

CSIFT Sponsors Midwest Regional Collegiate Dairy Products Sensory Evaluation Contest

The Scholarship Committee of Chicago Section IFT is proud to have been a bronze sponsor of this year's Midwest Regional Collegiate Dairy Products Sensory Evaluation Contest, held on Saturday October 22, 2016 at the Kraft Heinz Innovation Center in Glenview IL. The contest is jointly sponsored by the Chicago Dairy Technology Society, The Kraft Heinz Company, and the Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest. Additionally there are numerous Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsoring companies and organizations.



This contest is designed to test the sensory evaluation skills of dairy science and food science and students at universities around the US.

The students work with their professors and advisors to learn the attributes and defects associated with six categories of dairy products. Those products are milk, ice cream, cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, butter and yogurt.

Every product has its own standard for flavor, body and texture, and mouthfeel. Each has its own list of specific defects. During the contest, industry experts rate the samples and assign a score based on a standardized rating system.

The students then go through the contest evaluating the same samples. The winning score is the one that most closely matches the official card.

The Midwest Regional Collegiate Dairy Products Sensory Evaluation Judging contest is open to any university that has a Food Science or Dairy Science program. The teams are made up of junior and senior students, with a separate division for graduate students. These students go on to become the dairy and food professionals in our industry. The training they receive for this contest is a critical component of their food science education. It is a great experience. Many of the contest volunteers from the industry had participated as student contestants.



The National Contest will be held in the spring of 2017. Any questions can be directed to Ann Tigges, Chicago Dairy Technology Society, anntigges@gmail.com or [630.587.2856](tel:630.587.2856).

The nine student teams were from: Clemson University, Cornell University, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri, South Dakota State University, University of Tennessee, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This year's overall team ranking across all products was topped by #1 South Dakota State University, #2 University of Tennessee, and #3 Iowa State University. For the individual ranking across all products, the top three were #1 Krista Johnson (SDSU), #2 Bennet Baker (SDSU), and #3 Mona Tiller (U Tennessee). Graduate rankings across all products were topped by #1 Kelsey Choquette (Iowa State), #2 Madeline Brandt (U Minnesota), and #3 Alexandra Kuechel (U Minnesota).

Chicago Section IFT is proud to continue putting scholarship dollars to work in developing the next generation "cream of the crop" Food Science students. Contact Nancy Moriarity meyartz@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting scholarship and student development efforts of Chicago Section IFT.

by Laura Colby & Ann Tigges