

# Education & Training

## *Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association Education Foundation*

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association Education Foundation (ORLAEF) was established as an independent 501c3 foundation with a mission of providing non-political advocacy and support for the hospitality industry. The foundation is dedicated to providing Oregonians with the resources, skills, and means to pursue meaningful careers in the restaurant, foodservice, hotel, and hospitality industries.



### Why We Matter

The restaurant and hospitality industry in Oregon is in constant need of a skilled and diverse workforce. ORLAEF helps foster this workforce development, and attracting good employees that want to grow their careers, by supporting valuable training programs such as those from the American Hotel & Lodging Association's Educational Institute and the National Restaurant Association's Education Foundation.

By advocating for internationally recognized, high quality educational programs in our high schools, post-secondary, and adult learning centers, we can help bridge the gap and provide support and mentors for teachers, internships for students, and direct placement opportunities for those seeking work. This ultimately will help our industry by helping creating clear pathways for high-quality motivated employees who want to get started in our industry, as well as for those already employed in the industry and want to advance.

### How You Can Help

Simply put, we need the industry to help fund and sustain our programs. You can support us by donating money to ORLAEF, and/or by making an in-kind donation. As a non-profit, the foundation relies on the financial and in-kind support of those who benefit from our work (the industry) as well as those who recognize the value of providing career and technical education opportunities for our citizens.

Support is also needed in the form of industry mentors, speakers, and contributors of in-kind support. ProStart®, the two-year high school culinary arts and management program, provides many opportunities to connect with the future employees and leaders of our industry. Currently, there are more than 35 participating high schools across Oregon, with over 3,000 students participating in the program.

*Please visit  
[OregonRLA.org/EdFoundation](http://OregonRLA.org/EdFoundation)  
 for more information.*