

It's never too early to start educating the future leaders of the hospitality industry. At UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management we take that to heart when we engage with high school students from around the country who may be wondering what they will be and do when they grow up. In this issue of the communique, From the Dean's Desk, I share how Rosen College partners with many high school programs to enlighten young minds and foster recruitment efforts.

**ProStart** is a high school culinary focused program that Rosen College has formed a partnership with for the past decade. The program teaches students about back-of-house restaurant management and foodservice preparation. Each month, one of our chef instructors, Jonathon Judy, contributes to the monthly ProStart Newsbites Newsletter. Newsbites reaches 220 ProStart teachers around the state of Florida, providing information that is shared by instructors with their students.



Our partnership with ProStart goes even deeper. For the past few years we have been Gold Level Sponsors for Florida. This has meant we have supported a host of events, educating high school students such as:

- Three ProStart Regional Workshops in fall 2021 with 150 students in attendance, representing 30 schools from all over the state of Florida. The workshops included an Omelet Competition and Education sessions for students and teachers.
- Our chefs and faculty judged at the ProStart State Competition in March 2022. Rosen College awarded scholarships to students placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Management Competition.
- We will be hosting a ProStart Teacher Training session in June 2022 at the Rosen College campus, which will give high school instructors the opportunity to see our state-of-the-art kitchen labs and to work with our chef instructors and our highly-trained culinary team.

We also engage with ProStart organizations across the United States:

- Rosen College awarded scholarships to students placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Management Competition for the Rhode Island and Delaware state competitions.
- We will be attending the National ProStart Invitation in Washington D.C. in May to recruit prospective students. We will also be awarding scholarships to students at the competition who place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Management Competition and we will have staff and faculty at the ProStart Business and Education Expo.

Aside from ProStart, Rosen College has supported the **Central Florida Academies of Hospitality and Tourism (AoHT)** for more than 15 years. Currently Genyth Travis, Sr. Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, serves as secretary of the AoHT Advisory Board and Jessica Wickey-Byrd, Program Director for Rosen College Professional Internships, serves as an advisory board member. The AoHT Advisory Board supports schools in Osceola, Orange and Seminole Counties that have Hospitality and Culinary Programs. Here at the college, we feel it's important to bring the high schools to our campus to show them what awaits their students when they attend college. Rosen College hosted for the **High School Hospitality Executive Conference** in November 2021. Fifty students from local high schools attended. The event highlighted degree programs at Rosen College and potential careers in the industry. Sessions focused on Restaurant Management, Event Management, Senior Living Management, Entertainment Management and Theme Parks and Attractions management, all [undergrad degree programs](#) at the Rosen College.

[Undergraduate Admissions](#) conducts classroom presentations for our AoHT programs in the local schools. We also hosts campus tours on Mondays and Fridays and two Open House events each year for prospective students, plus group tours for local school and educational groups. We are grateful for the partnerships with our high schools. Our doors are always open here at Rosen College to share what we teach and inspire the future leaders of the hospitality industry. Charge On!

*Goucheng Wang*



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