



Workforce Insider

Brought to you by

By Tony Burton • Oct 14, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...743 words

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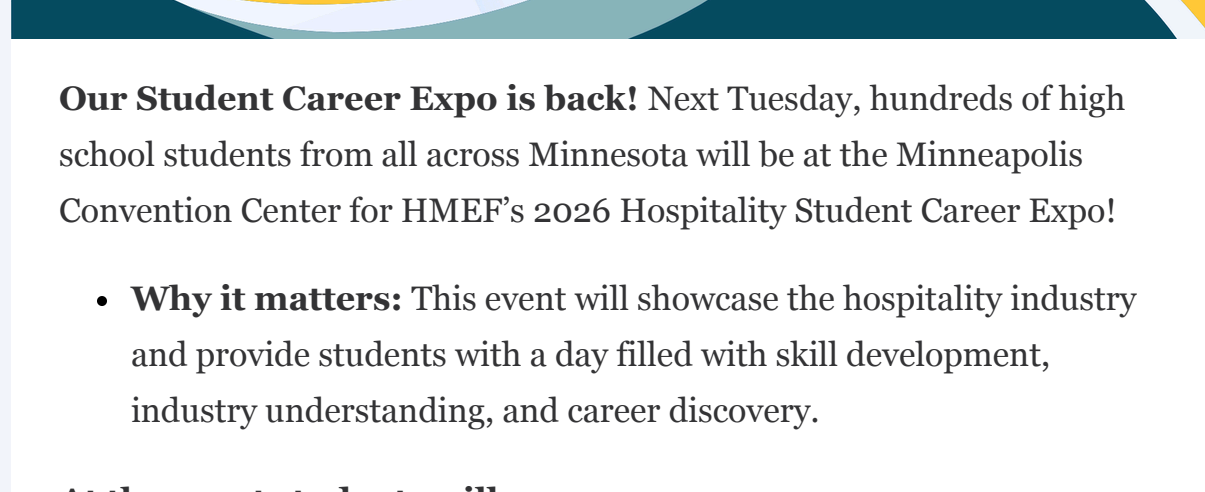
- **Hospitality Student Career Expo:** [HMEF's Signature Expo to Return to the Minneapolis Convention Center October 20](#)
- **Mark Your Calendars for November 19:** [2026 Stars of the Future](#)
- **Stars of the Industry Nominations:** [Submit Your Workforce Trailblazers for Hospitality Minnesota's Industry Awards!](#)
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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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Next Week: Hospitality Student Career Expo Returns!



Our Student Career Expo is back! Next Tuesday, hundreds of high school students from all across Minnesota will be at the Minneapolis Convention Center for HMEF's 2026 Hospitality Student Career Expo!

- **Why it matters:** This event will showcase the hospitality industry and provide students with a day filled with skill development, industry understanding, and career discovery.

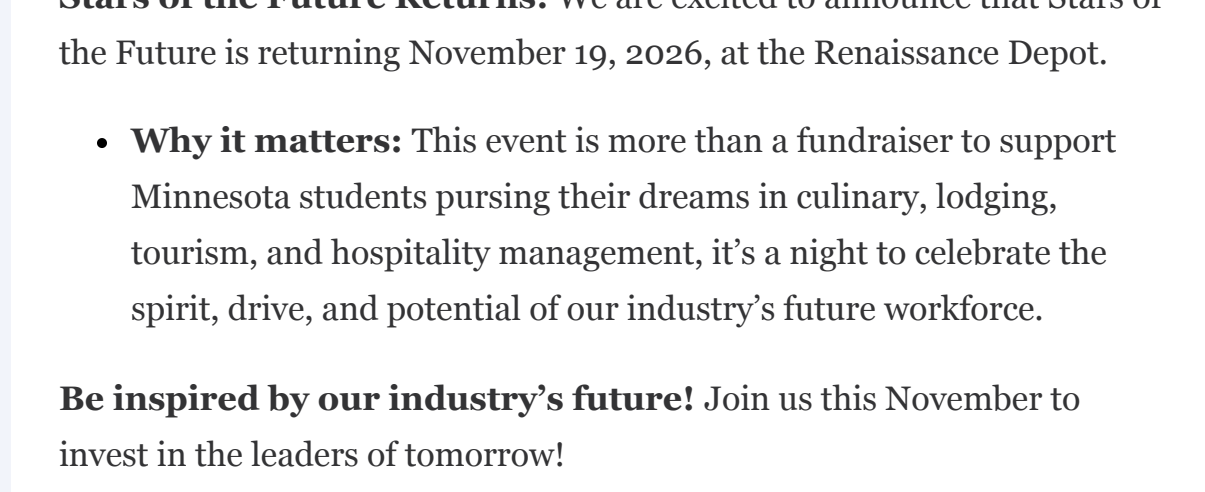
At the event students will:

- Discover the wide variety of careers in the food service and hospitality industry.
- Experience hands-on culinary labs and demonstrations.
- Learn what Destination Management Organizations do and how they impact communities.
- Connect with hospitality professionals and be inspired by their passion for the industry.

