


History of the Chair's Award

 The Chair's Award was established by the Minnesota Section of the Institute of Food Technologists. In the words of the Bylaw adopted to formally establish the Award, its purpose is "to recognize a member in the section who has served the Section and the profession in an outstanding manner".

The Award consists of an engraved plaque with the citation and honorarium. The presentation is featured at a Minnesota IFT dinner meeting.

All members of the Minnesota Section are eligible for this award. The selection of the award is made by a committee of the Section, which is comprised of current and former Chairs of the Minnesota Section with the committee begin chaired by the immediate past Chair of the Minnesota Section.

Nomination for the award may be made by the any member of the Minnesota Section. The Award recognizes the dedication that many IFT members have for their professional scientific society and says "thank you" to all who have given their time to improve the future of the food sector.



Chair's Award Committee

Sharon Herzog, Grain Millers, Chair
Mary Schmidl, University of Minnesota
Beth Ann Nylander, Bellisio Foods
Gary Reineccius, University of Minnesota

Prior Award Recipients

1987 - Emily Anderson
1988 - Elwood Caldwell
1989 - John Ringstrom
1990 - Karen Dragon
1991 - Rusty Nelson
1992 - William Davidson
1993 - Lorraine Smith
1994 - Edmund Zottola
1995 - Gary Richter, John Hall, Alden Drew
1996 - Elizabeth Knight
1997 - Katherine Swanson
1998 - Larry Pearson
1999 - Purnendu Vasavada
2000 - Gary Geist
2001 - Anand Rao
2002 - Frank Busta
2003 - Joseph Warthesen
2004 - Robert Freemore
2005 - Michael Mensing
2006 - Daniel Kennedy
2007 - Cheryl Dienken
2008 - Award Not Given
2009 - Award Not Given
2010 - Award Not Given
2011 - Award Not Given
2012 - Award Not Given
2013 - Award Not Given
2014 - Cheryl Dienken
2015 - Tina Hacker



Minnesota Section
Institute of Food Technologists

The Minnesota Section Chair's Award for 2016

Presented to:

Brenda Knapp-Polzin

Director and Go To Market Technical Manager
Cargill Food Ingredients

**Monday
December 12, 2016**

The Commons
University of Minnesota



Program Agenda

5:00PM **Social Hour**

6:00PM **Dinner Buffet Served**

7:00PM **2016 Chair's Award Presentation**

Sharon Herzog, Immediate Past Chair,
Minnesota Section of IFT and
Chair, Chair's Award
Minnesota Section of IFT

7:15PM **Speaker**

"Food, Foodborne Disease and Food for
Thought" by Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, Director
of the Center for Infectious Disease Research
and Policy

8:00PM **Questions/Closing Remarks**

Mary Schmidl, Chair, Minnesota Section of IFT



2016 Chair's Award Recipient



Brenda Knapp-Polzin

Brenda Knapp-Polzin is currently Director and Go to Market Technical Manager of Cargill Food Ingredients. In this role she is responsible for developing and implementing technical support programs for Corporate Customers, in alignment with Cargill Food Ingredients strategy, to drive growth for Customers and Cargill.

Prior to Cargill, she held a variety of positions in the technical communities of General Mills and Pillsbury, where she was responsible for a wide portfolio of products. Brenda hales from Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received her B.S. and M.S. in Food Science and Technology.

Brenda is a Certified Food Scientist (CFS) and is active in IFT, having recently served on the IFT Board of Directors, 2011-2014. She currently is chairing the International Food Science Certification Commission (IFSCC) that oversees the governance and policy-making for the credentialing activities related to the CFS program.

Brenda continues to provide both leadership and guidance to the Minnesota Section as well as to the National IFT. Through the years Brenda has served in multiple roles including Chair, Membership Chair and most notably heading up the Long Range Planning efforts. Leadership training for the section has helped to develop and solidify our volunteer base. Truly the success of our section is in our members. We are fortunate to count Brenda as a member of our section!

She is passionate about the blending of food science and culinary art – currently serving on the Advisory Council for the Culinology Program at Southwest State University in Marshall Minnesota.

Brenda lives in Minneapolis with her husband, David. They have 4 adult children, and are devoted "parents" to two Standard Poodles. Brenda loves to travel, explore cuisine, scuba dive and digging around in her garden. For those fortunate enough to attend one of her dinner parties (she donates to the MN IFT Silent Auction), she is known as a creative host as well!