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## President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

### *Hospitality Business Alliance/ProStart School-to-Career*



**Contract amount:** \$1,765,000

**Leveraged amount:** \$5.9 million cash and in-kind support from participating states and restaurants.

**Grantee:** National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

**Location of Grant Activities:** Nationwide

### **Challenge**

Lack of awareness about restaurant career ladders, lack of industry-standard training and certification, high turnover, and significant language barriers among employees all pose severe challenges for restaurant employers.

### **Addressing the Challenge**

Hospitality Business Alliance (HBA)/ProStart's primary objective is to increase overall restaurant industry participation in the project while enhancing the quality of the work experiences offered to targeted worker populations, increasing workers' productive careers in restaurants, and creating an economically stronger and more competitive industry. Through this project, NRAEF is helping the restaurant industry attract, support, guide, train, and teach current and future workers. The HBA/ProStart project cultivates new sources of talent for the industry through the creation of a national system of state hospitality partnerships, which are dedicated to the establishment of high school hospitality School-to-Career programs and industry mentoring programs that lead to an industry-recognized national certificate.

### **Project Outcomes**

To date, the ProStart program has enrolled 34,000 students in 41 states. Over 4,000 students from 958 schools are working in the restaurant/hospitality industry while enrolled in the ProStart program. 198 post-secondary schools have articulation agreements with ProStart and \$450,000 in scholarships were awarded to qualified ProStart students in the 2002-2003 school year

### **Sustainable Impact**

NRAEF is ensuring the sustainability and impact of the HBA project through its support for industry-driven state hospitality partnerships nationwide. NRAEF is also linking the HBA programs with publicly-funded workforce programs such as Job Corps and Registered Apprenticeship, further contributing to the impact and scope of the model. Through national articulation agreements with colleges offering hospitality education curricula, NRAEF is building and demonstrating wide opportunities for career advancement and growth in the hospitality sector.

