

By Tony Burton • Aug 12, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins...866 words

In this month's Workforce Insider:

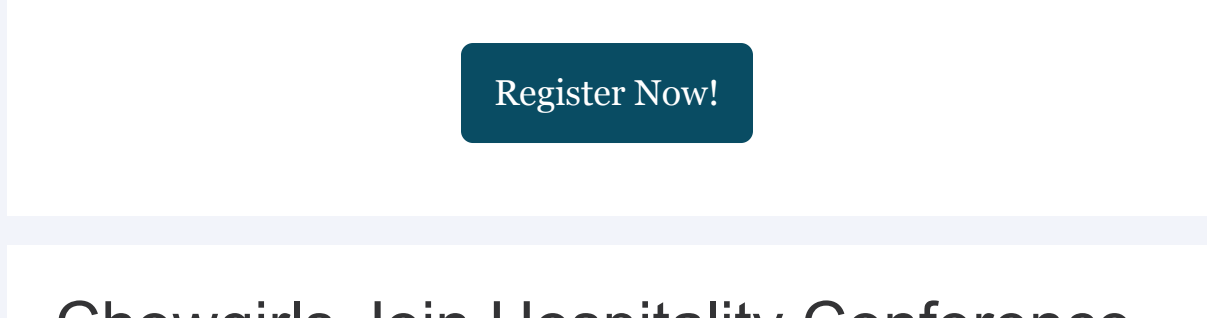
- **Workforce Webinar Today at 3:00 PM:** [Culinary & Hospitality Apprenticeship Info Session on Employee Retention](#)
- **In Case You Missed It:** [Chowgirls Catering to Discuss Intentional Training](#) at [2026 Hospitality Conference](#)
- **ProStart Teacher Training Recap:** Hospitality Educators Convene at [General Mills](#)
- **Expand Your Talent Pool:** Register/Request to Attend Next Month's Fair Chance Employer Training [via Email](#)
- **Mark Your Calendars for November 19:** [2026 Stars of the Future](#)
- **Ensure Food Safety:** [Get ServSafe Certified At a Class Near You!](#)

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Today at 3 PM: Culinary & Hospitality Apprenticeship Info Session

