PM | Maplewood Mall](#)
- **Hiring Event and Training Resources:** [May 18, 1 - 3 PM | CareerForce](#)
- **Goodwill-Easter Seals Spring Career Fair:** [May 19, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota - Career Services Center](#)
- **Cloquet Area Job Fair:** [May 19, 11 AM - 2 PM | Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College](#)

Go deeper: Check out [CareerForce's Minnesota Events Calendar](#) for more!

- **Questions?** Contact [Dillon](#).

[Find Job Fairs Near You](#)

Restaurant Ready Partner Rise earns MOHR Choice Award



Congratulations are in order! Our Restaurant Ready partner Rise was recently recognized at the [MOHR Choice Awards](#).

- **Why it matters:** The awards recognize innovative, impactful programs by MOHR members that positively affect the lives of individuals with disabilities—highlighting Rise's work preparing participants for and connecting them to employment.

[Read About the Award](#)

Upcoming Culinary & Hospitality Apprenticeship Information Sessions



Free webinar alert! Join other hospitality professionals for [upcoming webinars through the NRAEF Restaurant & Hospitality Leadership Center, including one today at 2 PM CST](#).

- **Why it matters:** A proven way to hire, train, and retain talent—this informational webinar is hosted by the National Restaurant Association.

Plan ahead: After [today's webinar](#), the next will be on [June 10, 2026 at 2 PM CST](#).

What you'll learn:

- How apprenticeship works in hospitality — simple, step-by-step
- Program benefits — stronger retention, wage growth, clear career paths
- National framework + credentials — turnkey model backed by the National Restaurant Association

Apprenticeships include:

- Line Cook
- Kitchen Manager
- Restaurant Manager

[Learn More & Register!](#)

Stars of the Future Rescheduled for November 19, 2026

Stars of the Future Returns! After postponement earlier this year, we are excited to announce that Stars of the Future is returning November 19, 2026 at the Renaissance Depot.

- **Important detail:** All tickets purchased for the originally scheduled event will be honored for the rescheduled date. Please reach out to [our team](#) if you cannot attend the new event date.

Haven't got a ticket yet? No worries! You can still register to join us for an inspiring evening celebrating the future of Minnesota's hospitality industry.

[Register today!](#)

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MINNESOTA SERVSAFE CERTIFICATION CLASSES

NOW AVAILABLE

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!

- [Mankato - May 18](#)
- [Winona - May 18](#)
- [Bloomington - May 19](#)
- [Windom - May 20](#)
- [Minneapolis East - May 22](#)
- [Woodbury - May 26](#)

Go deeper: [Click here](#) to explore ServSafe products & courses.

For more on our education and workforce initiatives, visit [our website](#).

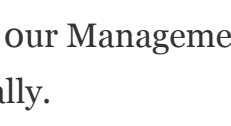
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