

# PROSTART EDUCATOR NEWS BITES

News You Can Use for North Carolina ProStart Educators from NC HEF  
 September 2017

## Strategies for a successful start

Welcome back to a new school year and fresh batch of eager ProStart students. The first few days were always exciting for me because my students seemed more passionate and ready for the challenges that ProStart would bring. A majority of these students had been in my classes before so we knew how to work together and could hit the ground running. The relationships you can build with your ProStart students go deeper and farther than the typical Foods 1 student. ProStart is preparing them for the “real world” and through this curriculum and opportunities for competition, field trips, and outside projects, you are investing your time and commitment into helping your ProStart students be ready for their futures.

This year, we have grown our ProStart program across North Carolina with the addition of eight new schools: three in Carteret County, one in Nash County, one in Buncombe County, one in Ashe County, a revitalized program in Wake County and the NC School of the Deaf in Burke County. We are currently up to 41 ProStart programs across the state and continuing to grow with more and more interest from CTE Directors and educators.

Getting your ProStart program off to a great start can feel overwhelming. Here are a few ideas to launch your ProStart program in the next few weeks:

1. Reach out to area restaurants and plan ahead for one of the general managers to be a guest speaker. By inviting them to come early in the semester, your students can hear about potential employment opportunities to work toward their COA.
2. Plan for your first two to three catering projects in the school or community. If you put them on the calendar, you are setting a goal to work toward; this will begin branding your program and showing off what your students are capable of. By mid-October, you should be ready to roll. You’ll need more than one project so the students can learn “on-the-job.”
3. Create/edit your pacing guide. There is a lot of material in this course. Be sure you plan accordingly. I am happy to email tools used by other NC ProStart teachers to help. If you try to cram at the end, it will make everyone miserable.
4. Have a “Team ProStart” meeting with all your ProStart students from both semesters. Show a competition video to gauge interest in forming a team to compete at the NC ProStart Invitational in February. This will help you plan to attend the boot camp in November.



Above: Educators at the summer training at The Art Institute Raleigh Durham in July

*“When you really  
 want to show  
 someone some  
 love, keep the  
 flowers and say it  
 with spaghetti.”*

*Rachel Ray*

*Food Network Host & Author*

## Important Dates

- 9/11: Registration opens online for student boot camp
- 9/24-9/25: Fall Teacher Training, ASU School of Hospitality, Boone
- 9/29: School profile forms due to NCHEF office
- 10/27: NCPI 2018 rules distributed to teachers
- 11/3: Competition Skills Boot Camp, Charlotte, JWU
- 12/15: NCPI 2018 intent to participate forms due to NCHEF

## To PLC or not to PLC

Most of you have Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in your school that probably include other FACS or CTE teachers. The purpose of a PLC is to share ideas and strategies to help one another in the classroom. Within your departments, a PLC can discuss classroom management strategies and other common educator issues like lesson planning and discipline. However, it can be a challenge to have a PLC with teachers that aren't teaching ProStart because your school PLC members may not understand the challenges with your curriculum.

With this in mind, last year NCHAF started a NC ProStart teacher closed Facebook group as a collaborative space. This is a place to ask questions and share ideas with one another. Think of it as a statewide ProStart PLC. The feedback from most of our educators at that time was that Facebook was an easy way to jump into a conversation and a non-threatening way to ask questions. If you are not in the group, let's connect so you can join the conversation. It has been encouraging to see many of you share good ideas with one another and network through this tool.

In the fall as I visit schools and areas across the state, I plan to schedule a PLC dinner/networking event at a restaurant for educators in that location. By attending this PLC, you can collaborate with fellow ProStart educators and share ideas specific to your curriculum. Our hope is that these regional PLCs strengthen your teaching practices and ProStart program confidence.

## There's a new book?

Yes, it's true. There is a new textbook for ProStart programs to begin using across the United States but unless you are participating in the NC ProStart 2e PILOT for this academic year, your school should continue using the Pearson material that you have been using. Beginning next year (2018-2019), the NC Course of Study essential standards for ProStart 1 and 2 will reflect changes found in the new curriculum materials. In the meantime, you should continue teaching as you have been with your current materials and look for ways to improve assessment scores and encourage COA attainment. Your assessments will be based on the curriculum materials you are using.

You may be thinking, "Why a new book? The one we have is only five-years old!" This is understandable considering that most textbooks stay on the approved textbook list for 10 plus years with no revisions (think food pyramid). Since ProStart is a workforce development program supported by the industry, the National Restaurant Association wants to be sure your students are getting what they need to be successful. Just as ServSafe is updated every five years, it is safe to assume that the Foundations of Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management will also be updated.

In the coming weeks, please watch for a special grant application to apply for assistance with purchasing your new textbooks for the next year. At NC HEF we are working diligently to find solutions to help you and your program. In the meantime, share this information with your CTE director and principal and discuss possible funding solutions. If you would like an e-book to preview, please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

## Boot camp scoop

Last year NC HEF hosted a Competition Skills Boot Camp for ProStart and FCCLA competitors. The feedback was incredibly positive and we will host this camp again at the location of the competition. The camp will be Friday, Nov. 3rd, 9a.m.-4p.m. on the JWU campus in Charlotte. The cost is \$30 per participant. If you are planning to compete or just thinking about it, this day of workshops will prepare you and your students to consider competing in the 2018 NC ProStart Invitational. Please watch for more news via email in the coming weeks and get registered to bring your students. There is a room block if you would like to come the night before to avoid traffic challenges in the uptown Charlotte area. There will also be an opportunity to tour the campus for interested schools.

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