



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STUDENTS FROM SWWC AND SAGINAW CAREER COMPLEX WIN THE MICHIGAN PROSTART® COMPETITION

Winning Teams Headed to National Invitational in Charleston, South Carolina

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association Educational Support Foundation (MRA ESF) is pleased to announce that it will send the culinary team from South West Washtenaw Consortium (SWWC) at Saline High School and the management team from Saginaw Career Complex in Saginaw to compete in the 16th annual National ProStart® Invitational in Charleston, South Carolina. Both teams took first place in their respective disciplines at the Michigan ProStart Competition held on March 12 and 13, 2017, at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth.

Hundreds of students representing 20 career and technical centers from across Michigan competed in six disciplines during the two-day event: culinary, management, nutrition, knowledge bowl, table top design, and menu design. Industry professionals as well as leading college and university instructors observed and rated all portions of the competition.

“We are so proud of all the teams in this year’s competition,” said Justin Winslow, President and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant Association. “They represent the brightest and best talent from across the state and truly are tomorrow’s industry leaders. The winners will serve as ambassadors of the State of Michigan’s foodservice industry at the National Invitational, and we are confident they will represent our state well.”

The winning culinary team, SWWC at Saline High school, prepared a three-course meal –

- First course - Spicy Harissa Wings, Chicken Sausage, Watercress Blood Orange Salad, and Cucumber Candied Jalapeno
- Second course- Apricot whiskey roulade of Chicken, Black quinoa mujadra, sweet potato and cauliflowers, pistachio butter with pickled onion
- Third Course- Apple date samosa, with cranberry pear chutney, green peppercorn crème anglaise, with candied pepitas, and chicken skin crumbles.

Saginaw Career Complex, the winning management team, developed a comprehensive plan for Bowl of Hope, a casual dining, non-profit restaurant that pays it forward to charities. The energetic atmosphere of the restaurant is to serve healthy, delicious meals while giving 10% back to worthwhile organizations that are close to our hearts.

The winner of the ServSafe knowledge bowl was Careerline Tech Center. The winner of the nutrition competition was Bay Arenac ISD. The winner of the menu design competition was Bay Arenac ISD. The winner of the tabletop design competition was Careerline Tech Center.

The top teams divided more than \$800,000 in scholarships to help the students pursue careers in the foodservice industry.

The Michigan ProStart Competition owes a great deal of its success to its generous sponsors. The culinary discipline was sponsored by Sysco of Michigan and the management discipline was sponsored by Gordon Food Service. Van Eerden Foodservice sponsored the ServSafe Knowledge Bowl. The Nutrition sponsor is UnitedHealthCare. The table Top Sponsor is Bloomin’ Brands. Other sponsors included: US Foods, Coca Cola, DTE Energy, Valley City Linen, and Cleary University.

The final standings for the Michigan ProStart Competition 2017:

Culinary Discipline

- First Place – SWWC at Saline High School
- Second Place – Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
- Third Place – Tuscola Technology Center
- Fourth Place – Saginaw Career Complex
- Fifth Place – Gratiot Isabella Technical Center

Management Discipline

- First Place – Saginaw Career Complex
- Second Place – Plymouth Canton Educational Park
- Third Place – Oakland Schools North West
- Fourth Place – West Shore ESD
- Fifth Place – Calhoun Area Career Center

Nutrition Discipline

- First Place – Bat Arenac ISD Career Center
- Second Place – Branch Area Career Center
- Third Place – SWWC at Saline High School

ServSafe Knowledge Bowl

- First Place – Careerline Tech Center A
- Second Place – Careerline Tech Center B
- Third Place – Plymouth Canton Educational Park
- Fourth Place – Clare/Gladwin RESD
- Fifth Place – Tied between Calhoun Area Career Center and Saginaw Career Complex B

Menu Design

- First Place – Bay Arenac ISD Career Center
- Second Place – Branch Area Career Center
- Third Place – Saginaw Career Complex

Tabletop Design

- First Place – Careerline Tech Center A
- Second Place – Bay Arenac Career Center B
- Third Place – Clare-Gladwin RESA;

ProStart is a nationwide, two-year high school program that unites the classroom and industry to develop the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice leaders. In Michigan, 68 high schools and career centers use the ProStart curriculum with 5,000 students participating. For more information about ProStart, contact Amanda Smith at 800-968-9668, mraesf.org, or find us on Twitter and Facebook.

Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents nearly 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 435,000 people and creating \$15.9 billion in annual sales.

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