

By Tony Burton • Jul 10, 2024

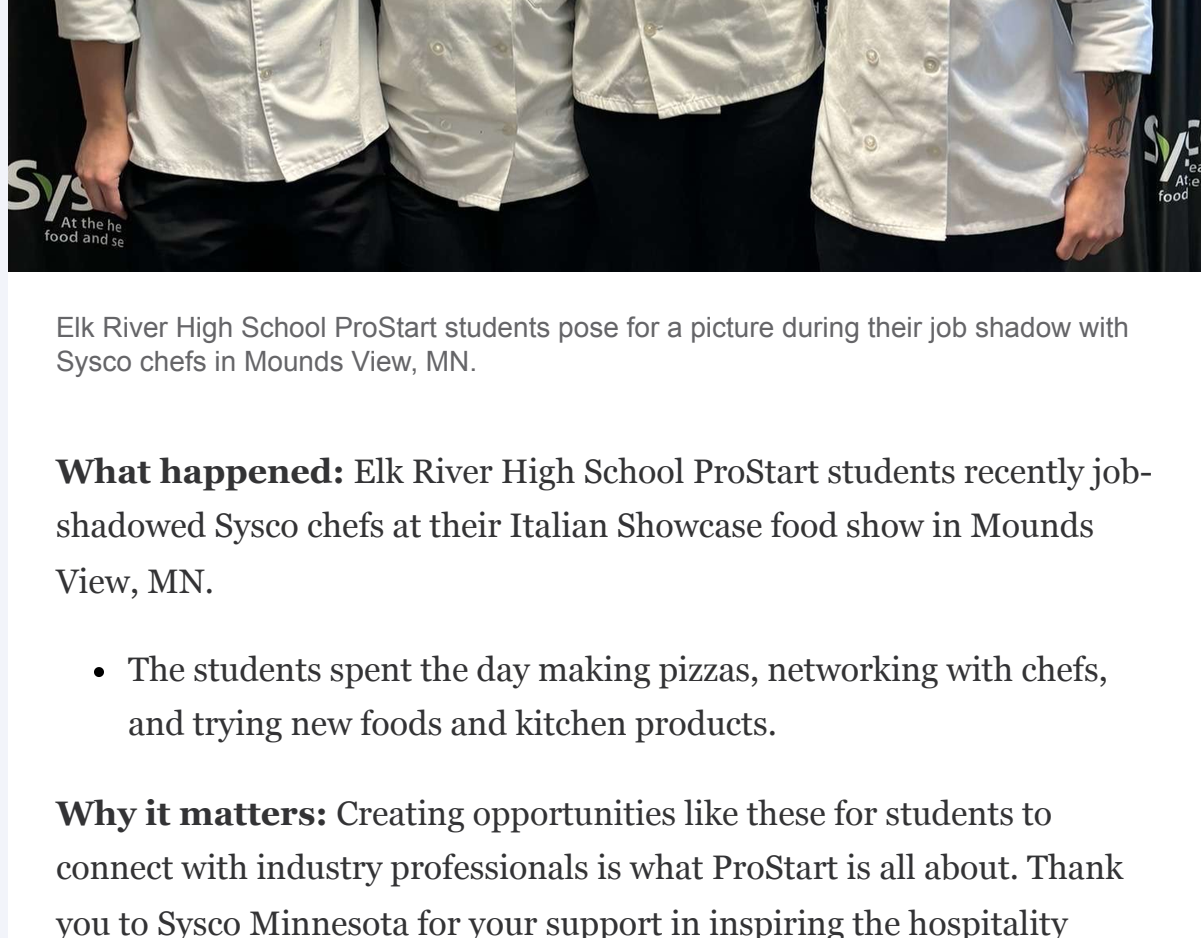
Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...817 words

In this month's Workforce Insider:

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- Meet Johanna Heigaard, our July Workforce Trailblazer!
- Rochester Middle School Student Hospitality Career Experience
- Summer of ServSafe™ Continues Through August
- Restaurant Ready Program Kicks Off
- Maximize Your Membership — Utilize Our Job Board!

We would like to thank our Workforce Insider Sponsor - [Aimbridge](#) - for their contributions and commitment to Minnesota's hospitality workforce!