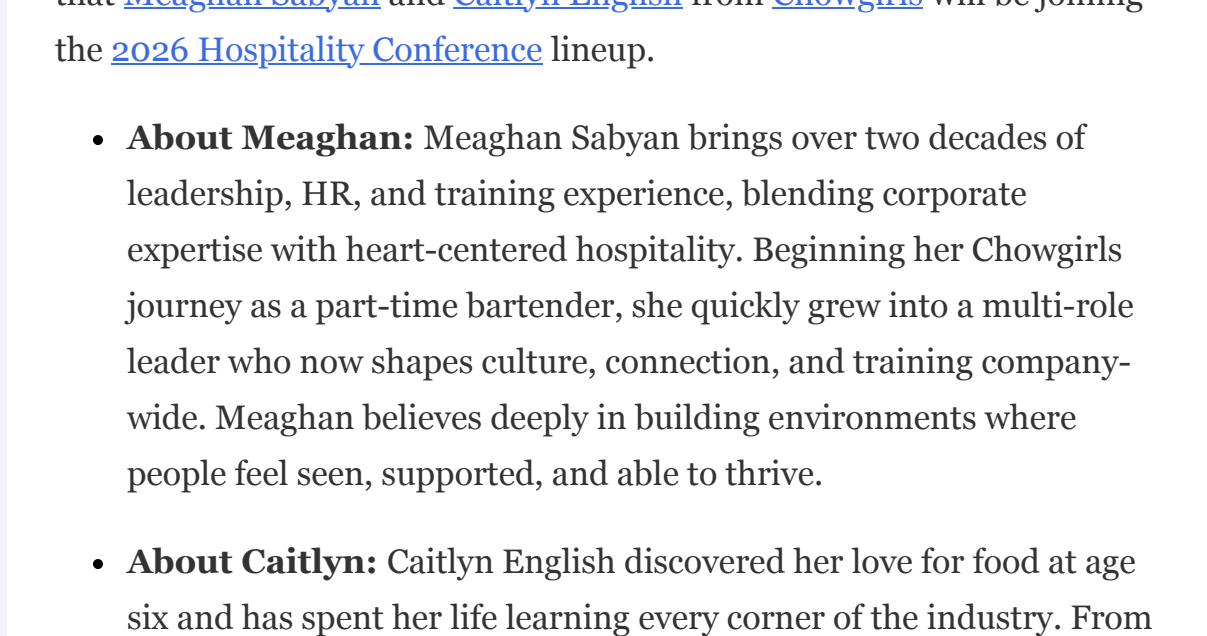


Webinar today: Learn how registered apprenticeships can help build and retain your hospitality workforce.

- **When:** Wednesday, August 12, 3:00 p.m. ET (virtual).
- **Register:** <https://bit.ly/4p58ZjL>

Register Now!

Chowgirls Join Hospitality Conference Line Up to Talk Employee Retention



In Case You Missed It: Hospitality Minnesota recently announced that [Meaghan Sabyan](#) and [Caitlyn English](#) from [Chowgirls](#) will be joining the [2026 Hospitality Conference](#) lineup.

- **About Meaghan:** Meaghan Sabyan brings over two decades of leadership, HR, and training experience, blending corporate expertise with heart-centered hospitality. Beginning her Chowgirls journey as a part-time bartender, she quickly grew into a multi-role leader who now shapes culture, connection, and training company-wide. Meaghan believes deeply in building environments where people feel seen, supported, and able to thrive.
- **About Caitlyn:** Caitlyn English discovered her love for food at age six and has spent her life learning every corner of the industry. From culinary school to management roles to her current position as Hospitality & Training Assistant Manager, Caitlyn is driven by a passion for teaching, mentoring, and empowering the next generation of hospitality professionals. Her work ensures every team member has the tools, knowledge, and confidence to succeed.

About their session, "The Power of Intentional Training":

The reality: Hospitality runs on people - yet the industry loses them at a staggering rate, with retention hovering between 10–20%. Chowgirls decided to stop accepting that as inevitable.

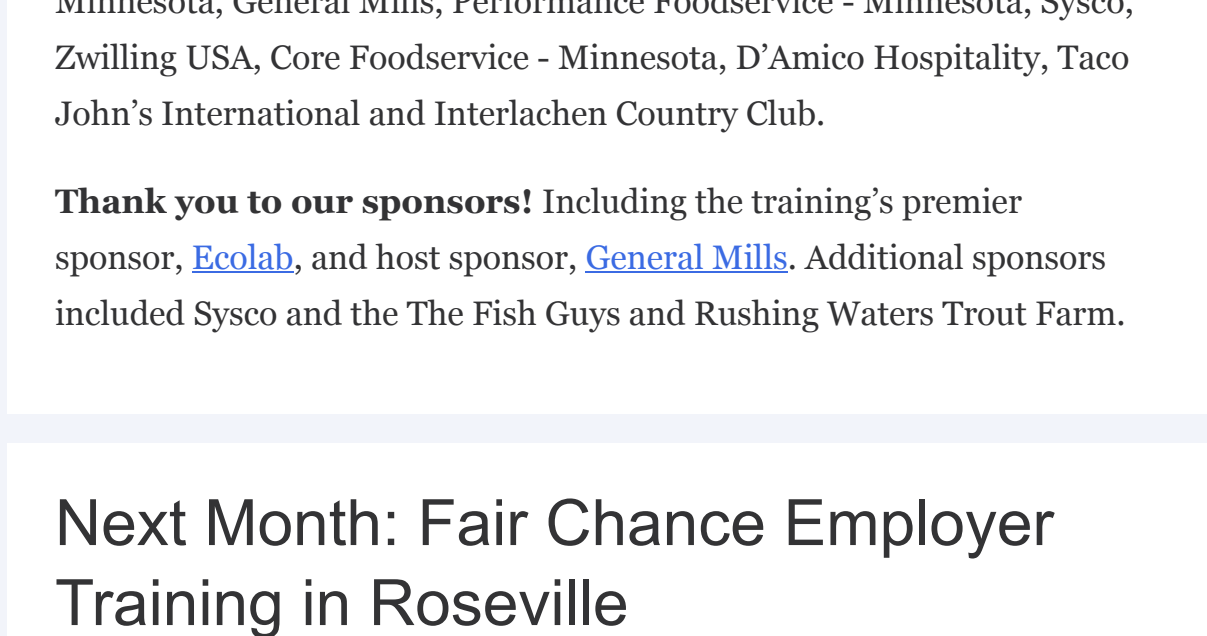
- **Retention starts with training.** By rebuilding their training program from the ground up, they achieved an average staff retention rate of 65% - and the results go far beyond the numbers.

