

# BELIEVE IN SUCCESS



Scott Reinhardt, Assistant General Manager, Gramercy Tavern, explains career paths in the restaurant field to F·E·G·S Learning to Work students and staff.



## Gramercy Tavern Offers A Full Menu of Restaurant Careers for Students

### F·E·G·S Learning to Work Program Students Savor the Possibilities

One of New York City's finest and most celebrated restaurants became a very special and exclusive classroom recently, as a group of high school students – participants in F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System's Learning to Work Programs – learned about the rewards and realities of a career in the restaurant/hospitality field from two skilled professionals, Gramercy Tavern's assistant manager, Scott Reinhardt, and sous chef Howard Kalachnikoff.

Students were given an inside look at how a top restaurant coordinates the front and back ends of a business in which patrons have high expectations – not only for an exceptional meal, but great ambience and attentive service. The students shared with Reinhardt and Kalachnikoff their passion for cooking, one commenting that preparing food in a kitchen made him feel important and was a career path he would like to pursue.



(L-R) Howard Kalachnikoff, sous chef, and YABC student, Deshawn, discuss employment opportunities in the field.

As they toured the restaurant, including the gleaming kitchens, the students visiting Gramercy Tavern learned that careers in the restaurant business almost always start the same way: scrubbing pots. They were told to expect 50-hour workweeks and 10 to 12 hour workdays. "You spend so much time together that your fellow employees often become like extended family," commented Reinhardt.

#### F·E·G·S Helps Youth Complete School and Plan their Future

The F·E·G·S students attend a Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) where they participate in F·E·G·S's Learning to Work (LTW) programs. In partnership with the New York City Department of Education, F·E·G·S's LTW programs serve some 1,500 students at six NYC high

schools. YABCs meet the needs of over-age, under-credited students who have demonstrated significant progress toward graduation but have fallen behind in earning credits or have become disengaged from school. The program, which is voluntary, helps them reconnect to school, earn a diploma, and prepare for the transition to college, a career, or additional training. F·E·G·S provides an array of case management and support services – from tutoring, assessment, referral, and linkages to other community resources – that helps students stay focused, remain in school, and complete their education.

#### Work Internship Opportunities Encourage Students to Explore Career Options

F·E·G·S's CareerFirst<sup>®</sup> model is an integral part of its Learning to Work Programs and includes work internship opportunities that help young adults acquire new skills, gain experience in a real work environment, and develop clear career goals for the future. F·E·G·S youth advisors carefully pre-screen candidates and match their skills, aptitudes, and abilities to available work opportunities within participating companies. Advisors work with both the interns and the companies to ensure a positive experience. Web-based software that supports the CareerFirst<sup>®</sup> system allows both F·E·G·S staff and employers to seamlessly track intern performance, monitor hours, and coordinate other internship activities.



Steve Reinhardt tours the kitchens at Gramercy Tavern and the staffing needed to offer guests a unique lunch and dinner menu.

"Opportunities like the one at Gramercy Tavern help us to shape our work internship program and are invaluable experiences in helping young people to begin developing successful paths for a career," says Courtney Hawkins, Vice President of F·E·G·S Education and Youth Services.

#### Graduation Rate Doubles In Schools with LTW and YABC Initiatives

In New York City, there are an estimated 200,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and not working. More than two-thirds of these disconnected youth are poor or near-poor, according to the Center for an Urban Future, a NYC-based think tank. Learning to Work and YABC are among the few current model programs that engage at-risk youth by teaching the real-life skills they need for future educational and career goals: basic literacy and math skills, the ability to communicate effectively and work in teams, competence with computers, and more.



#### Ask the Experts

If you have a question about our Education and Youth Services, or if you would like to support a program or initiative, contact:

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According to the NYC Department of Education, the average 6-year graduation rate across the 23 YABC programs citywide (22 of which feature the Learning to Work Initiative) is currently 62%. This rate is over four times the average graduation rate of 15% for over-age, under-credited students in regular high schools. In F·E·G·S programs, more than 1,600 youth have participated in internships over the past two years.

#### Commitment to the Community

Reinhardt and Kalachnikoff spoke of the strong commitment to community of Danny Meyers' Union Square Hospitality Group, which operates Gramercy Tavern, Union Square Café, MOMA's Café 2, and Terrace 5, and the Whitney's Untitled, among others. They invited the students to return to "shadow" the restaurant staff for a day, to gain a real life perspective on a restaurant career. One student commented that the Gramercy Tavern visit had inspired him and "gives me an appetite to learn more and to be a success." ■

## F·E·G·S FAST FACTS Education & Youth Services

- 4,500 young people participate in F·E·G·S in-school, after-school, and out-of-school programs operated throughout NYC, offering a range of case management/support services that help them stay in school and complete their high school education.
- 700+ students earned a high school diploma or GED with the help of F·E·G·S CareerFirst<sup>™</sup> program. 1,600 youth have participated in F·E·G·S internship opportunities over the last two years.
- F·E·G·S youth programs operate in partnership and receive support from the NYC Dept. of Education, NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development, other agencies, foundations, and individuals.
- F·E·G·S provides technical assistance, training and support to nonprofit agencies to implement the CareerFirst<sup>™</sup> model.