



# Workforce Insider

Brought to you by

By Tony Burton • Apr 08, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...869 words

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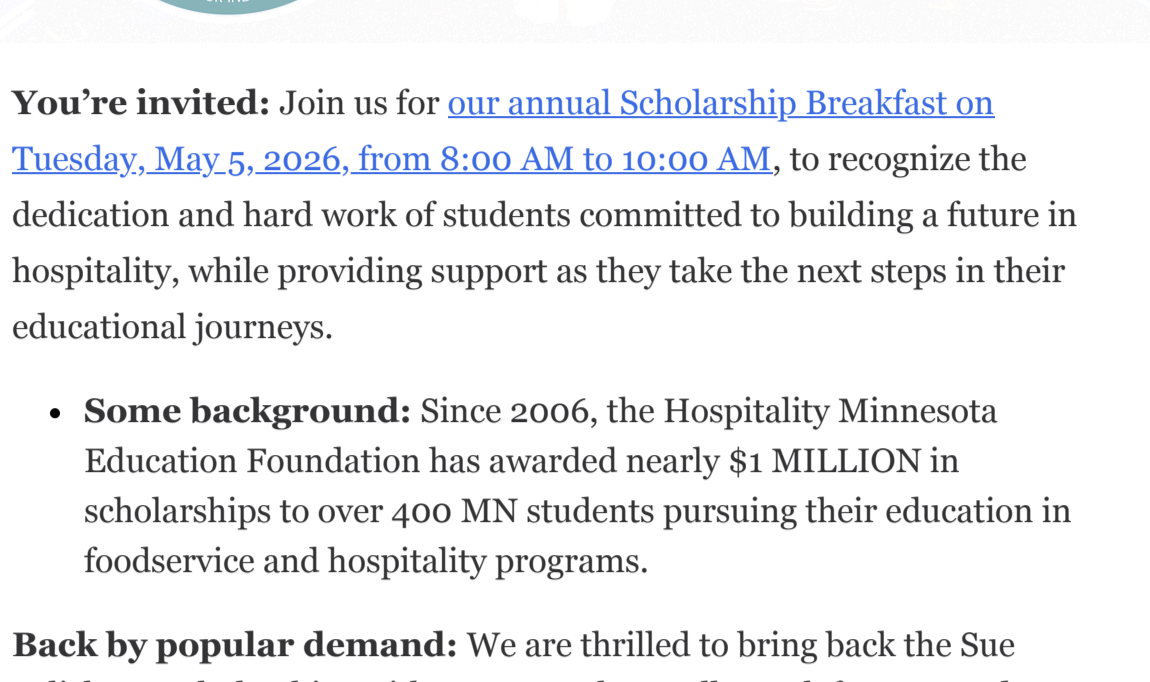
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Support the Foundation and its work of investing in our industry's future by training the workforce of today and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow:

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## Join Us May 5 for the 2026 Scholarship Breakfast



**You're invited:** Join us for [our annual Scholarship Breakfast on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM](#), to recognize the dedication and hard work of students committed to building a future in hospitality, while providing support as they take the next steps in their educational journeys.

- **Some background:** Since 2006, the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$1 MILLION in scholarships to over 400 MN students pursuing their education in foodservice and hospitality programs.

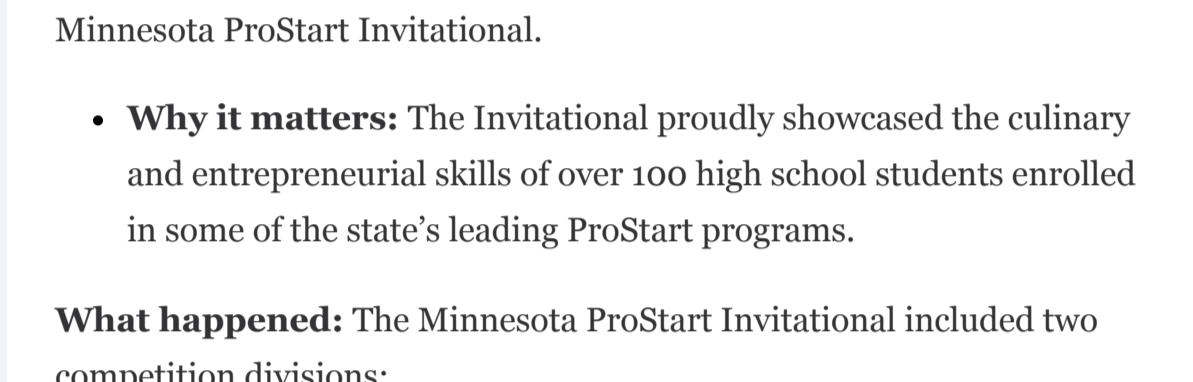
**Back by popular demand:** We are thrilled to bring back the Sue Zelikson Scholarships with Women Who Really Cook for a second year! These scholarships are available for women pursuing higher education hospitality, culinary, foodservice, food science, or other food-related degrees.