This success isn't by accident. The secret isn't a magic hiring formula. It's intentional onboarding, hands-on skill-building, and a culture where accountability and growth go hand in hand. Through a clear competency framework, multi-format training, and regular touchpoints that keep staff engaged and supported, we've built a team that doesn't just stay - they thrive.

Go deeper: Join Chowgirls Hospitality & Training Managers Meaghan Sabyan and Caitlyn English at the [2026 Hospitality Conference](#) to discover how reimagining your training and development approach can transform the staff experience, reduce costly turnover, and redefine what's possible for your hospitality team.

Register Now!

2026 ProStart Teacher Training Recap



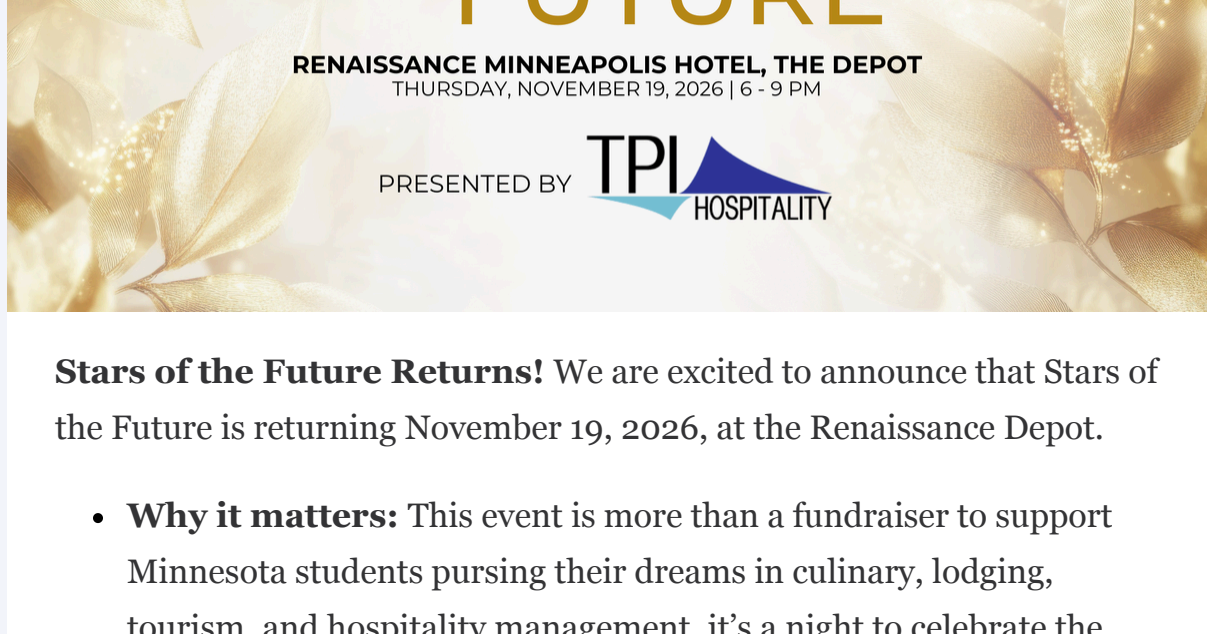
Catch up: Nearly 30 ProStart teachers from across Minnesota attended the annual HMEF ProStart Professional Development educator training on July 21 – 22, 2026, at [General Mills](#) headquarters in Golden Valley.

- **Why it matters:** This 2-day hands-on training helped teachers stay up to date on the latest culinary and hospitality trends, learn new culinary skills from local chefs, meet industry professionals, and connect with ProStart teachers from across Minnesota.

