

## **A Unique Benefit of Becoming an NYIFT Corporate Sponsor**

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Any company that conducts research (or has a summer intern program for college students) knows how expensive it is; however, for an investment of \$350 to become a Corporate Sponsor of NYIFT, one of the Section's Corporate Sponsors was able to get a 10-week research project conducted by a Cornell University, Department of Food Science, Summer Scholar in 2018.

The NYIFT Section has supported the Cornell Summer Scholars program for the last several years. The overall goals of the program are to:

- recruit and retain students representing traditionally underrepresented minorities in food science;
- recruit students from related disciplines into food science;
- provide experiential learning opportunities in food science for undergraduate students;
- recruit students into advanced degree programs in food science;
- train a cadre of future leaders in food science.

The Department approached our Section a few years ago and asked: "Does any Corporate Sponsor have a research project that might be suitable for one of our summer scholars to work on in return for the financial support that the Section is giving to our program?"

In 2018, we had one such company step forward with an idea for a potential research project. After several discussions with the administrator of the Summer Scholars Program, faculty at Cornell, and members of the company, as well as signing Confidentiality Agreements, a student worked on such a project for 10 weeks. The Company (who requested anonymity) was in contact with the student and Professor over the summer to provide additional guidance and answer any questions that arose. They also arranged a face to face meeting at the IFT Annual Meeting in Chicago and sat in (via phone) on the student's final presentation at the end of the Summer Scholar Program.

Comments from the Corporate Sponsor about the benefits of being a Corporate Sponsor and having a research project conducted by a Cornell Summer Scholar, included "providing our R&D team with a good review of options for natural antimicrobial acids. This evaluation at Cornell helped provide us with direction on which natural compounds would provide the best performance while maintaining desired sensory attributes. The Summer Scholar program helped us advance our research in the area of clean label acidulants and antimicrobials."

There are many additional benefits of becoming a Corporate Sponsor (including, but not limited to):

- \$100 discount per booth at Suppliers' Day
- Advance registration and premium booth placement for Suppliers' Day
- Complimentary employment advertising – a savings of \$200 per ad per month!
- Your company name publicized in each issue of our newsletter
- Publicity and recognition of your commitment to the Food Industry at Suppliers' Day
- Receipt of a full list of Suppliers' Day participants with name, company and contact information shortly after Suppliers' Day

With the added benefit of potentially having a research project worked on by a Cornell Summer Scholar, please consider becoming a NYIFT Corporate Sponsor today...your investment will go a long way. For additional information contact NYIFT at [nyiftoffice@optonline.net](mailto:nyiftoffice@optonline.net) or 201-905-0090.

For additional information about the Cornell Summer Scholars Program, or how to submit a potential project, please contact me ([leslieherzog@theuandigroup.com](mailto:leslieherzog@theuandigroup.com)).