



MEDIA ALERT

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MEDIA ALERT/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY!

ILLINOIS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (IRAEF) TO AWARD \$176,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO ILLINOIS STUDENTS ON 6/28

WHO: High school and undergraduate students representing the future of the foodservice industry, along with other culinary and hospitality leaders.

WHAT: The **Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (IRAEF)** Annual Scholarship Luncheon will honor 62 students who have earned \$176,000 in scholarships and will attend 24 post-secondary culinary and hospitality management programs across the country. Over 125 students, parents, teachers, donors and IRAEF Board members will attend the annual luncheon. Special guest speakers include a keynote address by **Jim Caldwell** (Regional Executive Chef, EUREST) and remarks by **Alpana Singh** (Owner of The Boarding House and Seven Lions restaurants) and **Lamar Moore** (Executive Chef, Hotel Chicago). All are long time ProStart supporters.

The IRAEF scholarship luncheon is generously sponsored by [EUREST](#).

WHEN: **Sunday, June 28, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
(*Ceremony begins at approximately 1:00 p.m.)

WHERE: Café 300
300 N. LaSalle – River Level
Chicago, IL 60654

WHY: The IRAEF offers scholarships to high school and undergraduate students who have shown commitment to Culinary or Hospitality Management through their coursework, work experience and other credentials. Scholars are selected by a Blue Ribbon Panel of industry experts.

OPPS: **Visuals of luncheon, students receiving scholarships**

Interview opportunities:

- Student recipients
- Sam Toia, President, Illinois Restaurant Association
- Kathy Summers, Executive Director, IRAEF
- Guest speakers

ABOUT: The Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation is a 501c(3) dedicated to building the Illinois hospitality workforce through career exploration, workforce development programs and scholarships.

ProStart® is a national school-to-careers program that prepares high school students for careers in foodservice and hospitality management. ProStart® in Illinois is administered by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to over 4,000 students at 62 schools in the Chicagoland area. Students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials and articulated credits for college while in high school. The Foundation provides work readiness training and connects students with industry professionals through job shadowing and internships to help students hone their skills in the foodservice industry.

The ProStart® program is also offered in 48 states encompassing more than 115,000 high school students in more than 1,700 high schools. For more information, visit www.nraef.org.

For more information on the Illinois Restaurant Association, please visit www.illinoisrestaurants.org, the Association's [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed, or call (312) 380-4147.

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