

# Passaic County Technical Institute

*“Passaic County’s Award-Winning Public High School for Academics, Careers & Technology”*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## PCTI Students Sweep State ProStart Invitational

**Wayne, NJ – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** –Culinary Arts students of Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) proved that hard work and practice truly pays off. At the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual State ProStart Championship Competition, the school’s two Culinary Teams brought home the gold (for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row) and the silver. The Management Team took first place for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the past ten years.

This clean sweep means that PCTI will be representing New Jersey in April at the National ProStart Championship Competition in Grapevine, Texas.

In addition to these outstanding overall wins, Katherine Yakovlev (Culinary) and Lilibeth Velazquez (Management) were selected as MVPs out of all the students who participated. PCTI Culinary Arts Instructor and Management Team Coach, Celeste Zaleski, was also recognized with the coveted New Jersey ProStart Educator of Excellence Award for 2016!



**PCTI Culinary Arts students of the ProStart teams celebrate their fantastic wins with trophies. Back Row: Samantha Gonzalez (Paterson), Casey Creazzo (West Milford), Lucia Alarcon (Paterson), Julie Velasquez (Clifton), Frankie Flores (Totowa), Kathleen Ortiz (Hawthorne), Ashley Gulliksen (Haskell), Jasmine Garcia (Haledon), & Katherine Yakovlev (Wayne). Front Row: Melanie Pires (Clifton), Gianna Aquino (Passaic), Jeyuantia Whitaker (Paterson), Emily Irizarry (Prospect Park) & Lilibeth Velazquez (Hawthorne).**



**PCTI's MVP award winners Lilibeth Velazquez (Management Team, Hawthorne) and Katherine Yakovlev (Culinary Team, Wayne), pose with Culinary Instructor Celeste Zaleski (center, West Milford), recipient of the NJ ProStart Educator of Excellence Award 2016.**