

PROSTART EDUCATOR NEWS BITES

News You Can Use for North Carolina ProStart Educators from NC HEF
 December/January 2018

Competition skills boot camp highlights

The annual NC ProStart competition skills boot camp was held on Friday, November 30 at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte. Over 135 students and teachers attended. The boot camp is offered each fall, prior to the start of competition practice season to prepare students with additional instruction that will enable teams to begin practicing. Since many of our student competitors have never participated in the NC ProStart invitational and many new schools have joined the NC ProStart program, the boot camp offers culinary techniques and restaurant knowledge that can give students the confidence they need to begin working on their menus and concepts.

Students that participated in the culinary track spent the morning making fresh pasta, marinara and pesto sauces. In the afternoon, these students worked with crème anglaise and various chocolates to create elegant dessert dishes. Johnson & Wales instructors worked with the students in the culinary labs to teach the content. Students participating in the restaurant management track learned about concept creation, menu development and marketing strategies. They had time to begin working as teams and brainstorm their business concepts while getting feedback from industry partners and hospitality instructors at JWU.

Educators were also learning about how to be better coaches. In the morning session, educators heard from past judges some of the inside secrets that can help teams stand out from the other competitors. The judge panel was comprised of food critic Heidi Billotto, Chef Jeff Hadley and Chef Michael Beers. They provided insight to help coaches prepare their teams by sharing about past mistakes they had seen. In the afternoon teachers had the opportunity to ask questions about the rules and discuss specifics related to the event, including changes to the 2019 competition. Sharing ideas and learning from one another is always a highlight for teachers at training events.



Above: Students at the competition skills boot camp being held at Johnson & Wales University.

“Competition motivates and drives people to excel, and enables people to learn and benefit from their strengths and weaknesses.”

-Dr. T. P Chia

Important Dates

- 1/8/19: Certified Guest Service Professional workshop, Morehead City
- 1/9/19: NCPI Intent to participate forms due
- 1/25/19: NCPI team registration payment due
- 1/25/19: JWU Chancellor scholarship award closes
- 3/7-3/9: 2019 NCPI, Charlotte, JWU
- 3/20: NC HEF scholarship application closes
- 5/8-5/10: 2019 National ProStart Invitational, D.C.

Planning in advance will save you a headache

In the craziness of your every day life as a teacher, there are some things that you may decide to “put off until tomorrow”. There are probably some things that get thrown your way because it is someone else’s emergency and they need your help. It is completely understandable that not everything can get done on the day it rolls onto your desk. There is only so much time during the school day (or hours in the evening). From experience, it is recommended that you might consider doing these things IN ADVANCE to avoid a headache in the ProStart classroom:

1. Submit forms for the 2019 NCPI sooner rather than later. If you plan to have a team compete at the invitational, DO NOT WAIT until the deadline. It’s inevitable that there will be bad weather, an administrative emergency, or technology complication if you wait until the end to submit the Intent to Participate form or Dish request to mhines@ncrla.org.
2. Submit payment using the online registration portal prior to the payment deadline. Money has to be paid no later than 1/25/19 for your team to be on the list. If you don’t complete this step on time, you may end up not being allowed to participate OR you will have to use your credit card and submit for reimbursement from your school. This is a hard deadline.
3. Schedule your credential exam prior to the testing date. How far in advance should you do this? As soon as you pick your exam date. This gives you plenty of time to review the exam administration handbook and make sure that all of your students have registered profiles.
4. Collect permission slips for field trips. Do you have a field trip in early January? Go ahead NOW and complete the permission slip. Why wait? This gives students ample time to return their parent’s signature on the form, especially if bad weather occurs and schools are closed.
5. Catering projects should be planned for the entire semester, if possible. Take a look at the semester calendar for your school and select dates in advance so that you have plenty of time to teach content before the project. By taking this approach, teachers can plan ahead and you can budget for the funds you need to raise. Students will also be motivated when they know the large projects are on the horizon.

Importance of national credential exam

Perhaps this semester will be the first time you attempt to administer the national credential exam through www.chooserestaurants.org. Maybe you are a veteran with this particular exam and feel confident that you understand how the test is administered. Either way, this semester is the first time NC HEF has paid for and provided vouchers for every enrolled ProStart student to take the national credential exam. The expectation is that every student use a voucher to take the national credential exam prior to the end of the semester. (By the time you read this, most schools will already have their vouchers in hand. If you have severe accommodations and need paper vouchers, please contact NC HEF.)

NC HEF decided to provide the vouchers this year for several reasons. With the NC Legislature’s support of ProStart, funds were allocated in this fiscal year to assist NC HEF with preparing students for the workforce. Providing a credential through this exam, is one means of doing that. In addition, our hope is that we can use the exam results to accurately plan future professional development topics that will help teachers in areas that can enhance student learning. In the past, only a few LEAs were administering the exam to all students which in turn causes the data to be limited.

This year’s credential exam is extremely important to NC HEF. Although we realize that some of the data will reflect the challenges faced this semester by weather related issues, the exam will allow us to set benchmarks that will ultimately lead to better assistance from NC HEF and provide more for program strength and growth for your local ProStart program.

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