The commitment to develop and train our current and next generation of qualified industry leaders is the steadfast mission of the Delaware Restaurant Association’s non-profit Educational Foundation (DRAEF). Our developmental programs aimed at teens, opportunity youth, and our current industry workforce combine to demonstrate a passion for education and providing connections and opportunity for all within the Delaware restaurant industry and community.

THE DELAWARE PROSTART PROGRAM

ProStart® is the largest high school culinary arts and restaurant management program in the nation - and the model ‘Pathway to Prosperity’ in Delaware. We are #FeedingDreams and #BuildingFutures for over 3,000 students in 18 local high schools! ProStart is diverse and far-reaching - nearly 50% of students come from low-income families - but we are truly an opportunity for all. Over 87% of ProStart seniors plan to continue their education and plan to pursue post-secondary programs!

INDUSTRY TRAINING / APPRENTICESHIPS

The DRAEF currently administers the following training courses for our current industry workforce:

- ServSafe Food Protection Manager
- ServSafe Food Handler
- ServSafe Allergens Training
- Online DE Alcoholic Beverage Server Training
- *NEW* Drugs in the Workplace Online Training (2018)

Apprenticeships are the future of workforce development - and the DRAEF is currently seeking to develop & implement the following, with partnerships with DE Depts of Labor & Correction:

- Cook Apprenticeship, Levels I & II
- Pre-Apprenticeships for re-entry individuals
- Restaurant Manager Apprenticeship available through National Restaurant Association

The percent of apprentices that remain employed after completing their program