

## Hampton and Virginia Beach Teens Take 2017 ProStart Top Honors

**O**n Friday, March 10, Virginia ProStart teams from Phoebus High School (Hampton) and Tallwood High School (Virginia Beach) placed first at the 2017 Virginia ProStart Student Invitational in culinary arts and restaurant management, respectively. As the winners of the competition, held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., both schools received an invitation to participate in the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's National ProStart Invitational, April 28-30 in Charleston, SC.

During the event, more than 70 students representing 15 teams



competed in either the culinary arts or restaurant management division. Culinary teams prepared a three-course meal in 60 minutes, without access to running water or electricity and using only two butane burners.

Management teams presented a business proposal for an original restaurant concept to a panel of industry judges.

"The students who participated in this year's competition are truly amazing," said Jim Wilson, Director of Education & Workforce Development for Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association. "They are taught and mentored by some of the best

teachers in the business and truly may become their generation's master chefs and restaurant entrepreneurs. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this program that is working to engage our industry's next stars."

VRLTA, along with other local

groups, is helping the schools raise money for the competition. Please contact Jim Wilson ([jim@vrlta.org](mailto:jim@vrlta.org)) if you would like to help send the students to Charleston.

**ERIC TERRY** is president of the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association.



### 2017 VIRGINIA PROSTART COMPETITION TEAM WINNERS

#### First Place Culinary

Phoebus High School, Hampton

#### First Place Management

Tallwood High School, Virginia Beach

#### Second Place Culinary

Virginia Beach Technical & Career Education Center

#### Second Place Management

Louisa County High School, Mineral

#### Third Place Culinary

C.S. Monroe Technology Center (Team II), Leesburg

#### Third Place Management

Manchester High School, Midlothian



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