[Learn More](#)

Join us for Stars of the Future on

November 19, 2026



Stars of the Future Returns! We are excited to announce that Stars of the Future is returning November 19, 2026, at the Renaissance Depot.

- **Why it matters:** This event is more than a fundraiser to support Minnesota students pursuing their dreams in culinary, lodging, tourism, and hospitality management, it's a night to celebrate the spirit, drive, and potential of our industry's future workforce.

Be inspired by our industry's future! Join us this November to invest in the leaders of tomorrow!

[Register today!](#)

Nominate Your Workforce Trailblazers

for Stars of the Industry



Call for Stars of the Industry Nominations: Help us celebrate the extraordinary talent across Minnesota hospitality by putting your most deserving team members forward for the Stars of the Industry Awards.

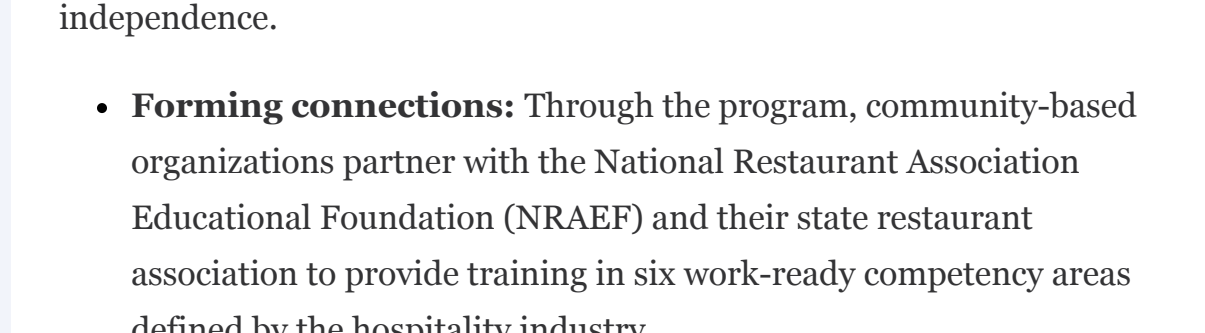
The deadline to nominate is next Thursday, October 22, 2026.

- **About the categories:** This year, we're accepting nominations for 11 different awards.

[Nominate Your Peers!](#)

Rise Restaurant Ready Participants

Put Their Skills to Work



Catch up: Participants in Rise's [Restaurant Ready](#) program recently got valuable hands-on experience serving dinner to Rise Senior Leaders and members of Rise's Board of Directors.

- **What happened:** Throughout the evening, the group set up the buffet, helped serve the catered meal, provided drinks, cut and served cake, assisted guests, and cleared tables. The event gave participants a real-world setting to show the skills they've built through the program.

About Restaurant Ready: Restaurant Ready is a national program that helps people build the basic job and life skills they need to pursue careers in restaurants and hospitality and start on a path to independence.

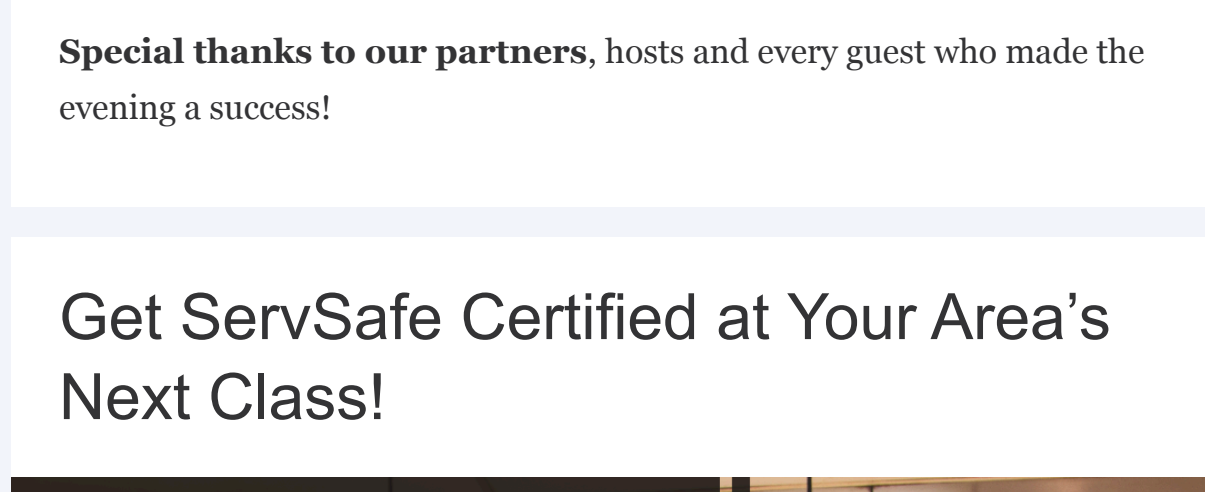
- **Forming connections:** Through the program, community-based organizations partner with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and their state restaurant association to provide training in six work-ready competency areas defined by the hospitality industry.
- **Why it matters:** These competencies help participants build the skills, discipline, and confidence to start a job and stay employed. The state restaurant association connects participants with local employers, while community partners provide wraparound services to remove barriers to success.

