

WHAT IS PROSTART®?

ProStart® is a two-year high school program that was developed by the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation to teach the next generation of students about both the management and culinary sides of the restaurant business. A unique feature of ProStart® is the partnership between industry mentors and students. We currently have **seventeen high schools** across Montana that are teaching the ProStart® curriculum.

Montana schools include: Belgrade, Billings Career Center, Bozeman, Butte, Drummond, Helena High, Helena Capital, Kalispell, Red Lodge, Sunburst, Missoula Hellgate, Missoula Sentinel, Chester, Cascade, Hot Springs, Glasgow, & Whitefish.

Our 2017 State Champs are:

Culinary: Drummond Trojans

Restaurant Management: Bozeman Hawks

Both teams competed at Nationals in Charleston, SC, from April 28th - 30th, 2017.

For more information, contact our ProStart® Program Director Megan Jessee at (406) 672-5348, or by email: megan.jessee@mtretail.com

WHY PROSTART® MATTERS

ProStart® matters because the restaurant industry is getting more sophisticated and competitive. Finding qualified employees who care is one of the biggest challenges facing operators across all the entire industry. ProStart® appeals to high school students who can visualize themselves in the industry and it engages them in a stimulating educational environment. The restaurant industry is expected to add 1.3 million jobs over the next decade, with employment reaching 14 million by 2021.

ProStart® is answering the challenge. It's already working for 90,000 students in more than 1,700 schools across 50 states with additional programs in Guam and U.S. Military bases. Five years after earning the ProStart® National Certificate of Achievement and competing in the National ProStart® Invitational, 81 and 78 percent of students, respectively, are still studying and/or working in the industry.

WHO PROSTART® BENEFITS

ProStart® is an excellent career starter for high school students, an exciting teaching opportunity for educators, a truly rewarding experience for ProStart® Coordinators, a chance to share practical knowledge for mentors, and a smart investment in the future for ProStart® partners.