

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Jim Wilson
Vice President of Education & Workforce Development
Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association
jim@vrlta.org | 804.288.3065

Prince William County Educator Selected As Virginia ProStart Teacher of the Year

RICHMOND, VA – The Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF) is pleased to announce that Ronald J. Evans of Potomac Senior High School in Dumfries, Prince William County, is the winner of the 2022 Virginia ProStart Educator Excellence Award. The annual award recognizes the top teacher in the Commonwealth who has demonstrated a strong commitment to his or her students and to ProStart, a career and technical education program that unites the foodservice industry and the classroom to teach high school students culinary skills and restaurant management principles.

“Ronald Evans showed true dedication to his students and exceptional creativity in the virtual classroom while his classes were taught online during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Jim Wilson, Vice President of Education & Workforce Development for the Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association. “He was very innovative in providing real world opportunities and experiences so that his students could successfully develop their abilities in the kitchen.”

“Virtual cooking became a reality, is what I called last year when we were told as educators to teach our classes online,” said Evans. “Every other week I would have the students drive up to the school to get a bag of food supplies so they could continue to hone in on their culinary skills from watching me demonstrate that recipe via Zoom. Students would gain the confidence in their own kitchen and be graded by their parents to see if they met the standards.”

In addition, Evans created “Talk to Me Chef,” a weekly Zoom event for his senior students to hear from well-known chefs from across the United States, and he traveled throughout Washington D.C, Maryland, and Virginia to provide virtual field trips.

Evans is now eligible for a James H. Maynard Teacher of the Year Award, presented by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and Golden Corral, which will be announced during the National ProStart Student Invitational (NPSI) in Washington, D.C. in May.

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About the Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF)

As the educational arm of the Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association, the VRLTAEF exists to enhance the restaurant and hospitality industries through education and encouraging youth to pursue post-secondary education in the culinary and hospitality fields. This is primarily done through the coordination of the Virginia ProStart program and the administration of a scholarship program. For more information, visit VRLTA.org/VRLTAEF.

About the Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association (VRLTA)

The Virginia Restaurant Lodging and Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. For more information, visit VRLTA.org.

About the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF)

As the philanthropic foundation of the National Restaurant Association, the NRAEF exists to enhance the restaurant industry's service to the public through education, community engagement and promotion of career opportunities. The NRAEF works to attract, develop and retain a career-oriented professional workforce for the restaurant industry. For more information, visit chooseres restaurants.org.