[CHICAGO, March 7, 2014] — On March 5, more than 30 high school students from nine different schools came to work side-by-side with the SAVOR...Chicago catering team, McCormick Place’s convention center food service provider. The day’s activities were part of the Illinois Restaurant Association’s ProStart Job Shadow Day.

The high school culinary and hospitality students were able to experience various roles and duties of the convention catering business and take part in hands-on learning activities throughout the day including food preparation, banquet setting and sustainability topics. The students were exposed to new innovations including SAVOR...Chicago’s rooftop garden and vermicomposting center.

“SAVOR...Chicago is committed to our community and the future of our industry,” said Connie Chambers, General Manager, SAVOR...Chicago at McCormick Place. “ProStart gives students a taste for success in the restaurant and foodservice industry by blending classroom and work experience to produce culinary and management leaders of tomorrow. We are proud to inspire the next generation and be part of their success.”

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**Chicago’s McCormick Place**

McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America, is comprised of four state-of-the-art buildings, the North, South and West Buildings, the Lakeside Center, and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place hotel. Combined, McCormick Place offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world.

Located on Chicago’s lakefront just minutes from downtown, McCormick Place is owned by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and managed by SMG, a worldwide convention facility management company. For more information, please visit [www.mccormickplace.com](http://www.mccormickplace.com) or on facebook.com/mccormickplace and twitter.com/mccormick_place.

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**SAVOR**

SAVOR, a leader in convention center catering, concessions and special events, took over McCormick Place foodservice operations September 28, 2011. SAVOR is part of SMG, the largest public facilities management company in the world including McCormick Place as of August 1, 2011. In 2010, 17 convention centers where SAVOR provides food and beverage service won prestigious Prime Site Awards from *Facilities & Destinations*.

SAVOR is an industry leader in introducing green standards and programs to public facilities. As the food and beverage provider to facilities with some of the most stringent environmental policies in the world, we have researched the matter extensively and work closely with community and facility managers to develop environmentally friendly operations focused on minimizing carbon footprint by purchasing locally produced, sustainably raised product, using non-petroleum-based packaging and recycling or composting waste whenever possible. [www.savorchicagomcpl.com](http://www.savorchicagomcpl.com).

**SMG**

Since 1977, SMG has provided management services to more than 220 public assembly facilities worldwide, including arenas, stadiums, theatres and performing arts centers, equestrian facilities, convention, congress and exhibition centers, science centers and a variety of other venues. Across the globe, SMG manages more than 14 million square feet of exhibition space and more than 1.75 million arena and theatre seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming, construction and design consulting, and pre-opening services. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions and catering division of SAVOR, currently serving more than 100 accounts worldwide. [www.smgworld.com](http://www.smgworld.com).