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SCHOOL-TO-CAREER



ORA's ProStart™ school-to-career program encourages high school students to consider lifetime careers in the hospitality industry.
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Students Feel the Heat at ProStart Competition

[Portland, OR] - Students from across Oregon demonstrated their culinary talent at the ProStart Student Championships held Saturday, February 28, 2009. Over 1000 guests gathered at the Portland Expo Center to watch 235 students from 34 Oregon high schools chop, sauté, and answer challenging industry questions, each team battling to secure seats at the National ProStart Championships in San Diego.

Under the watchful eye of professional judges, student teams of four had an hour to prepare a gourmet meal including a starter, entrée and dessert using just two butane burners. Presented by Western Culinary Institute, 15 of the 34 high schools each had an additional team competing in the Western Culinary Institute Management Challenge, which included a Case-Study and a "Jeopardy" style question-and-answer session.

Bend High School's management team won first place in the Western Culinary Institute Management Challenge while South Salem High School took home the first place Culinary Cup for the second year in a row, awarded by Dick Boyd, co-CEO of Boyd Coffee Company, a presenting sponsor. Topping the excitement, South Salem High School student David Champion was awarded the 2009 Unilever Foodsolutions Future Promise Award and \$1000 toward post-secondary education of his choice. Each winning team will be heading to San Diego, CA on April 24-27 to take part in the ProStart National Student Invitational.

Culinary Competition Winners (Boyd's Coffee Cup)

Overall Culinary Winners:

- 1st place, South Salem High School - traveling to San Diego, CA for Nationals on April 24-27
- 2nd place, Bend High School
- 3rd place, Willamette High School
- 4th place, Taft High School
- 5th place, McMinnville High School

Management Championship Winners (Western Culinary Institute Management Challenge)

Overall Management Winners:

- 1st place, Bend High School - traveling to San Diego, CA for Nationals on April 24-27
- 2nd place, St. Helens High School



Bend Culinary

Bend Management (*State Champions*)

Clackamas Culinary

3rd place, Sabin Schellenberg Center/ Rex Putnam High School team

4th place, Westview High School

5th place, North Medford High School

Knowledge Bowl:

1st place, Bend High School

2nd place, St Helens High School

3rd place, Rex Putnam

4th place, Willamette High School

5th place, North Medford

Louise Markland of Bend High School was named "Inspirational Leader of the Year" and was awarded a plaque and a set of knives to be used in her classroom. She and ORA ProStart Manager Misty Damico will travel to Chicago, Illinois in May to be recognized at a national teacher luncheon.

Phil Hawkins of Taft High School in Lincoln City received the "Mentor of the Year" award for his outstanding work and was given a new culinary knife set in recognition of his efforts.

Industry sponsors Boyds Coffee Company, Western Culinary Institute, Art Institutes, Northwest Culinary Institute, Travel Oregon, Aramark, Bargreen Ellingson, Benson Hotel, ChefWorks, Doubletree Lloyd Center, DWA Show Decorators, Crowne Plaza Lake Oswego, Sheraton Hotel, Benson Hotel, Heathman Hotel, Hilton Portland & Executive Towers, Mercer Cutlery, Portland Marriott City Center, Portland Expo Center, Pacific Seafood, Red Lion Convention Center, Red Lion on the River, , SimplexGrinnel, SYSCO Portland, Unilever Food Solutions, and Westin Portland provided assistance in making the evening possible through their support.

ProStart is a two-year curriculum designed to teach students the management skills needed for a career in the restaurant and foodservice industry. The students participate in paid internships where they are mentored by industry managers. The Championship is an integral part of the program, challenging students involved to showcase the skills and knowledge learned both in the classroom and on the job.

To learn more about the ProStart Hospitality School-to-Career program, please visit <http://www.ora.org/education/ProStart> or contact Misty Damico, Oregon Restaurant Association ProStart Manager at 503-682-4422 or misty@ora.org

2009 Event Sponsors

**Presenting Management
Challenge Competition Sponsor**



**Presenting Culinary Cup
Competition Sponsor**



David Champion, South Salem and
Linda Hushlomis



McMinnville Culinary



North Medford Management



Rex Putnam Management



South Salem Culinary (*State
Champions*)

Thank you to all our ProStart program supporters!



The Oregon Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant industry in Oregon, which is comprised of over 9,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets, a work force of 120,000 employees, and a total economic impact of \$9.7 billion. The Association works to represent, educate, and promote the rapidly growing industry.



St. Helens Management



Taft Culinary



West Salem Culinary



Westview Management



Willamette Culinary

