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Thirteenth Annual Virginia ProStart Student Invitational Taking Place March 11

VRLTA Education Foundation Hosts the Event at Sysco Hampton Roads

Richmond, Va. – March 9, 2016 – Virginia ProStart, the career-building program for high school students interested in the culinary arts and restaurant management, hosts the 13th Annual Virginia ProStart Student Invitational (VPSI) on March 11, 2016 at Sysco Hampton Roads in Suffolk, Virginia.

This year, at the full-day affair, 70 students representing 15 teams compete to be named the top Culinary and Management schools in Virginia and for over \$600,000 in cumulative scholarships offered by culinary programs from across the U.S. The winners of both the Culinary competition and Management competition are invited to participate in the 2016 National ProStart Student Invitational in Dallas, Texas from April 29 – May 1, 2016.

Each year in Virginia, the ProStart program reaches nearly 3,900 juniors and seniors, and 75 culinary educators at 55 Virginia high schools. Virginia ProStart works to connect the industry and the classroom to train students with the skills that help them achieve exciting, rewarding, and long-term careers in the restaurant and foodservice industry. ProStart students and educators agree that ProStart is effective in teaching culinary technique and restaurant management, as well as critical employability skills including teamwork, communication and professional behavior.

The 13th Annual VPSI competition is supported by sponsors, including Sysco Hampton Roads; Suffolk, Virginia Tourism; Mercer Culinary; and Ecolab.

Virginia ProStart is a product of the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association and the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

The media is invited to attend the event. Pre-registration of attendance is highly recommended due to security at Sysco Hampton Roads. If interested in attending, please contact Jim Wilson, VRLTA director of Education & Workforce Development, at jim@vrlta.org.

About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF)

As the educational arm of the Virginia, Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, the VRLTA exists to enhance the restaurant and hospitality industries' through education and encouraging youth to pursue post-secondary education in the culinary and hospitality fields. This is primarily done through the coordination of the Virginia ProStart program and the administration of a scholarship program. For more information on the VRLTAEF, visit VRLTA.org/VRLTAEF.

About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA)

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. Inquiries about membership and VRLTA services should be directed to VRLTA at (804) 288-3065 or VRLTA.org.

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