



Board Leadership Candidate Guide

IFT is committed to ensuring that members have access and opportunity to contribute to their fullest potential. Diversity and Inclusion are key to our mission to advance the science of food and provide a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply for everyone. Therefore, we believe it is critical to attract and engage a diverse population of members and food science professionals to lead IFT through Board service. For a successful Board experience, we have found that the following experiences are useful in IFT Board service. However, they are not required for a successful candidacy.

Minimum Requirements: [Premier](#) membership

Competencies

Hard Skills:

- Strategic planning experience
- Relevant expertise in the disciplines of organizational management
- Experience in reviewing and evaluating financial reporting and budgeting
- Certified Food Scientist is a plus

Soft Skills:

- Innovative: track record of ideas that have been implemented and have affected change
- Team Orientation: participates fully and works towards consensus
- Accountability: understands personal role in success/failure, is self-reflective and responds to feedback
- Communication Style: in spite of tendencies along a diverse spectrum, will speak confidently when expected or invited

Strategic Skills

- Visionary: demonstrates both future-thinking, as well as ability to influence
- Strategist: incorporates the domain in which a vision must operate to articulate a path forward

Valuable Experience

- Strong investment in food science and technology, experience in the field at a senior level
- Demonstrated leadership commitment, effort, and involvement with IFT, including committee/task force/section/division involvement and program participation to ensure familiarity with the organization
- Diverse IFT participation and IFT leadership background
- Leadership experience with allied industry/academic organizations a plus
- Experience on other boards and board positions held

NOTE: To ensure Board diversity, individuals with less IFT volunteer experience may be considered

Personal Characteristics

- Personable and easy to approach, accessible to members
- Demonstrated ability to interact well with IFT members
- Ability to work well with the IFT President, CEO, and Staff
- Global perspective
- Values and promotes consensus, cooperation, and participation among all Board members
- Skilled in multi-dimensional thinking and problem analysis
- Capacity to utilize knowledge for decision making that benefits the overall organization
- Visionary and strategic thinker, future focused
- Ability to represent the profession and IFT in an articulate manner
- Understanding and appreciation for values of diversity

Required Commitment

- Support from employer and colleagues regarding the time and financial commitment required for board service
- Prepare for and attend three Board meetings each year and the Annual Event, as well as selected other educational programs and/or activities, and participate regularly in Board calls
- Actively participate as Board liaison to assigned sections or other task forces

- Ability and willingness to serve as formal or informal mentor within IFT
- Support initiatives and/or campaigns of Feeding Tomorrow, IFT's Foundation

Diversity within the Board as a Whole

- Broad representation of membership demographics and multi-representational factors to include career stage, education, areas of practice type and setting (i.e., academia, government, industry, consultancy), and broad global and cultural experience
- Diverse special interests/expertise (i.e., food safety, regulatory, education, engineering, etc.).

Please see IFT's Commitment to Diversity: <https://www.ift.org/about-ift/diversity-and-inclusion>

Board Responsibilities, Expectations & Time Commitment

The Board of Directors engages in strategic thinking and planning to set the organization's direction, mobilize resources, and provide oversight to ensure IFT's progress in achieving its mission.

IFT board leaders are responsible for cultivating a professional community committed to advance the science of food and its application across the global food system. The Board of Directors upholds strategic promises to IFT members to focus on individual development, productive networks, scientific innovation, and issues advocacy.

In addition to the criteria outlined, board members are expected to work in collaboration with fellow board members and partner with staff to:

- Consider ways to increase member value
- Uphold its fiduciary duty including establishing the fiscal year and approving an annual budget
- Create an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming organizational culture
- Be active and positive supporters of IFT
- Come prepared for all meetings and discussions
- Actively and positively support IFT with your time and talent
- Hone expertise in environmental scanning, critical thinking, and resource allocation
- Apply leading-edge approaches to strategic thinking and planning
- Foster leadership development in self and others
- Serve as a communication champion for the organization
- Actively participate as Board liaison to assigned sections or other task forces

Term and Time Commitment

- Directors serve staggered three-year terms on the fiscal year, September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022.
- President-Elect serves a one-year term then automatically succeeds the President at the end of their term and then assumes the office of Immediate Past President, a three-year commitment.
- Prepare for and attend three Board meetings each year and the Annual Event, as well as selected other educational programs and/or activities, and participate regularly in Board calls.
 - In-Person Meetings (when able)
 - Board of Directors Fall Meeting – November
 - Board of Directors Spring Meeting – March
 - Board of Directors Summer Meeting – IFT Annual event
 - Virtual Meetings
 - October
 - January
 - March
 - May
 - August
- Other Board calls may be scheduled as needed.