



Student Interns Showcase Partnership

As high school seniors enrolled in the Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center culinary program, Kaia and Emily wanted to practice their kitchen skills in a real-world setting. Through a partnership between Workforce Snohomish, Lombard's Italian Restaurant, and the Skills Center, Kaia and Emily were able realize their goal. Culinary internships were developed at the Lombard's Italian Restaurant under the guidance of Corporate Chef Andy Hilliard; this experience allowed the young women to begin careers in a field that they are passionate about.

Chef Hilliard stated that both Kaia and Emily have fantastic kitchen skills, great attitudes, and are valuable members of the kitchen staff; the six week internship led to job offers for both young women. Kaia and Emily plan to build upon their culinary passion and newly gained experience through post-secondary educational opportunities.

Kaia is a senior at Mountlake Terrace High School and an Edmonds Community College (EdCC) Running Start student. After graduation, she plans on continuing her culinary program studies at EdCC with a concentration in either food science or education. Kaia anticipates staying with, and learning from, Lombardi's for a long time; she appreciates the kitchen's teamwork approach and the chance to build on her prep skills. When not busy with work or school, Kaia enjoys making her favorite macaroni and cheese for her family.

Currently a Glacier Peak High School senior, Emily plans on studying Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Denver, Colorado; she is excited about developing her skills at Lombard's until she leaves for college this fall. During her internship, Emily also worked as a prep cook assisting with both typical restaurant fare and large catering events. She is impressed with how well the kitchen staff work cohesively. Although her favorite Lombard's offerings are the pizza and desserts, at home Emily enjoys making egg rolls!

Kaia and Emily credit the great instructors at Sno-Isle for the easy transition from student to kitchen staff. "We are so proud of the level of professionalism our students demonstrate, and are honored that Lombardi's chose to work with Sno-Isle Tech," remarked Maggie Bagwell, Sno Isle Tech Director.

The internships were paid for through the "ReImagine Retail" grant funded by the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and Walmart Foundation. The ReImagine Retail initiative is focused on providing access to careers in retail and adjacent sectors while changing perceptions of the retail industry.