



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Greetings industry friends! My thoughts this time of year turn toward the importance of maintaining strong relationships in every aspect of our lives. As successful business professionals you know the necessity of cultivating relationships with team members, clients, professional associations such as ours, and even competitors.

Our Association has a long history of providing opportunities for members to forge those relationships, helping each of us to build a foundation for future success. This issue of Highlights, showcases some of the events where members networked with colleagues, learned more about the current issues of our industry, and enjoyed expertly prepared food and thoughtful service at the same time.

Our tradition also includes recognizing the contributions of members who achieve their success through their hard work and through their creation of rewarding and lasting relationships. This year's Ken Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund Award honorees exemplify this philosophy. Each individual is talented and accomplished and demonstrates an approach that is replete with winning partnerships. We thank them for partnering with our Association and for exemplifying the best of the best. Please read more about John Eramo, Joe Gelchion, Hospitality Professionals of the Year, and Michael Rieck, Purveyor of the Year, inside this issue.

Lastly, I am happy to note the Associations' scholarships made to members' children studying in our industry were awarded this past year to Michael Cozza, son of Joseph Cozza studying at Widener University and Marissa Nocerino, daughter of Theresa Nocerino studying at Johnson & Wales University.

Together with our educational, social, and philanthropic work, we trust that our tradition of building strong relationships will continue to thrive. I look forward to seeing you on Friday, April 22nd to celebrate our Award honorees and toast our successful relationships with one another.

Very truly yours,

NYU Tisch Center Hospitality Students Undertake Research Survey of F&B Association Members

This spring, a team of New York University Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management undergraduate students studying Applied Research in Hospitality & Tourism will undertake a "real-work" experience by conducting a membership survey on behalf of their "client," the Food & Beverage Association. These upperclassmen, each with a concentration in lodging food and beverage operations or a similar specialty, will research, write, conduct, and present results of their survey of members.

The goal of the survey is to identify the interests, needs, and professional challenges of the food and beverage professional members of the Association to assist the Association to better fulfill its mission. The students gain practical applied research skills that all business professionals need in today's dynamic marketplace and the opportunity to work with members of the Association.

Under the guidance of NYU professor and active Association member, Donna Quadri-Felitti, the students will work closely with the leadership of the Association to develop their consulting project into useful data to help the Board of Directors plan, program and develop events for the future.

When you receive your survey, please respond promptly to assist in this worthwhile partnership between your Association and the future leaders of our industry.



NYU Tisch Center Students Team up to conduct Association member survey.
From left to right back row Tracy Kelleher, Bo Kim,
front row: Man-Hee Won and Rachael Ossakow.

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