

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1742

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Olathe Public Schools ProStart Culinary Team for winning first place at the 2015 National ProStart Invitational.

WHEREAS, On April 18-20, 2015, the Olathe Public Schools ProStart Culinary Team, representing the entire State of Kansas, took first place among 48 teams from throughout the United States, as well as Japan and Germany, winning its third national championship at the 14th Annual ProStart Invitational in Anaheim, California; and

WHEREAS, ProStart is a nationwide program that unites the classroom and hospitality industry to develop the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's restaurant and hospitality industry leaders. The ProStart program is a two-year high school course currently offered at 30 Kansas schools. Students who pass two exams, demonstrate a mastery of foundational skills, and complete 400 hours of mentored work experience earn an industry-recognized certificate which can lead to scholarships and credits at more than 60 colleges and universities across the country; and

WHEREAS, The National ProStart Invitational is the country's premier high school competition focused on culinary arts and restaurant management. Teams must win their respective state competitions in order to move on to the national finals, where, after having invested more than 700 hours of practice, they are required to prepare a three-course meal in 60 minutes, using two butane burners and without access to running water or electricity. Teams are then judged based on creative abilities, skill, teamwork, safety, sanitation, and taste of the food; and

WHEREAS, The team's winning menu included: An appetizer consisting of spice-encrusted George's Bank scallops, avocado mosaic, citrus mango relish, tomato gremolata, mango reduction, and crisp microgreen salad; an entrée consisting of pignoli-encrusted pork tenderloin, rich veal reduction, vegetable bouquetiere, vanilla infused sunchoke puree, truffled spinach salad, and buttered potato croquette; and a dessert consisting of coconut chocolate Bavarian, spherical white chocolate orange Bavarian, cashew crumb, raspberry coulis, and sugar-dipped cashew and vanilla tuile; and

WHEREAS, The team consisted of: Melinda Hrdy, team lead, senior, Olathe South High School; Michael Miller, senior, Olathe South High School; Ashleigh Hagen, junior, Olathe North High School; Haneen Ibrahim, senior, Blue Valley North High School; and Rachel Cormeny, senior, Olathe East High School; and

WHEREAS, For winning first place, each team member received a \$5,000 scholarship from the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and Coca-Cola, as well as a \$1,000 scholarship from the Burger King McLamore Foundation that can be used to further their education in the restaurant and food service industry. The team members plan to continue their education after high school. Melinda Hrdy and Haneen Ibrahim plan to attend the New England Culinary Institute; Michael Miller plans to attend Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Seattle; Rachel Cormeny plans to attend Johnson and Wales University in Denver; and Ashleigh Hagen plans to attend the Culinary Institute of America; and

WHEREAS, The first place Olathe Public Schools ProStart Culinary Team was led by Chef Mike Chrostowski, who is in his 10th year of teaching. Chef Mike encourages students to develop a passion for the industry, helps them find success in the industry, pushes them to achieve greatness, and helps them achieve goals that were once thought unattainable. Under Chef Mike's mentoring and assistance from Chef Philip Shaw, the Olathe Culinary Program has qualified for the national competition 10 years in a row and is the only team to stand on the podium as a top four finisher the last seven consecutive years. Chef Mike's passion and expertise have helped to make the culinary arts program at Olathe North High School one of the best examples of industry standards being integrated into a high school career technical education program: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend the Olathe Public Schools ProStart Culinary Team for taking first place at the 14th Annual National ProStart Invitational in Anaheim, California, thereby serving as an example and a model to high schools across the United States for its dedication and excellence; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send six enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Lynn.

Senate Resolution No. 1742 was sponsored by Senators Lynn, Melcher and Olson.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.