



Chicago Section IFT  
the First Section



## KNOW YOUR OFFICERS...

### Diane Dawson



### Biographical Sketch

*Diane Dawson has been a member of IFT since the early 1980s and she is currently the immediate Past Chair of the Chicago Section IFT, and chair of the nominating and awards committees.*

*During her year as Chair, attendance and involvement at section activities increased, the majority of current committee leadership was appointed, a pilot program of technical breakfast programs was launched as an idea from a long term strategy committee, and an annual leadership training workshop was created.*

*Diane oversees food ingredient sales as president of Dawson Sales Company, whose portfolio of supply over its 57 year history has included Creative Food Ingredients, French's, Henningsen Foods, Valley Fig, Franklin Baker, ADM, Sun-Maid, Sun-Diamond, Sunsweet, Oregon Freeze Dry, Leiner Davis, Dutch Cocoa, Great Western and Holly Sugar. As a broker, Dawson Sales acts as a liaison between the ingredient*



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*and food manufacturer. She and her company interface with food scientists, product developers, and quality assurance and compliance personnel in addition to purchasing and brand managers. Dawson Sales was founded in 1954 by Diane's father, James Dawson.*

*Prior to Dawson Sales, Diane worked for IBM, from 1976 to 1982 in various sales and marketing positions. She won an IBM Rookie of the Year Award and a presidential division award. Diane and Dawson Sales have been featured by the Wall Street Journal, Business Week, and Crain's Chicago Business Forty under 40-where Diane was described as "the ultimate middleman".*

*Diane has a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University, and an M.B.A from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. She formerly worked at IBM Corporation in sales and marketing. She sits on many non for profit civic, cultural and educational boards and is a collagist and a board member of the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University.*

*Diane is very involved with promoting "We Be Us" and brand IFT -- she sits on the IFT Section Engagement Advisory Panel, and was a participant in the IFT Member Value Advisory Panel, 2009-2010.*