



## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The program that would be supported by this appropriation is known as the ProStart program. According to NMSU, the purpose of the ProStart program is to teach both culinary essentials and basic foodservice management, preparing students to continue their education and fill the need of skilled managers within the food service industry. ProStart is a career building program that gives high school students a taste for success in the restaurant and foodservice industry by blending both classroom learning and work experience.

NMSU states further that the ProStart program, developed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF), is a nationwide system of high school restaurant and foodservice courses linked with mentored worksite experiences. The ProStart program is comprised of state-driven industry and educational partnerships throughout the country, and it exists as the national umbrella organization for restaurant and foodservice career education. In New Mexico, the ProStart Program is managed by the Hospitality Industry Education Foundation. In New Mexico 43 high schools have purchased the curriculum and 28 actively participate in the program involving over 1,200 students.

The Hospitality Industry Education Foundation provides professional development and orientation for ProStart teachers, responds to inquiries regarding implementation of the program, provides assistance with connections to industry, job placement, setting up advisory boards and securing worksites. When students meet academic standards, complete a checklist of competencies and participate in at least 400 hours of a mentored work experience, they are awarded the ProStart National Certificate of Achievement that signifies they are well qualified to enter the industry workforce or continue their education at a post-secondary level. The ProStart program currently has articulation agreements with over 60 post-secondary institutions nationwide.

NMSU states that the following NM high schools currently offer the ProStart Program.

Alamogordo	Bernalillo	Carlsbad	Cliff	Cloudcroft	Cobre	Farmington
Gadsden	Gallup	Hatch	Hot Springs	Kirtland	Las Cruces	Lordsburg
Los Alamos	Los Lunas	Lovington	Mayfield	Ocate	Pojoaque	Portales
Rio Rancho	Roswell	Ruidoso	Santa Fe	Silver	Socorro	Taos

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