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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a very different message than I hoped to be writing a few months ago. I think the reasons are evident to all, so I won't bore you with any more talk about the "new normal." But what I would like to do, firstly, is thank all of you for your patience and understanding during this time as we had to cancel our spring events. While the decision to do so wasn't hard from a practical perspective, it was disappointing to not have the opportunity to gather again with our members, friends, and students from universities across the state.

But I do want to assure you that we've continued to work virtually to wrap up the 2019-2020 programming year and transition to the next one that starts in September, and I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the things we have done.

First and foremost, even though we weren't able to have our annual Student Night, our Scholarship Committee still was able to select a talented group of seven students to award scholarships to. Raising money for and awarding these scholarships is one of the highest purposes of this organization and I'm proud that we were able to do this despite the uncertain situation.

We've also taken this opportunity to focus a little more internally and look at the way our board operates. As our organization matures, we've found the need to formalize position and committee duties so we are beginning the process of writing and approving these. Doing this will allow an easier onboarding process for those of you

who choose to join our board in the future.

And we are moving forward with our planning for next year, but with a healthy awareness that these plans may be subject to change. We have scheduled our annual golf outing for September 15, 2020 and our committee will begin work soon on planning the details of that important event. And our board will begin the process of mapping out the rest of the year in our June meeting.

As this is my final letter to you all as president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you. Whether you are someone I've had the pleasure of meeting at one of our events, or someone I've had the privilege of serving with on our board you've all made my involvement with the Wisconsin IFT a highlight of my professional life. This group has connected me to my profession in deeper and more meaningful ways than I could have ever experienced on the job, and I hope that it has done the same for you.

As always, if you have any ideas or want to get involved, I encourage you to reach out. Feel free to email me at [president@wisconsinift.org](mailto:president@wisconsinift.org). And finally a big thank you for continuing to support the Wisconsin IFT!

Regards,

*Nick Gauger*

Nick Gauger  
President



# 2019-2020 WIFT BOARD



## Nicholas Gauger

President  
Cargill



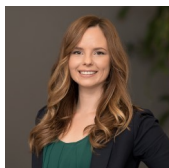
## Isaac Baek

President-Elect  
Dairyfood USA



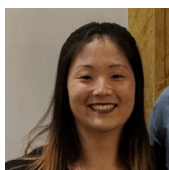
## Jessie Pawlowski

Past-President  
Griffith Foods



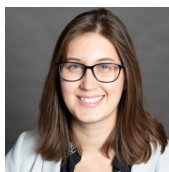
## Skyler Kontio

Treasurer  
First Choice Ingredients



## Melissa Hall

Secretary  
Cargill



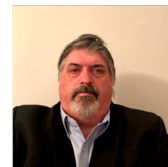
## Jake Parr

Director-at-Large  
Food Safety Net Services



## Sean McCormack

Director-at-Large  
JCB Flavors



## Nicole Gaudino

Director-at-Large  
Biospringer



## Laura Williams

Director-at-Large  
First Choice Ingredients



## David Lang

Student Representative  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Welcome new board members Caitlin and Kara! Their terms will begin September 2020.



## Caitlin Donohue

Director-at-Large  
Deerland Probiotics & Enzymes

Caitlin Donohue has been a marketing professional in the food ingredient industry for seven years.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Corporate & Health Communications from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, where she studied communications, biology, health and nutrition. Her industry experience includes working at Kerry for five years as a Global Marketing Manager, supporting global ingredient leaders like McCormick & Co. as a marketing agency Account Manager, and has recently joined Deerland Probiotics & Enzymes as Director of Marketing for their Pet division.

She's looking forward to getting more involved with WIFT, meeting other industry professionals and continuing to contribute to the ever-changing food industry.



## Kara Baldus

Secretary  
Hydrite Chemical Company

Kara Baldus is a Food Safety Program Manager for Hydrite Chemical Company where she is involved in the food industry training and microbiological support.

Ms. Baldus has 20 years of food microbiology experience, working in the food and contract laboratory industries prior to joining Hydrite. Much of her career has been spent on the control of foodborne pathogens in the manufacturing plant environment and continuous improvement of food safety systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), environmental monitoring programs (EMP), Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) audit schemes and Preventive Controls. She has been published in Food Quality & Safety Magazine and Food Safety Magazine.

