



2021
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Louisiana Restaurant Association
Education Foundation

MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1995, the Louisiana Restaurant Association Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that exists to serve the public and restaurant industry – raising its image, enlightening individuals on career opportunities, and encouraging growth of the workforce are the cornerstones of the LRAEF's focus.

The LRAEF pursues its mission three ways:

1. Management and culinary skill development
2. Workforce development
3. Scholarship programs

The LRA, through its nine statewide chapters, supports the LRAEF's mission and provides significant financial support to fund the organization and its efforts. Hundreds of students rely on the programs and career initiatives produced by the LRAEF. In addition to the LRA's support, partnerships are crucial to the success of these programs. The LRAEF is governed by its Board of Directors, comprised of volunteer industry leaders who provide guidance, oversight and strategic vision.

2021 LRAEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Guilbeau, President
Ballard Brands

Craig Dennison, Vice Chair
Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots

Jason Jones, Secretary/Treasurer
Sysco

Matt Massey, Immediate Past Chair
Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

Bruce Attinger
Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux

John Eastman
Auto-Chlor System

Forrest Bethay III
Triple B's Cajun Corner

Greg Reggio
Taste Buds Management

Michael Carmouche
Ecolab

Octavio Mantilla
BRG Hospitality

Tammy Smitherman
Heartland Payment Systems

Tony D'Angelo
MMI Culinary

Scot Craig
Katie's Restaurant & Bar / Francesca by Katie's

Michael Eastman, LRAEF Industry Representative
Auto-Chlor System

Dr. Yvette Green, Academic Advisor
UNO Kabacoff School of Hotel,
Restaurant & Tourism Administration

2021 Revenue and Expenses

REVENUE
\$ 459,333

In 2021, the LRAEF's revenue was impacted by the ongoing pandemic. Our increase in revenue was attributed to our LRA Chapters, who were again hosting fundraising events in support of the LRAEF, a Department of Labor Registered Youth Restaurant Apprenticeship Grant, and supplemental funds from the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation.

EXPENSES
\$ 391,923

- \$43,170 supported overhead costs for ProStart
 - \$36,984 was additionally distributed back to ProStart schools through the School Support Fund
- \$113,777 funded Apprenticeship Program
- \$44,000 in scholarships was distributed to postsecondary schools as part of our LRAEF Scholars Program

Thanks to the LRA Chapters for their generosity!

Baton Rouge Chapter	\$20,000
Bayou Chapter	\$2,500
CENLA Chapter	\$10,000
New Orleans Chapter	\$50,000
Total	\$82,500

Thanks to the LRA Staff for investing in our industry's future!

Through the Denim for Dollars Program, the LRA staff raised **\$1,895** in 2021. Denim for Dollars is a fundraising campaign for LRA staff members who can opt to donate \$1 a week to the LRAEF in order to participate in Blue Jean Fridays at the office.

2020-2021 LOUISIANA PROSTART PROGRAMS



ProStart is a high school culinary and management training curriculum, where students learn math and chemistry, leadership, presentation and communications skills – all tools vital for future success.

55 Programs Statewide With More Than 1,500 Students

Abbeville High School
Academy of Our Lady
Albany High School
Alfred Bonnabel High School
Ascension Parish ProStart
Caddo Career and Technology Center
Caldwell High School
Castor High School
Central High School
Chalmette High School
College Street T & I Vocational Center
Covington High School
Donaldsonville High School
Denham Springs High School
East Iberville High School
East St. John High School
Eunice Career and Technical Education Center
Fontainebleau High School
French Settlement High School
Hammond High Magnet School

Istrouma High School
Jefferson Davis Parish/
SOWELA Morgan Smith Jennings Campus
Kenner Discovery High School
Lafourche Parish Career Magnet Center
Lakeshore High School
Leesville High School
Live Oak High School
Louisiana School for the Deaf
Mamou High School
Mandeville High School
Mansfield High School
Morgan City High School
Natchitoches High School
Northeast High School
Northshore High School
Pearl River High School
Plaquemine High School
Rayne High School
Red River High School

Saline High School
Salmen High School
Slidell High School
Springfield High School
St. Charles Satellite Center
Sulphur High School
Tara High School
Terrebonne Career and
Technical High School
W. D. and Mary Baker Smith
Career Center
Walker High School
Washington Career and
Technical Education Center
West Feliciana High School
West Monroe High School
West St. John High School
Woodlawn High School
Zachary High School

EMERIL LAGASSE FOUNDATION

Donates Vlogging Kits to ProStart Classrooms for Virtual Learning

Over the course of the most recent school year, 100 percent of participating ProStart schools shifted to distance learning or hybrid classes - a mix of in-person and virtual learning. The LRAEF had to immediately expand its programming to incorporate technology and respond to the constant challenges of bridging the gap between virtual and in-person learning.

