

Excellence in Leadership Award

RULES AND GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

The Excellence in Leadership Award recognizes two student members of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), one undergraduate and one graduate student, who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in their execution of student activities that furthers the mission of IFT.

PURPOSE

The Excellence in Leadership Award was created to recognize student members who have given outstanding service to their Student Chapter, provide the opportunity for additional participation in IFT by student chapters, assist the IFTSA (IFT Student Association) in identifying student leaders, and create a sense of ownership in the IFTSA for students and chapters.

SCHEDULE

Date	Event
March 1, 2023	Preliminary Application Due
April 1, 2023	Finalists notified
April 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023	Finalist interviews
May 1, 2023	Winner notified

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicant must be a member of the Student Association of IFT and be registered as a student at the university he or she is representing during the Fall semester prior to the competition (if confirmed a finalist by the Annual Meeting, the student need not be currently enrolled).
2. Students serving in the office of the IFTSA President (Elect, Current, and Past) are not eligible for this award, during or after their service.
3. The recently elected Incoming President-Elect is still eligible for this award before their terms of service.
4. The current Excellence in Leadership Award Chair is ineligible for this award during their year of service.
5. There is no limit on the number of applications per school for this award.

PRELIMINARY ROUND PROCEDURES

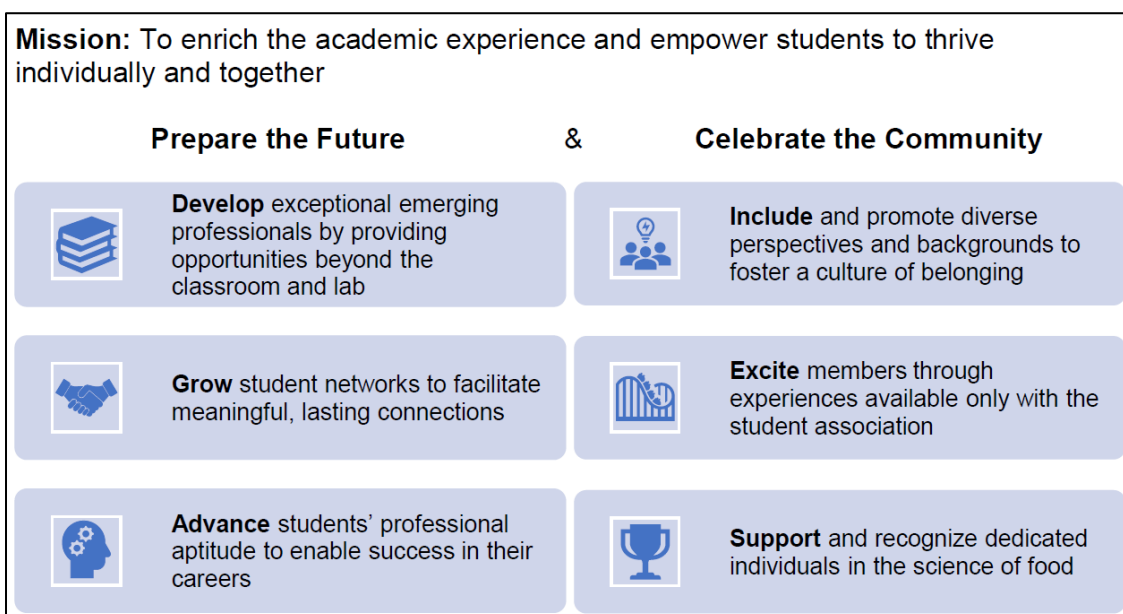
Application

Applicants will submit their application, resume, letters of recommendation, and essay question response to the portal on the ift.org website. Judges will evaluate all application materials and select three (3) undergraduate students and three (3) graduate students for a total of six (6) student finalists.

Completed application forms and all attachments should be submitted via the submission portal on IFT.org no later than **March 1, 2023**.

Essay

- In a maximum of 600 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 Mission. For reference, IFTSA's Mission is shown in the graphic below.



Reference Letters

1. One (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. One (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.

Resume

1. Limit resumes to 2 pages.
2. Your resume should highlight your leadership, mentorship, and professional development with an emphasis on the food science community. Please include dates of relevant IFT/IFTSA involvement.

Judging

1. 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 select 3 undergraduate and 3 graduate student finalists.
2. The finalists will be notified in writing by the IFTSA on or before April 1st, 2023.
3. Each judge's scores will be converted to ranks. The 3 students from the graduate and 3 students from the undergraduate groups with the lowest sum of ranks will be chosen as finalists and continue to the interview portion.
4. The applications will be judged using the following rubric.

Preliminary Round Judging Criteria	21 points total
Resume <i>To what extent does the student's resume demonstrate participation in impactful leadership roles and experiences that promote the science of food? This can include IFTSA, IFT, and non-IFT/IFTSA experiences.</i>	0 Unacceptable 1 Poor 2 Marginal 3 Adequate 4 Strong 5 Superior
Essay <i>To what extent does the student's essay demonstrate a consistent initiative to support students in the science of food? To what extent has the student's leadership furthered one or more IFTSA's Strategic Promises? Essays will be graded based on the overall degree of commitment and impact demonstrated, not necessarily the number of Strategic Promises covered or the perceived quality of the grammar or writing style.</i>	0 Unacceptable 1-2 Poor 3-4 Marginal 5-6 Adequate 7-8 Strong 9-10 Superior
Letter of Recommendation (Mentor) <i>To what degree does this letter recommend the student's leadership involvement and accomplishments? Does it demonstrate exemplary leadership?</i>	0 Unacceptable 1 Marginal 2 Adequate 3 Superior
Letter of Recommendation (Peer)	0 Unacceptable 1 Marginal

<i>To what degree does this letter recommend the student's impact on their student community? Does it demonstrate exemplary leadership?</i>	2 Adequate 3 Superior
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FINAL ROUND PROCEDURES

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 3-4 leadership-focused questions (as pre-determined by the judges).

1. The interview will be conducted using a videoconferencing platform such as Zoom.
2. A phone interview or other non-internet alternative will be allowed for students with unstable internet connections. Most videoconferencing platforms (like Zoom) offer the ability for participants to call in with a phone connection.

Judging

Interviews will be scored based on the following example rubric. Note that these questions are provided as examples from past years' interviews.

Question Category	Question	Score from 1-5 (5 being highest)	Response Notes
Leadership	What has been your most successful or impactful leadership experience, and what did it teach you?		
Peer Leadership	In terms of peer leadership, could you give an example of how you empowered a fellow peer and what was the lasting impact on the individual?		
IFTSA Strategic Promise - Connect	Can you describe a time you brought different groups of people together? What did you do to successfully facilitate that connection?		

IFTSA Strategic Promise - Support	How will the communities you have served be different because of your leadership?		
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AWARDS

1. Awardees will be notified in writing by the IFTSA on or before May 1st, 2022.
2. Each awardee will be presented with an award during the IFT Annual Event or virtually.
3. Each awardee will also be eligible to receive a \$500 travel stipend to attend the IFT Annual Event but must be present and recognized on stage at the awards celebration in order to receive the travel grant.

Placement	Award
1 st place (Graduate and Undergraduate)	\$1000 Travel reimbursement up to \$500 and free registration to IFT FIRST

NOTES

- The enforcement, review, and changes of these Rules and Guidelines will be the responsibility of the Chair of the competition and designated IFT Staff member. Failure to comply with any of the rules of the competition may result in disqualification.
- Any team or team member that does not follow the IFT Event Code of Conduct will risk being disqualified.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the IFTSA Excellence in Leadership Award Chair via email at iftsa.ela@gmail.com