Ms. Baldus graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Bacteriology and Genetics. She graduated from Edgewood College with a Master of Business degree with a concentration in Management and a Graduate Certificate in Total Quality.

# 2020 WIFT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Each year WIFT hosts Student Night to award and support Wisconsin-based students in the fields of food science and related fields. While we weren't able to host Student Night this year due to the COVID-19 situation, we're thrilled for the opportunity to continue supporting our hard working students through the scholarship program. So without further ado, please join us in congratulating our WIFT 2020 scholarship winners!

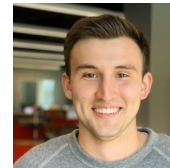
## Hannah Kranz

Graduate Student  
Washington State University



## Michael O'Connell

Undergraduate Student  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



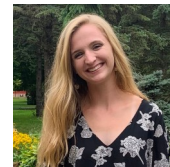
## Lauren Sipple

Graduate Student  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



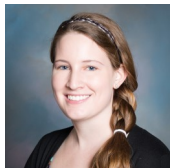
## Rebecca Tabler

Undergraduate Student  
University of Wisconsin-Stout



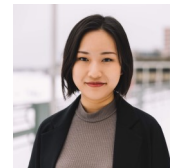
## Abigail Thiel

Graduate Student  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



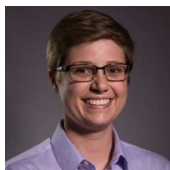
## Ingrid Zhou

Undergraduate Student  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



## Samantha VanWees

Graduate Student  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Lauren Sipple**  
Graduate Student

Lauren Sipple is a PhD student in Food Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is studying the effects of scraped surface freezer design on the microstructure of ice cream.

Lauren completed her bachelor's degree in Food Science at UW-Madison. During her senior year, she served as the WIFT student representative. Lauren recently graduated from North Carolina State University with her Master's degree in Food Science, where she investigated children's perceptions of fluid milk packaging. She presented this research at the IFT19 Dairy Division Graduate Student Oral Competition and will also be presenting her research on consumer perceptions of "better-for-you" frozen desserts at IFT20.

Lauren's industry experience includes roles at Land O'Lakes, Agropur, Smucker's, Wisconsin Center for Dairy Research, and the NCSU Sensory Service Center. Once she graduates, Lauren hopes to work in the dairy industry in a technical services role while continuing to promote consumer education about the science and nutrition of dairy foods.



**Michael O'Connell**  
Undergraduate Student

Michael O'Connell is a 2020 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an undergraduate degree in Food Science and certificate in Fermented Foods and Beverages.

During his time at UW, he was involved in the Food Science club with volunteering, product development teams, serving as product development co-chair and is a reigning 2019 IFT College Bowl champion.

Outside of school, Michael has worked in various kitchens where he has been able to apply the food science curriculum in subjects such as heat exchange, food safety, and flavor chemistry. He

has done a wide variety of tasks in the restaurant service, from folding pizza boxes to making bechamel. One of his philosophies with food is "You can't say you do not like something if you have never tried it."

Michael plans to attend the Culinary Institute of America this September for a one year accelerated culinary arts program.



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT – JESSIE PAWLOWSKI



Visit us online!  
[www.wisconsinift.org](http://www.wisconsinift.org)

**Career Background:** I obtained my B.S. and M.S. in Food Science from Purdue University and worked for Tate & Lyle and Kraft Heinz Company in technical roles for a few years. Then I transitioned to sales and worked for Dempsey Corporation and now Griffith Foods.

**Current role with WIFT:** I'm currently the Past President with the WIFT, focusing on advising, recruiting, committee work, and succession planning.

**Takeaways from being a board member:** I was initially nervous about taking on a leadership role so early during my time with the WIFT, but I dove in, trusting that the board would support me. The Presidency is set up as a 3 year progression, which enables a smoother on-boarding to the role and responsibilities. The experience I've gained and people I've met have contributed significantly to my professional development, and I encourage anyone who is curious about getting more involved to jump right in and do it!

