Students Stir Up Excitement at Mississippi ProStart Invitational  
85 students compete for big scholarship awards on Monday, February 6, 2012

Jackson, MS  Teams from 11 cities across the state will meet in Jackson, MS, on Monday, February 6, 2012 for the Third Annual MS ProStart Invitational. The statewide competition includes culinary and management divisions that will take place at the Old Capitol Inn from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

“This competition gives students the opportunity to bring to life the culinary and management skills they have gained through the ProStart program,” said Mike Cashion, Executive Director, MS Hospitality & Restaurant Association. “The competing students have spent countless hours throughout the academic year preparing with the help of their educators and industry mentors, and we are eager for the competition day to arrive.”

The culinary competition allows student teams to demonstrate their creative abilities through the preparation of a three-course meal in 60 minutes, along with executing knife and poultry-fabrication skills. The management competition allows student teams to demonstrate their knowledge of the restaurant and foodservice industry by developing a restaurant proposal, delivering a verbal presentation, and applying critical-thinking skills to challenges managers face in day-to-day operations.

Student performance during the competition is observed and rated by judges from leading colleges and universities, such as The Culinary Institute at MUW, Louisiana Culinary Institute, and Johnson & Wales University, and hospitality industry professionals.

The winning teams will be sent to Baltimore, MD to compete against 48 other teams from across the country at the National ProStart Invitational taking place April 28-30, 2012. Teams at the MS ProStart Invitational will also vie for nearly $800,000 in scholarships to post-secondary colleges, universities and culinary schools.

The Mississippi ProStart Invitational is sponsored by the Mississippi Restaurant Association Education Foundation and the Mississippi Poultry Association.

Nationwide, 90,000 students in 47 states, territories and districts are served by ProStart, a two-year curriculum supported by the National Restaurant Association and state restaurant associations across the United States that blends classroom learning with mentored work experience to teach high school students the management and culinary skills needed for a career in the restaurant and foodservice industry. When students meet academic standards,
complete a checklist of competencies, and work at least 400 hours in the industry, they are awarded the ProStart National Certificate of Achievement that signifies they are well qualified to enter the industry workforce. The career-building program is managed nationally by National Restaurant Association Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Restaurant Association. For more information on the MS ProStart program, please visit www.msra.org and National ProStart Invitational, please visit www.prostart.restaurant.org.

###

The Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association is a non-profit association composed of food service operators, lodging properties, attractions, convenience stores, casinos, suppliers, manufacturers, and other professionals who realize the importance of working together for the good of our industry. The mission of the association is to promote and protect the hospitality and foodservice industries, and provide education and training programs for all hospitality industry employees and students.