



IGNITE THE FUTURE

Academic Year: 2026-2027

Scholarship: Deborah Dowdell Industry Leaders Scholarship

Granter: New Jersey Restaurant Educational Foundation

Award Amount: \$1000

Scholarship Application Deadline: All applications must be received before April 30, 2026

Eligibility Requirements:

- Student must be pursuing a career in Culinary Arts or a related Culinary Field and enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning, including but not limited to College, University, & Trade School
- Student must provide high school or college transcripts. Student GPA must be 3.0 or higher
- Student must be enrolled or have been previously enrolled at a NJ ProStart High school
- Student's permanent address must be in the state of New Jersey
- Application must be accompanied by proof of admission to a school of higher learning and the required essay
- Student must provide a resume that includes college major

Essay should be 500-1000 words about one of the listed topics below:

- Why are you applying to the Deborah Roy Dowdell Industry Leaders Scholarship?
- Write about a time where you had to become the leader in a situation. What happened? How did it affect you?
- Write about a time where you had to work with someone you did not get along with. How did you overcome your differences? Did you grow from the experience?

New Jersey Restaurant Educational Foundation Chairman's Scholarship Application:

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

High School: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

College: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cumulative GPA:

I have attached my transcripts High School College

High School Graduation Year: _____ I am a high school senior

College Graduation Year:

Current College Level:

I have attached a copy of my resume

I have attached proof of acceptance into an institution of higher learning

I have attached an essay between 500–1000 words answering one of the below questions:

- Why are you applying to the Deborah Roy Dowdell Industry Leaders Scholarship?
- Write about a time where you had to become the leader in a situation. What happened? How did it affect you?
- Write about a time where you had to work with someone you did not get along with. How did you overcome your differences? Did you grow from the experience?

The below questions will not affect the decision to award the student a scholarship. They are solely for research:

Did you compete in the State ProStart Competition? Yes No

Are you currently employed in the food service industry? Yes No

All students should send their scholarship application and essay to Austin Morgan via email: amorgan@njrha.org. Please include the scholarship name in the subject line.

*Students will be notified by **May 30, 2026**, if selected for the Chairman's Scholarship Award by email. Students may apply for more than one NJREF scholarship; however, each student can only be awarded one scholarship per academic year.*