**Interested in Sponsoring?** Support the event and showcase your brand by becoming a sponsor! [Check out our sponsorship opportunities today.](#)

- **Industry leaders:** Contribute to our scholarship funds by [donating here.](#)

[Register Here!](#)

## 2026 ProStart Invitational Crowns This Year's Minnesota Champions



Elk River and Sauk Rapids-Rice High Schools won the Culinary and Management Competitions and will go on to represent Minnesota in Baltimore at the National ProStart Invitational later this month.

**In case you missed it:** Last month, [Elk River and Sauk Rapids-Rice High School left the Saint Paul RiverCentre as champions](#) of the 2026 Minnesota ProStart Invitational.

- **Why it matters:** The Invitational proudly showcased the culinary and entrepreneurial skills of over 100 high school students enrolled in some of the state's leading ProStart programs.

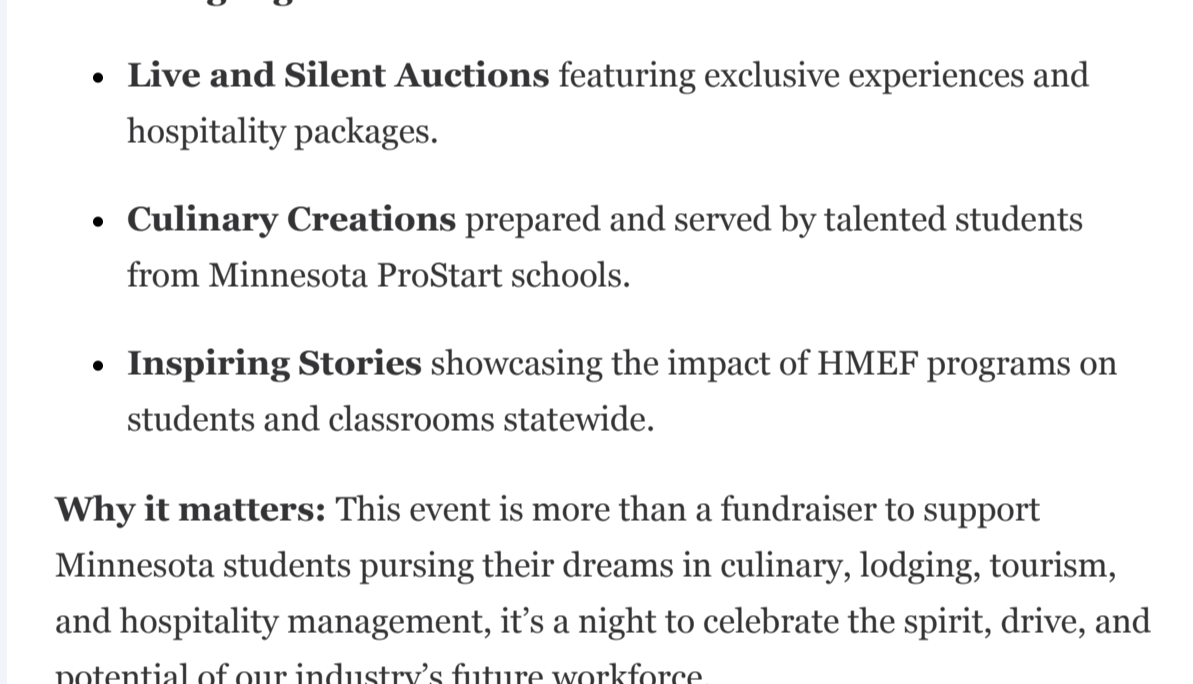
**What happened:** The Minnesota ProStart Invitational included two competition divisions:

- **Culinary:** Teams of future foodservice professionals put their culinary knowledge and skills to the test.
- **Management:** Teams demonstrated their knowledge of the hospitality industry by developing a business proposal for a new restaurant concept.

**What's next:** The winners of each division will represent Minnesota at the National ProStart Invitational in Baltimore, MD, on April 24-26, 2026.

[Read the Full Results!](#)

## 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.

### Event Highlights

- **Live and Silent Auctions** featuring exclusive experiences and hospitality packages.
- **Culinary Creations** prepared and served by talented students from Minnesota ProStart schools.
- **Inspiring Stories** showcasing the impact of HMEF programs on students and classrooms statewide.

**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.

[Register today!](#)