Are you an operator interested in learning more? Contact [Dillon](#) to get started.

[Email Dillon](#)

Oktoberfest 2026 Raises

Approximately \$4,000 for HMEF Scholarships



ProStart Students from Becker and Hopkins High Schools helped sell raffle tickets at Oktoberfest 2026.

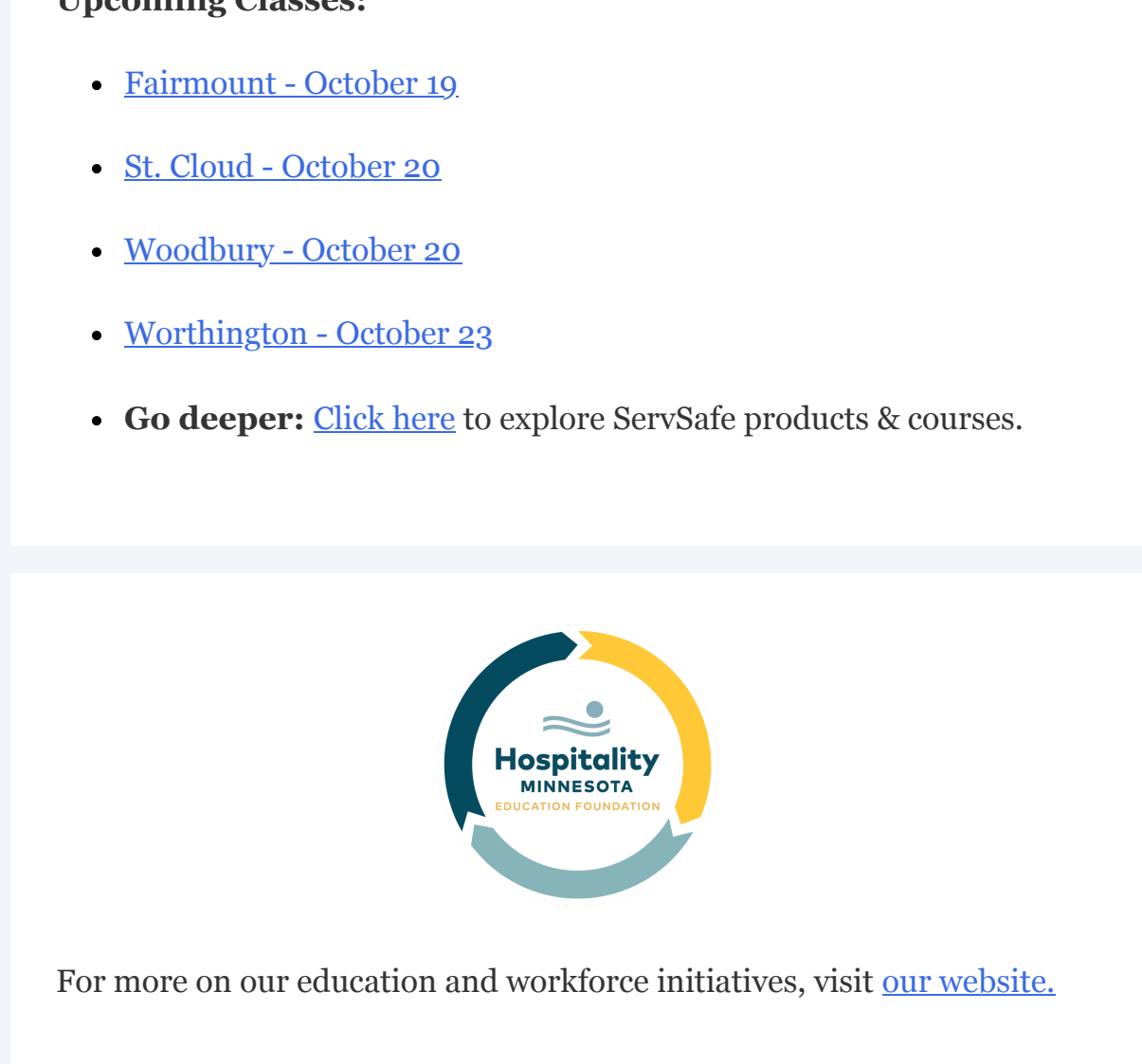
We did it! Thank you to everyone who joined Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation, the Greater Minneapolis Hotel Association and the Minneapolis Tourism Improvement District on October 1, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis for our Oktoberfest fundraiser!

- **What we accomplished:** Together, we raised \$4,000 for the Foundation's scholarship fund, helping support the next generation of hospitality professionals.

Special thanks to our partners, hosts and every guest who made the evening a success!

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:

- [Fairmount - October 19](#)
- [St. Cloud - October 20](#)
- [Woodbury - October 20](#)
- [Worthington - October 23](#)
- **Go deeper:** [Click here](#) to explore ServSafe products & courses.



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