Elk River High School ProStart Students Shadow Sysco Chefs

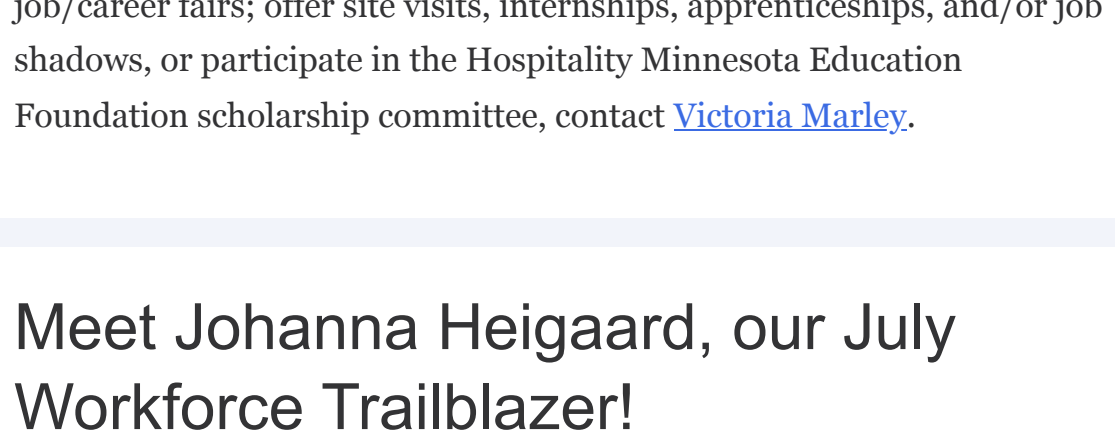


Elk River High School ProStart students pose for a picture during their job shadow with Sysco chefs in Mounds View, MN.

What happened: Elk River High School ProStart students recently job-shadowed Sysco chefs at their Italian Showcase food show in Mounds View, MN.

- The students spent the day making pizzas, networking with chefs, and trying new foods and kitchen products.

Why it matters: Creating opportunities like these for students to connect with industry professionals is what ProStart is all about. Thank you to Sysco Minnesota for your support in inspiring the hospitality leaders of tomorrow.

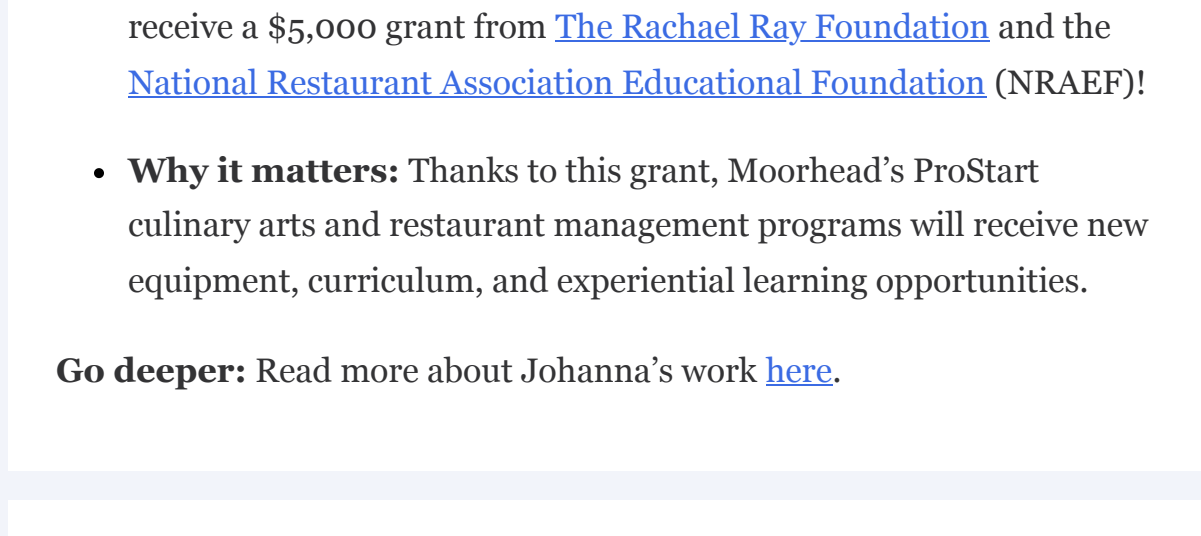


Elk River ProStart student Jaelynn Mogren photographed with Sysco Chef Chad Kline.

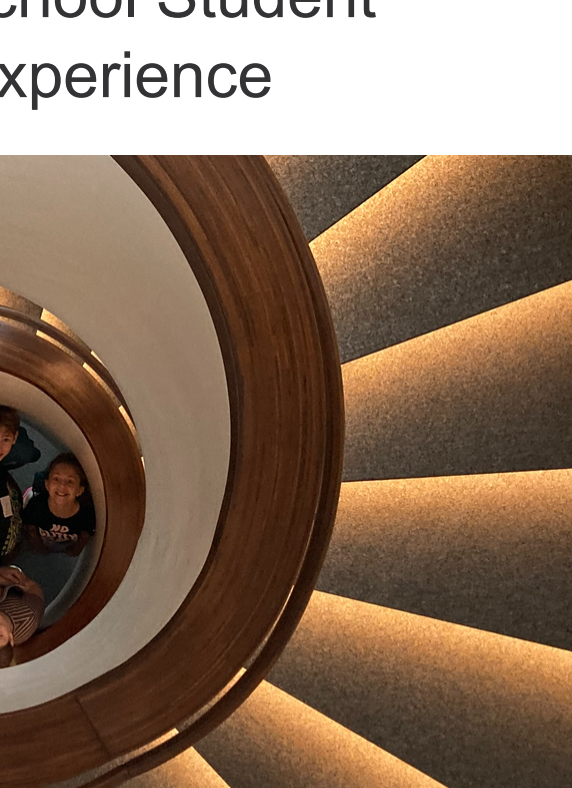
- **What they're saying:** Elk River ProStart student Jaelynn Mogren agreed, "It was very important to me to meet with past and current ProStart judges. I had a great time working alongside Chef Chad."