## Minneapolis Fed Publishes Summary on Latest Hospitality Data

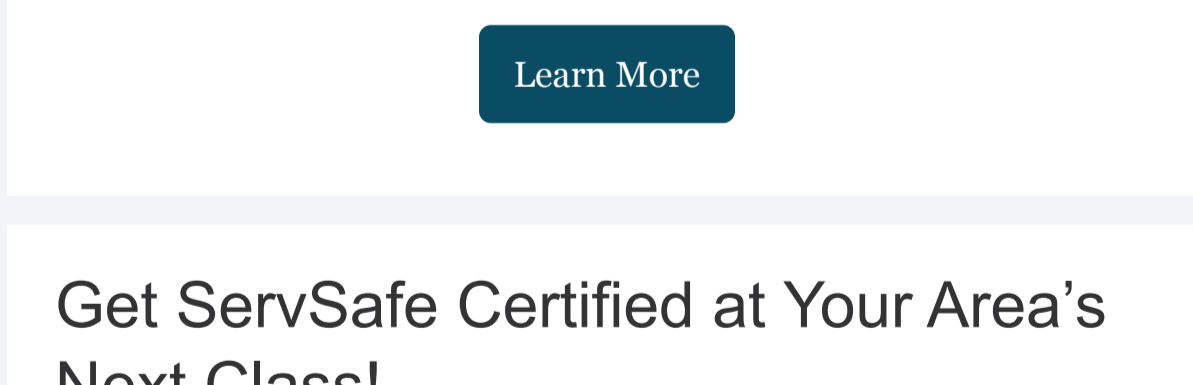


**Winter 2026 industry analysis released:** The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis [recently released its Winter 2026 Hospitality Conditions Survey results](#), conducted in partnership with Hospitality Minnesota.

- **The bottom line:** The data paints a picture of a resilient industry navigating a complex "new normal" defined by rising costs and shifting consumer behavior.

[Read the Summary!](#)

## Enrollment Now Open for Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program



**Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program** is a state-facilitated, employer-supported retirement program that bridges the retirement savings gap for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

**Some background:** The program will offer simple, automatic and portable individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to help employees build retirement savings through automatic payroll deductions.

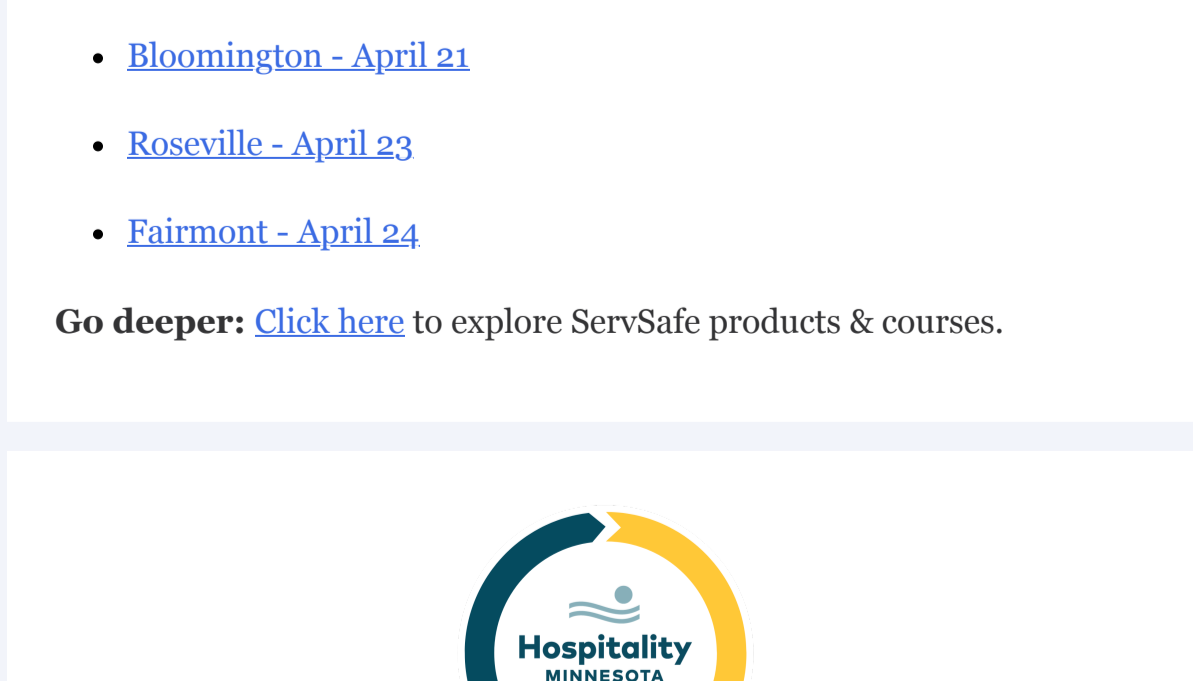
**What to expect:** Employers with five or more employees receiving Minnesota taxable wages should have received—or can expect to soon receive—either email or postal letter communication from the record keeper, Vestwell.

- **The next step:** Employers will be then required to either register for the Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program and set up Roth IRA accounts for all of their part-time and full-time Minnesota employees or file for an exemption if the organization offers a suitable retirement program to employees.

**Stay compliant:** Employers can choose to enroll or file an exemption now, and must enroll by the compliance deadline outlined above based on employee count.

[Learn More](#)

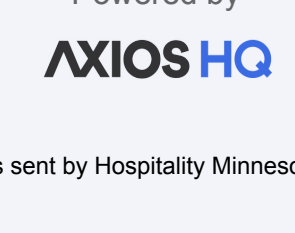
## Get ServSafe Certified at Your Area's Next Class!



**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!

- [Minneapolis East - April 10](#)
- [Fridley - April 16](#)
- [Mankato - April 20](#)
- [Austin - April 21](#)
- [Bloomington - April 21](#)
- [Roseville - April 23](#)
- [Fairmont - April 24](#)

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