The goal was to provide each ProStart classroom with a digital Zoom camera or vlogging kit so teachers could live stream, record instructions, and scan all demonstrations and curriculums to make virtual learning more accessible to students.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, ProStart teachers across the state were provided with equipment to assist with virtual learning, including GoPro cameras and vlogging kits. Support was available to both confirmed programs and several curriculum-only programs.



Emeril Lagasse Foundation



The following schools were recipients of grant funded equipment:

Abbeville High School
 Academy of Our Lady
 Albany High School
 Alfred Bonnabel High School
 Ascension Parish ProStart
 Caddo Career and Technology Center
 Caldwell High School
 Castor High School
 Central High School
 Chalmette High School
 College Street T & I Vocational Center
 Covington High School
 Denham Springs High School
 Donaldsonville High School
 East Iberville High School
 East Jefferson High School
 East St. John High School
 Eunice Career and Technical Education Center
 Fontainebleau High School

French Settlement High School
 Hammond High Magnet School
 Istrouma High School
 Jefferson Davis Parish/ SOWELA Morgan Smith Jennings Campus
 Kenner Discovery High School
 Lakeshore High School
 Lakeview High School
 Leesville High School
 Live Oak High School
 Louisiana School for the Deaf
 Mamou High School
 Mandeville High School
 Morgan City High School
 Natchitoches Central High School
 Northeast High School
 Northshore High School
 North Caddo High School
 Pearl River High School
 Plaquemine High School

Rayne High School
 Red River High School
 Saline High School
 Salmen High School
 Slidell High School
 Springfield High School
 St. Charles Satellite Center
 Sulphur High School
 Tara High School
 Terrebonne Career and Technical High School
 W. D. and Mary Baker Smith Career Center
 Walker High School
 Washington Career and Technical Education Center
 West Feliciana High School
 West Monroe High School
 West St. John High School
 Woodlawn High School
 Young Audiences Charter High School
 Zachary High School



2021 SCHOOL SUPPORT FUND

In fall 2021, the LRAEF donated \$25,500 to 25 schools across the state through its School Support Fund. The School Support Fund, which is funded through grants and donations, exists to provide financial support for ProStart schools areas where it's needed most.

The School Support Fund is open to all approved ProStart programs in need of additional financial support beyond limited state funding. Funds were used to finance field trips and industry interactions as well as to provide basic grocery supplies. The money was also used towards Louisiana ProStart Invitational preparation.

These funds were made possible through the NRAEF and J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation.

The following schools received this funding:

Ascension Parish ProStart	Pearl River High School
Caddo Career and Technology Center	Plaquemine High School
Chalmette High School	Mansfield High School
Denham Springs High School	Red River High School
Eunice Career and Technical Education Center	St. Charles Satellite Center
Fontainebleau High School	Springfield High School
Jefferson Davis Parish/ SOWELA Morgan Smith Jennings Campus	Sulphur High School
Kenner Discovery High School	Tara High School
Lafourche Parish School District	W.D. and Mary Baker Smith Career Center
Lakeshore High School	Washington Career and Technical Education Center
Leesville High School	West St. John High School
Louisiana School for the Deaf	Woodlawn High School
Northeast High School	



LRAEF SCHOLARS

In 2021, we awarded **\$44,000** through its LRAEF scholars program thanks to generous donations from the New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, and Louisiana Seafood. In total, **19** scholarships were awarded.

Jim Funk Scholarship funded by New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots

Jamie Warrick

Warren Easton High School
University of Holy Cross

LRA Board Scholarship funded by Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

Morgan Boquet

Lakeshore High School
Nicholls State University

Carmella Bosco

Lakeshore High School
Nicholls State University

Jason Danna

Chalmette High School
Nunez Community College

Gaye Kramer

West Nassau Senior High School
Delgado Community College

Peyton Spurgeon

Buckeye High School
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Kacey Lyon

Academy of Our lady
Louisiana College

Abbey Warren

Ruston High School
Nicholls State University

Angela Wilson

Hahnville High School
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Brock Nichols

Sulphur High School
Nicholls State University

Zoe Foster

Franklin Parish High School
Nicholls State University

Kierra Linden

Midland High School
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Savannah Flores

Archbishop Chapelle High School
University of New Orleans

Sarah Gassenberger

Academy of Our Lady
University of Holy Cross

Rebecca Gilson

Fontainebleau High School
Nicholls State University

Louisiana Seafood Scholarship funded by Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board

Hunter Perk

Edward Douglas White Catholic High School
Nicholls State University



The Restaurant Youth Registered Apprenticeship Program (RYRA) grew significantly in 2021 via continued program awareness and the assembly of a dedicated group of employers, schools and non-profits fully committed to the program's objective. Together, all parties are working to build sustainable career pathways and strengthen the industry overall.

