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### Hampton Teacher Selected Virginia ProStart Teacher of the Year

Richmond, Va. – March 19, 2018 – The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF) is proud to announce that Travis Walker of Phoebus High School in Hampton will receive the 2018 Virginia ProStart Educator Excellence Award. Walker is invited to join other top educators in Chicago, Ill., for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation’s (NRAEF) ProStart Educator Excellence Awards, May 18, 2018.

At the Awards ceremony in Chicago, Walker will also receive the NRAEF’s ProStart Educator Excellence Award that recognizes an exceptional ProStart educator from every state. The award is given to ProStart teachers who are leaders within their state program, and who have helped elevate the program and their students within their community. He is also eligible to win the James H. Maynard Excellence in Education Award presented by the NRAEF and Golden Corral.

“Chef Walker is the model example of how a teacher can truly make a difference in their students’ lives,” said Jim Wilson, director of education and workforce development for the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association. “He takes every possible opportunity he can to further his students’ interests in the culinary field.”

Awardees of the ProStart Educator Excellence Award will be flown to Chicago and hosted by NRAEF on May 18, 2018. There they will enjoy a tour of the city, attend the Educator Excellence Awards Dinner, and, if they so choose, attend the National Restaurant Show on May 19, 2018.

*About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF)*

*As the educational arm of the Virginia, Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, the VRLTA exists to enhance the restaurant and hospitality industries’ through education and encouraging youth to pursue post-secondary education in the culinary and hospitality fields. This is primarily done through the coordination of the Virginia ProStart program and the administration of a scholarship program. For more information on the VRLTAEF, visit [VRLTA.org/VRLTAEF](http://VRLTA.org/VRLTAEF).*

*About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA)*

*The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. Inquiries about membership and VRLTA services should be directed to VRLTA at (804) 288-3065 or [VRLTA.org](http://VRLTA.org).*

*About the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF)*

*As the philanthropic foundation of the National Restaurant Association, the NRAEF exists to enhance the restaurant industry’s service to the public through education, community engagement and promotion of career opportunities. The NRAEF works to attract, develop and retain a career-oriented professional workforce for the restaurant industry. In 2016, the restaurant and foodservice industry is projected to provide a record 14.4 million jobs, making it the nation’s second largest private sector employer. For more information on the NRAEF, visit [NRAEF.org](http://NRAEF.org).*

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