FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2016

CONTACT: Communication
334-242-9950
comm@alsde.edu

2016 ALABAMA PROSTART® CULINARY STUDENT INVITATIONAL TO BE HELD THIS WEEKEND IN BIRMINGHAM

Montgomery, Ala. – Current national statistical information indicates that the average salary for a certified “Executive Chef” exceeds more than $75,000 annually. Alabama’s best high school culinary arts students will be competing this weekend for top honors and awards at the 3rd Annual ProStart® Invitational at Jefferson State Community College (Shelby-Hoover Campus).

This one-day event on February 6 will feature the talents of some of Alabama’s most highly skilled young chefs. If you have ever watched the hit television shows Top Chef or Iron Chef America you have seen the level of action-packed competition and excitement that will take place this weekend at Alabama’s 2016 ProStart® Invitational.

What Happens at this Event?
Students will showcase the amazing skills they have learned through their local culinary and hospitality and tourism classrooms. They will participate in both culinary and professional restaurant management competitions (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRx3deazCtc).

Culinary Competition
The culinary competition highlights each team’s creative abilities through the preparation of a three-course meal in 60 minutes using only two butane burners and without access to running water or electricity. The participants then present their dishes to a panel of professional chefs and nationally recognized instructors. There is no room for error as they are evaluated on taste, temperature, presentation, skill, teamwork, safety, sanitation, creativity, and professionalism.

The Management Competition
Management teams develop a proposal for the next promising restaurant concept and present it to a panel of industry judges as if they are investors.

The first-place teams from this year’s event will represent Alabama at the upcoming 2016 National ProStart® Invitational in Dallas, Texas (http://www.nraef.org/ProStart/2016-State-Competitions).

— more —
2016 Alabama Prostart® Culinary Student Invitational
February 4, 2016

Schools participating in this weekend’s state championship are:
Culinary Arts - Boaz High School, South Baldwin Center for Technology (Team A and B),
Huntsville Center for Technology, Ft. Payne High School, Pelham High School, Holtville
High School, McAdory High School, Wenonah High School, Moody High School, Charles
Henderson High School, Calhoun County Career Technical Center, and Albertville High
School.

Management - Moody High School, Calhoun County Career Technical Center, and Selma
High School.

To see a copy of the official event agenda, visit the following link:

The Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Alliance Foundation (ARHAF), the Alabama State
Department of Education, and several other organizations throughout the region have
partnered to sponsor this event. ProStart® is a national two-year culinary experience for
aspiring young chefs.

“The ProStart® Education and Culinary Arts and Management Invitational is a wonderful
event for Alabama’s high school students. It exemplifies innovation in the hospitality
industry,” said Alabama State Department of Education Hospitality and Tourism
Coordinator Judy Brown. “This curriculum is helping to propel this profession forward and
strengthen its workforce development.”

The foodservice, hospitality, and tourism industries are Alabama's second-largest employer.

“This program focuses on developing the talents of America’s culinary students, with the
goal of helping them mature into top restaurant and foodservice industry leaders,” said
Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Alliance Foundation Executive Director Mindy Hanan.
“ProStart® prides itself on providing students with industry-driven knowledge that builds
on their practical skills and understanding of essential restaurant management skills.”

Students Will Earn These Items and Awards!
This year’s top winners will receive great prizes including professional culinary resources,
aprons, and trophies. Also, more than $100,000 in college scholarships will be awarded to
winning students.

To learn more about the 2016 Alabama ProStart® Culinary Student Invitational, contact
Alison Ingle, ARHA Director of Communications, at aingle@arhaonline.com, or Judy
Brown, Alabama State Department of Education Hospitality and Tourism Coordinator, at
334-242-9113.

###