

The Rachael Ray Foundation Selects Pulaski County High School to Receive a ProStart Grow Grant

Grants totaling \$135,000 awarded to help deserving high schools improve their existing ProStart Programs.

Dublin, VA – May 4, 2021 – Pulaski County High School will receive \$5,000 in special funding to update and expand their ProStart program thanks to [The Rachael Ray Foundation](#) (RRF).

Through The Rachael Ray Foundation ProStart Grow Grants, the [National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation](#) (NRAEF) will provide 27 grants, totaling \$135,000, to ProStart schools that have demonstrated a strong need to engage and educate high school students interested in exploring restaurant and foodservice jobs and careers. Pulaski County High School was selected as one of the 27 schools to receive \$5,000 in funding for the initiative.



ProStart, a two-year career and technical education program focused on culinary arts and restaurant management, is offered in 1,700 schools across the country and currently enrolls 130,000 students. This school year, ProStart educators have largely adapted to the COVID-19 restrictions with a mix of virtual and in-person learning, posing challenges for students to learn the hands-on skills the program often requires. Funding from the RRF ProStart Grow Grants will enable Chef Laura Norris and Pulaski County High School to refurbish the dining furniture in their classroom and purchase a new POS system to facilitate orders.

Pulaski County High School ProStart student Levi Roush explained how he has benefitted from the ProStart program by “being responsible to the team when we are serving at a large event, showing up and ready to work on days we prepare food, working hard even when we don’t feel like it, and most importantly, thinking on our feet when things get messed up – because as Mrs. Norris always tells us, ‘That’s how it works in the real world.’”

“ProStart educators and students have persevered through this difficult year and are continuing to pursue their passions for restaurants and foodservice against all odds” said Rachael Ray, award-winning television personality and philanthropist. “The Rachael Ray Foundation is proud to support their dreams to become future chefs and restaurateurs and provide them with the resources they need to be successful in their classrooms. We can’t wait to see what these students will accomplish.”

Winning schools awarded a ProStart Grow Grant were required to demonstrate how the program is positively impacting their students and the community. Grants are valued at \$5,000 per school.

Pulaski County High School will be able to use their funds from the Rachael Ray Foundation starting this year. To stay connected to their plans, follow them on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and the NRAEF's ProStart channels on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) using the hashtag #ProStartGrowGrant.

About Pulaski County Public Schools

Pulaski County Public Schools, with its commitment to excellence and equity, will educate all students to be productive, responsible citizens and life-long learners in a rapidly changing, global society. Located in southwest Virginia, The Pulaski County Career & Technical Education Center (CTE) houses 19 programs across seven departments. Each program follows the Virginia Department of Education's competency-based curriculum for CTE courses and encourages students to use their strengths to find a career pathway. The purpose of each class is to help students develop industry specific skills while applying soft-skills in a practical setting. By the time a student graduates from Pulaski County Public Schools, the goal is to have them ready for Life After High School.

About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the unified voice of 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. For more information on the VRLTA, visit www.vrlta.org or call 800-552-2225.

About the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

As the philanthropic foundation of the National Restaurant Association, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's mission of service to the public is dedicated to enhancing the industry's training and education, career development and community engagement efforts. The NRAEF and its programs work to Attract, Empower and Advance today's and tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice workforce. NRAEF programs include: ProStart® – a high-school career and technical education program; Restaurant Ready – partnering with community based organizations to provide opportunity youth and justice-involved individuals with skills training and job opportunities; Military – helping military servicemen and women transition their skills to restaurant and foodservice careers; Scholarships – financial assistance for students pursuing restaurant, foodservice and hospitality degrees; and, the Hospitality Sector Registered Apprenticeship project – a partnership with the American Hotel & Lodging Association providing a hospitality apprenticeship program for the industry. For more information on the NRAEF, visit ChooseRestaurants.org.

About The Rachael Ray Foundation

The Rachael Ray Foundation(tm) is a private foundation funded by a portion of the proceeds of each sale of Rachael Ray(tm) Nutrish®. The Foundation supports causes Rachael cares for most such as helping animals in need and working with organizations to support the "Cook, Feed & Fund" mission of Yum-o!, a non-profit formed by Rachael to empower kids and their families to develop healthy relationships with food and cooking. To learn more about The Rachael Ray Foundation please visit www.rachaelrayfoundation.org

Questions or need more information?
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