Multiple challenges were overcome including employers hobbled by staffing shortages and two pandemic surges. Most non-profit, pre-apprenticeship programs and schools remained virtual well into 2021, making it difficult or nearly impossible to connect with students/participants. By year end, strong participation commitments were secured from eight employers, two ProStart schools, and five non-profit partners. Efforts were focused on New Orleans, positioning pre-apprentices to be matched with employment opportunities heading into 2022.



2021 BY THE NUMBERS



Category	Number	Partners
Apprentices enrolled/served	3	Creole Bagelry, Windsor Court Hotel
Pre-apprentices enrolled/served	13	Café Reconcile, Liberty's Kitchen
Employer Partners	8	Creole Bagelry, Slidell Down South Hospitality, Baton Rouge Link Restaurant Group, New Orleans Lotus Bistro, New Orleans Taste Buds Management, Various QED Hospitality, New Orleans Wakin' Bakin', New Orleans Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans
Pre-Apprenticeship Partners	7	Café Hope, Gretna Café Reconcile, New Orleans Liberty's Kitchen, New Orleans New Orleans Job Corps, New Orleans Chalmette High School, Chalmette Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, Kenner New Orleans Career Center, New Orleans
Engagement/Recruitment Meetings	84	Employer Accelerator Sessions (17) Individual Employer Meetings (21) Pre-Apprenticeship (21) Post-Secondary (18) Local Workforce Agency (8)
State Advisory Board Meetings	11	No meeting in September due to Hurricane Ida
Job Fairs	6	Focus on New Orleans area

INNOVATIVE NEW STRATEGIES

Bridge Program

In many cases, pre-apprentices coming out of non-profit training programs are not yet ready to be fully immersed in a full-time employment situation. To serve those individuals and help them further improve their readiness, a partnership with New Orleans-based restaurant Wakin' Bakin' was established, and a "bridge program" was created. The program aims to provide an additional 12 weeks of intensive on-the-job training, after which individuals will receive support with their transition into an apprenticeship with a local employer. This concept has not been implemented elsewhere. The NRAEF is excited about this alternative training model and has invested additional funds to help test the concept, which will serve 15 pre-apprentices in its first year.

Fast Forward/Dual Enrollment

Chalmette High School, a ProStart partner, has also taken a leadership role in designing a dual enrollment program for pre-apprentices who will likely satisfy the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Education's Fast Forward Program. If approved by the state, a student at any Louisiana high school offering ProStart can opt into pre-apprenticeship as a junior, and through a partnership with a local community college, have all of their related training requirements (ServSafe, etc.) for the apprenticeship completed by the time they graduate high school. This track would also enable a pre-apprentice to earn the 800 hours of work experience needed to become a ManageFirst Professional by the time they graduate. This model will hopefully be embraced by ProStart schools across the state.

Outreach/Promotion

- Participation in six virtual job fairs
- Offered two apprenticeship-related presentations at the LRA Showcase in August
- Leveraged significant grant funding to launch an aggressive promotion and outreach campaign over the summer, shifting the narrative about the restaurant industry and highlighting opportunities for professional growth through apprenticeship. Geographic areas of focus were New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette. The results of the program included:

398,000 billboard plays

741,000 online media ad impressions

54,000 WDSU ad impressions

45,000 LinkedIn impressions

77,000 YouTube video impressions, including

44,000 completed plays

Annual Partners

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
ACME Oyster House
Auto-Chlor System
National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation
Louisiana Restaurant Association
Emeril Lagasse Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Bank Foundation
Sysco
Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United
Fore! Kids Foundation
Crescent Crown Distributing



2021 LRAEF DONOR HONOR ROLL

\$25,000 & ABOVE

Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation
Louisiana Restaurant Association

\$15,000 - \$24,999

ACME Oyster House
Auto-Chlor System
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Emeril Lagasse Foundation

\$10,000 - \$14,999

JP Morgan Chase Bank Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Sysco
Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United
Octavio Mantilla
Tammy Smitherman

\$1 - \$4,999

Scottie's Creole Cooking & Catering
LRA Staff
Fore! Kids Foundation
Crescent Crown Distributing
Authentic Title

MEET OUR STAFF

LRA PRESIDENT & CEO

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