

Each year schools select their most outstanding Volusia Partners to become their Business Partner of the Year. You can view the list under “Award>Volusia Partners of the Year. A district selection committee chose an exemplary partner to receive the Commissioner’s Business Recognition Award (commonly known as CBRA).

For the past 32 years, CBRA has celebrated the commitment, creativity, and innovation of partnerships between Florida businesses and organizations, and public schools.

2023 CBRA Recipient

GOURMET KITCHEN

WAS NOMINATED BY SEABREEZE HIGH SCHOOL

Gourmet Kitchen is Volusia County Schools’ Business Partner of the Year. Each year, schools and departments nominate their most outstanding business partners for the district’s Volusia Partner of the Year. A district selection committee selects the businesses or organizations to receive this distinction.

Seabreeze High School nominated Gourmet Kitchen due to their continued support of the Multi VE Community-Based Vocational Training Program. The goal of the CBVT is to prepare students for the real world of work, which simply cannot be simulated in the classroom. Teachers evaluate what they have observed and use this information to assist students in determining their strengths, job preferences, specific skills, and training needs.

For almost two years the managers and employees of the Gourmet Kitchen have opened their facility and their hearts to the Seabreeze students. Students have had the opportunity to experience a variety of tasks at their facility. The students assist by bussing tables, folding napkins, replenishing condiments, and so on. There is a daily exchange of conversation, quiet nods, and smiles from the employees. They offer encouragement and acceptance which helps build students’ self-confidence and pride.

Through community support and the generosity of businesses like Gourmet Kitchen, the students are learning in a realistic environment. The research concludes that this type of instructional model increases the long-term employment outcome for this under-employed group. Gourmet Kitchen is a community partner that contributes to the success of the students becoming productive members of society upon graduating high school.