



Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation Brings the Heat with First-Ever Brunch Battle

***Maryland ProStart® students from high schools across the state will compete
in an Iron Chef-style culinary competition on Wednesday, April 14***

COLUMBIA, Md. (March 16, 2021) - The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF) will host its first-ever “Brunch Battle” on Wednesday, April 14 in Columbia, Maryland. Maryland ProStart® students from high schools across the state will be paired with professional chef mentors for a live *Iron Chef*-style culinary competition. The top three students will walk away with bragging rights and a cash prize while the first-place team's chef mentor will win a chance to compete for Team Maryland in the Bacon Category at the 2021 World Food Championships in Dallas, Texas.

“Our Maryland ProStart program provides high school culinary enthusiasts with the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to begin their journey toward becoming future restaurant and foodservice leaders,” said Kirsten Unger, ProStart Program Coordinator, RAMEF. “We’re excited to host this unique event while giving students a unique opportunity to further develop their culinary expertise in a fun, competitive setting.”

Eleven high schools from Anne Arundel, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties will be competing at the first-ever Brunch Battle, alongside 24 chef mentors ranging from skills and expertise in BBQ, American fare, seafood and more. Prior to competition day, students and chefs will connect through a Zoom meeting to introduce themselves, decide on a menu item and a game plan. Armed with their ideas, they’ll have one hour to select their ingredients, then prep and plate their best brunch dishes.

Due to COVID-19 health protocols, each team will be allowed four viewers onsite. The Brunch Battle will also be live-streamed via [TheAvenue.Live](https://www.theavenue.live/).

“The RAM Education Foundation and Maryland ProStart® program are an essential part of our association. Their efforts help make passion a reality by offering a pipeline of opportunity for those interested in pursuing a career in the culinary arts. At a time when restaurants are climbing their way back from a challenging year, the Brunch Battle is a great way to celebrate the joy of food and the future of our beloved industry,” added Marshall Weston Jr., president & CEO, RAM.

ProStart® is a nationwide, two-year high school program that unites the classroom and industry to develop the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice leaders. From culinary techniques to management skills, ProStart's industry-driven curriculum provides real-world education and builds practical skills that will last a lifetime. Over 4,000 students participate in the [Maryland ProStart program](#) at 90+ Maryland high schools. The program capstone is the ProStart National

Certificate of Achievement which gives eligible recipients the opportunity to earn special scholarships and college credit.

About Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF)

The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation's mission is to enhance the foodservice and hospitality industry's training and education, career development and community engagement. Maryland ProStart® provides high school students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to begin their journey towards becoming tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice leaders. Learn more about RAMEF and its programs at www.marylandrestaurants.com/foundation.

About Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM)

The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) exists to promote, protect and improve Maryland's foodservice and hospitality industry. RAM leads by showcasing restaurants, offering programs that reduce operating costs and advocating for the interests of foodservice businesses. RAM for all foodservice and hospitality businesses including restaurants, caterers, bars & taverns, food trucks, grocery stores, hotels and other businesses that serve food. To learn more or become a member, visit www.marylandrestaurants.com.

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