

# 2020 IFT Student Association Excellence in Leadership Award

## **Purpose:**

The IFT Student Association is a global professional society with members from around the world. Its core purpose is to foster the development of future professionals and leaders who are dedicated to the science and technology of food.

The purpose of the IFTSA Excellence in Leadership Award is to recognize two student members of IFT, one undergraduate and one graduate student, whose exemplary leadership embodies IFTSA's Strategic Promises and, ultimately, empowers fellow students to reach their full potential.

## **Eligibility:**

Any student member of IFT, as of March 1, 2020 or who has not graduated prior to July 1, 2020, is eligible to compete. Applicants may either be self-nominated or nominated by a mentor and/or peer. Students serving in the office of the IFTSA President (Elect, Current, and Past) are not eligible for this award, during or after their service. The recently elected Incoming President-Elect is still eligible for this award before their terms of service. The current Excellence in Leadership Award Chair is ineligible for this award during their year of service.

## **Evaluation Criteria:**

**Step 1:** (Preliminary Round) Applicants will submit their application, resume, letters of recommendation, and essay question response. Judges will evaluate all application materials and select 3 undergraduate students and 3 graduate students for a total of 6 student finalist.

- **Essay:**

In a maximum of 1,000 words, reflect upon your leadership experience and detail how you have empowered students interested in the science of food to reach their full potential. Elaborate on how you have enriched their education in the science of food through at least one (or more, if appropriate) of IFTSA's Strategic Promises.

For reference, IFTSA's Strategic Promises are:

**Connect:** Bring people, ideas, and opportunities together to support students' professional goals

**Develop:** Provide opportunities for skill development beyond the classroom and lab

**Support:** Cultivate friendship, mentorship, and leadership among those pursuing an education in the science of food

Please limit responses to 2 pages, typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. One-inch margins must be used.

Essay Evaluation:

10	<b>Superior:</b> Applicant presents a clear, meaningful, and passionate response that encompasses <u>one or more</u> Strategic Promises. Applicant outlines several outstanding, distinguishing contributions that have empowered students in the science of food <u>and</u>
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	enriched their [students'] education. Essay exhibits high quality, clarity of thought, and <u>does not</u> exceed the word limit. Essay is written thoughtfully and provides an insightful response. Overall depth of essay exceeds expectations.
<b>8</b>	<b>Strong:</b> Applicant presents a clear and meaningful response that encompasses at least one Strategic Promise. Applicant outlines distinguishing contributions that have empowered students in the science of food and/or enriched their [students'] education. Essay provides a clear reflective response that does not exceed the word limit. Overall essay is strong but lacks the thoughtfulness and insight to receive a superior score.
<b>6</b>	<b>Adequate:</b> Applicant presents a clear but generic response that encompasses at least one Strategic Promise and outlines contributions that have either empowered students in the science of food or enriched their [students'] education. Essay response is organized and does not exceed the word limit.
<b>4</b>	<b>Marginal:</b> Applicant presents a generic response outlining contributions that have either empowered students in the science of food or enriched their [students'] education however, response fails to encompass at least one Strategic Promise.
<b>2</b>	<b>Poor:</b> Applicant presents an unorganized response that vaguely outlines contributions in the science of food but fails to encompass at least one Strategic Promise and fails to address how they empowered students or enriched their [students'] education.
<b>0</b>	<b>Unacceptable:</b> Applicant fails to outline how their leadership experiences empowered students in the science of food or enriched their [students'] education. Response fails to appropriately address all aspects of the prompt and demonstrates no clear reason to be considered for this award.

- **2 Letters of Reference:**

Please include 1 letter of support from each of the following:

1. 1 Mentor letter = authored by a faculty member, advisor, or person in a managerial/mentor role who has personal experience with applicant's leadership abilities
2. 1 Peer Letter = authored by a fellow student, co-worker, or colleague who has personal experience working with applicant as a leader of their peer group

Evaluation of Reference Letters:

<b>3</b>	<b>Superior:</b> Applicant has both letters of recommendation, both of which provide exemplary detail that the applicant is highly qualified for the award.
<b>2</b>	<b>Adequate:</b> Applicant has both letters of recommendation, both of which sufficiently indicate the applicant is qualified for the award.
<b>1</b>	<b>Marginal:</b> Applicant has at least one letter of recommendation that generically indicates the applicant is qualified for the award.
<b>0</b>	<b>Unacceptable:</b> Applicant has no letters of recommendation or letters indicate that applicant is not qualified for this award.

- **Resume:**

Please include dates of relevant IFT/IFTSA involvement

Resume Evaluation:

<b>5</b>	<b>Superior:</b> Applicant demonstrates exemplary dedication to leadership in the science of food and shows consistent leadership interest/engagement over the course of their academic career.
<b>4</b>	<b>Strong:</b> Applicant demonstrates above average dedication to leadership in the science of food and shows somewhat consistent leadership interest/engagement over the course of their academic career.
<b>3</b>	<b>Adequate:</b> Applicant demonstrates dedication to leadership in the science of food and shows somewhat consistent leadership interest/engagement over the course of their academic career.
<b>2</b>	<b>Marginal:</b> Applicant demonstrates dedication to leadership in the science of food but shows inconsistent and/or brief leadership interest/engagement over the course of their academic career.
<b>1</b>	<b>Poor:</b> Applicant demonstrates minimal/no dedication to leadership in the science of food but shows consistent leadership interest/engagement in other activities over the course of their academic career.
<b>0</b>	<b>Unacceptable:</b> Applicant demonstrates no dedication to leadership in the science of food and shows minimal/no leadership interest/engagement over the course of their academic career.

**Step 2:** (Finalist Interviews) Student finalists will each be interviewed by the team of judges. Each interview will be roughly 15 minutes in length and students will be asked 4-5 leadership-focused questions (as pre-determined by the judges)

**Applications and Judgments:**

Completed application forms and all attachments should be submitted via the submission portal on IFT.org no later than **March 15th, 2020**. A panel of IFTSA appointed judges, which will include at least 2 IFT leaders and 1 leader from the sponsoring organization (if applicable), will evaluate the submissions, and awardees will be notified in writing by the IFTSA on or before **April 15th, 2020**.

**Recognition:**

Each awardee will be presented with an award and \$1,000 during the IFT Awards Celebration at the IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo. Each awardee will also be eligible to receive a \$500 travel stipend to attend the IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo but must be present and recognized on stage at the awards celebration in order to receive the travel grant.

**Questions:**

Please contact the IFTSA Excellence in Leadership Award Chair – Leah Hamilton – via email at [iftsa.ela@gmail.com](mailto:iftsa.ela@gmail.com).