Get involved: If you would like to be a hospitality or culinary mentor or guest speaker; Minnesota ProStart Invitational judge; exhibit at job/career fairs; offer site visits, internships, apprenticeships, and/or job shadows, or participate in the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation scholarship committee, contact [Victoria Marley](#).

Meet Johanna Heigaard, our July Workforce Trailblazer!



Johanna Heigaard
MOORHEAD HIGH SCHOOL CAREER ACADEMY



Meet Johanna Heigaard, our July Workforce Trailblazer!

- **Thanks to Johanna's hard work**, Moorhead High School Career Academy was one of 40 high schools nationwide selected this year to receive a \$5,000 grant from [The Rachael Ray Foundation](#) and the [National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation \(NRAEF\)](#)!
- **Why it matters:** Thanks to this grant, Moorhead's ProStart culinary arts and restaurant management programs will receive new equipment, curriculum, and experiential learning opportunities.

Go deeper: Read more about Johanna's work [here](#).

Rochester Middle School Student Hospitality Career Experience

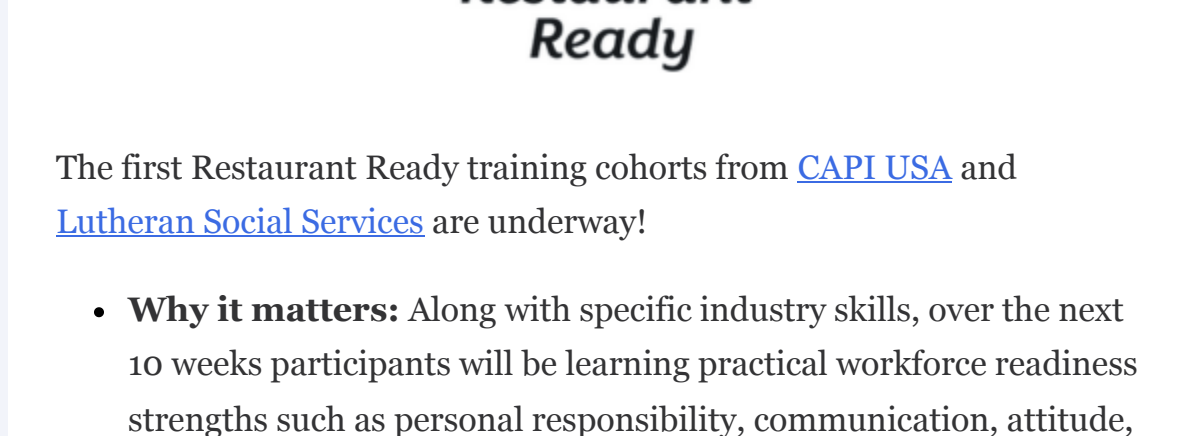


Rochester middle school students photographed at the bottom of a spiral staircase during their Hospitality Career Experience at the Hilton Rochester May Clinic Area.