Yes, and: The training included chef demonstrations and presentations from a variety of hospitality industry leaders from Culinary Studio Minnesota, General Mills, Performance Foodservice - Minnesota, Sysco, Zwilling USA, Core Foodservice - Minnesota, D'Amico Hospitality, Taco John's International and Interlachen Country Club.

Thank you to our sponsors! Including the training's premier sponsor, [Ecolab](#), and host sponsor, [General Mills](#). Additional sponsors included Sysco and the The Fish Guys and Rushing Waters Trout Farm.

Next Month: Fair Chance Employer Training in Roseville



Looking ahead: Learn how Fair Chance Hiring can help strengthen your workforce and expand your talent pool.

- **When:** Thursday, September 17, noon–3:00 p.m., at MINNCOR Industries in Roseville.
- **Register:** Email jennifer.gast@state.mn.us. Free to attend.

Email Jennifer!

Join us for Stars of the Future on November 19, 2026



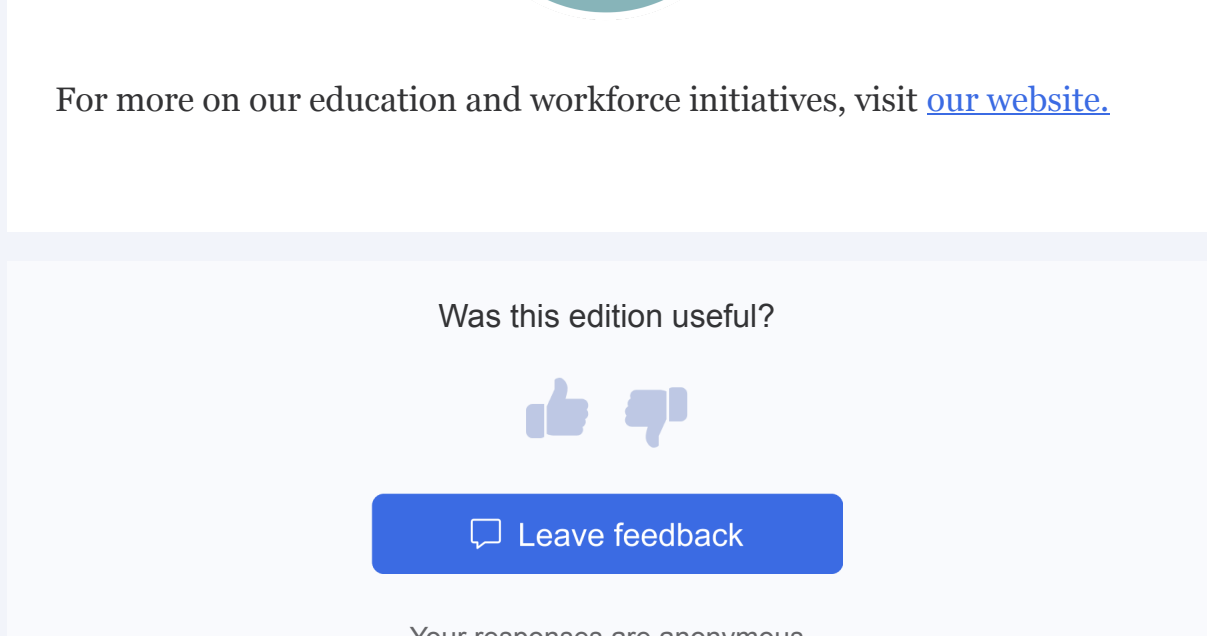
Stars of the Future Returns! We are excited to announce that Stars of the Future is returning November 19, 2026, at the Renaissance Depot.

- **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!

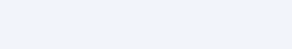
Get ServSafe Certified at Your Area's Next Class!



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!

- [Plymouth - August 18](#)
- [St. Cloud - August 18](#)
- [Duluth - August 19](#)
- [Minneapolis - August 19](#)
- [Fairmont - August 20](#)
- [Minneapolis - August 21](#)
- [Mankato - August 24](#)
- [Woodbury - August 25](#)
- [Roseville - August 27](#)
- [Rochester - August 28](#)

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