



CSIFT Activities Promoting Food Science and Scholarships

Exciting activities are ongoing for CSIFT around scholarship and student support. A strategic analysis of CSIFT's financial information supported the Section's vote in April to expand scholarship support by \$50,000 annually (from about \$30,000 to **\$80,000**).

Steve Hill is leading a team of Scholarship Committee members to establish the framework for an expanded CSIFT collegiate scholarship program. This annual program will provide awards to students who either originate from the CSIFT region or attend school in the region. The specific selection criteria are currently being finalized.

To ensure we do not reinvent the wheel, a number of other IFT sections have been surveyed to understand how scholarships are awarded and to identify practices that will suit the CSIFT program. Plans are to finalize the governance framework and selection criteria early in 2016 and open the application period by March 2016 for awards to be given for the fall 2016 school year.

At the June 24 Executive Board Meeting prior to our Annual Leadership Training event, the Board voted unanimously to form a task force to conduct the necessary activities to incorporate a new nonprofit, the Chicagoland Food Science Foundation (CFSF). Its purpose/mission is:

- a) To promote, directly or indirectly, the education of individuals interested or pursuing a career in the food and beverage industry, including specific support for education and training activities related to food science and technology; and
- b) To support and educate the general public regarding careers in the food and beverage industry and the food science and technology industry.

A team representing CSIFT is working with external counsel to establish the CFS Foundation, its organizational framework, board, officers and governance, and alignment with the Section's objectives. Documents have been prepared and filed to establish its 501c3 not-for-profit public charity status. The team is also involved in ongoing work to better understand the laws regarding 501c3 status, especially around funding and fundraising, and to develop a long term plan for granting scholarships through CFSF, CSIFT, or possibly both.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nancy Moriarity, Chair, Scholarship Committee.