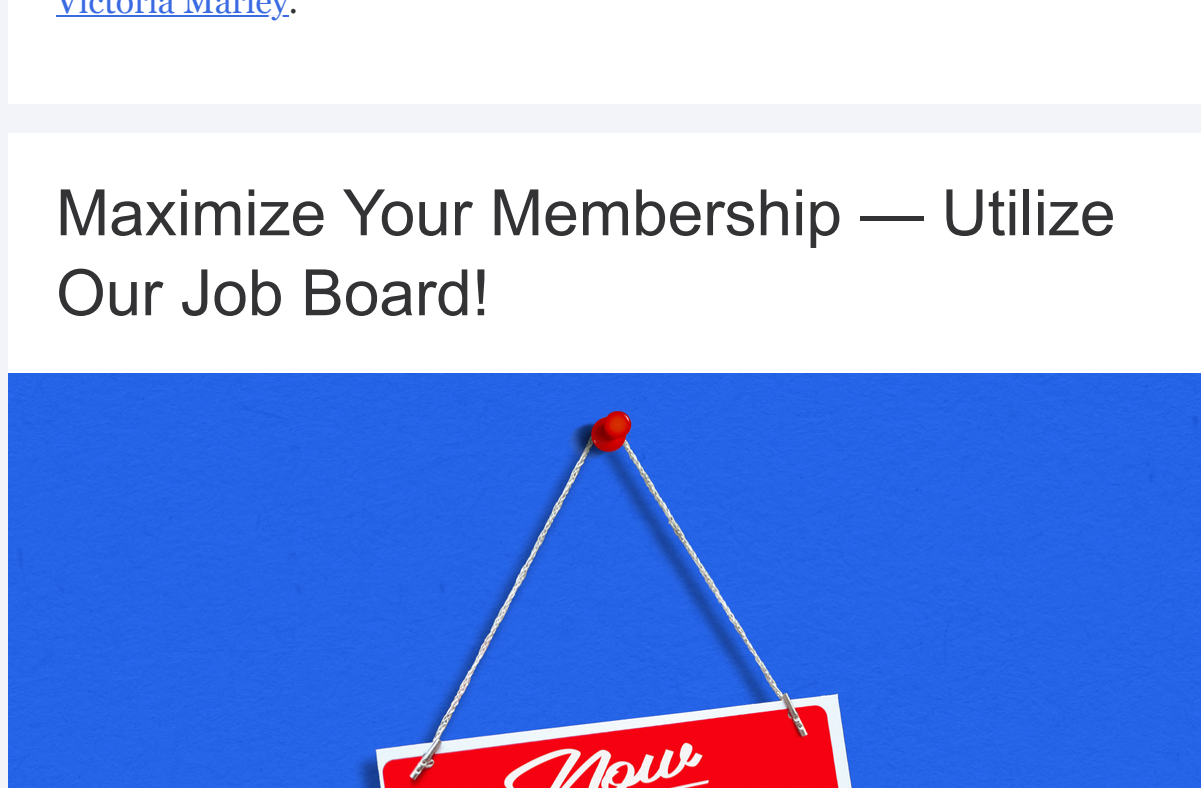
The **Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation** was thrilled to partner with Experience Rochester MN to host a hospitality career exploration experience for the Southeast Service Cooperative's Middle School Career Exploration Camp at the Hilton Rochester Mayo Clinic Area.

- **What happened:** Rochester middle school students spent the day touring the wide variety of Hilton Hotel staffing departments and learning about the amazing career opportunities available in the hospitality industry.

Why it matters: Introducing students at an early age to the hospitality industry will make an even bigger impact on our workforce development efforts!



Summer of ServSafe™ Continues Through August!



We're Serving Up Food Safety Certifications! Check out our summer schedule of ServSafe classes, available all over the state, on our [Event Calendar](#) as well as below!

Why it matters: Except for satellite or catered feeding sites, all food enterprises in Minnesota are *required* to have at least one full-time employee who has completed a Food Manager Certification program like ServSafe.

- **White Bear Lake:** [August 5 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM](#)
- **St. Louis Park:** [August 6 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM](#)
- **Rochester:** [August 12 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM](#)
- **Mankato:** [August 13 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM](#)
- **Baxter:** [August 19 - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM](#)

Restaurant Ready Program Kicks Off



Restaurant Ready

The first Restaurant Ready training cohorts from [CAPI USA](#) and [Lutheran Social Services](#) are underway!

- **Why it matters:** Along with specific industry skills, over the next 10 weeks participants will be learning practical workforce readiness strengths such as personal responsibility, communication, attitude, adaptability, and customer service.
- **What to expect:** The first cohorts will be graduating this fall and will be ready to fill restaurant and hospitality entry-level positions.

Thank you to our Restaurant Ready employer partners: [D'Amico and Partners](#), [Hilton Minneapolis](#), and [Morrissey Hospitality](#). If you are interested in being a Restaurant Ready employer partner, contact [Victoria Marley](#).

Maximize Your Membership — Utilize Our Job Board!

Did you know: According to [recent analysis](#) by the American Hotel and Lodging Association's Foundation, the hotel industry currently employs 1.8 million workers in the United States. The AHLA Foundation report projects job growth of 12% in the hotel industry over the next five years, compared to 8.0% for the nation overall.

- **Why it matters:** As employers look to appeal to the workers they need in a competitive job market, we have a solution: [The Hospitality Minnesota Job Board!](#)

How it works: Hospitality Minnesota members can post their individual job openings on the job board by logging into their member portal.

- **Pro tip:** If you've posted your job on your own job board, use this opportunity to place your openings before more eyes. Members can post to the job for free!

The bottom line: Utilizing the [Hospitality Minnesota Job Board](#) can significantly increase visibility for your job openings and connect you with qualified candidates to ensure a successful summer season.

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

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