"The experience I've gained and people I've met have contributed significantly to my professional development..."

**Favorite WIFT Event:** I really enjoyed the Braise dinner and cooking demo. A foodie at heart, I loved the intimate setting and recipes we covered, and I use that daisy cocktail recipe all the time!

**Hope for the future of WIFT:** I've greatly enjoyed getting to know our students through volunteering on the scholarship committee, and I can't wait to see how these individuals transition into professionals and become the next WIFT leaders. My hope is that we can integrate these young professionals into our section earlier and help to enable their success.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

### IFT 2020

July 12-15, 2020

This year's IFT Annual Event and Food Expo will be a virtual experience that provides our community an inclusive opportunity to support IFT's overarching purpose of gathering the global science of food and food innovation community together to share, learn, connect, and inspire the future of food.

**SHIFT20** See food innovation with a **whole new lens**

### GOLF OUTING

September 15th, 2020

We are cautiously optimistic that we can host WIFT's 15th Annual Golf Outing this fall. Stay tuned for additional information as we continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation!

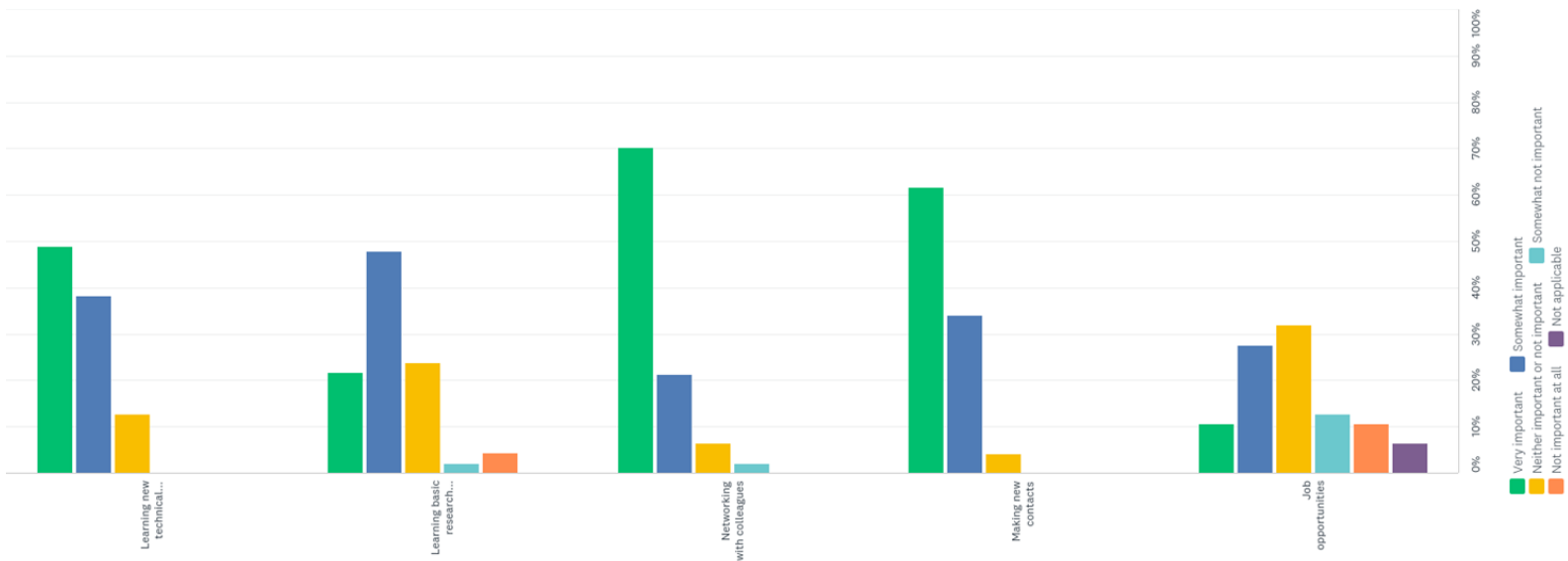


# 2020 WIFT SURVEY RESULTS

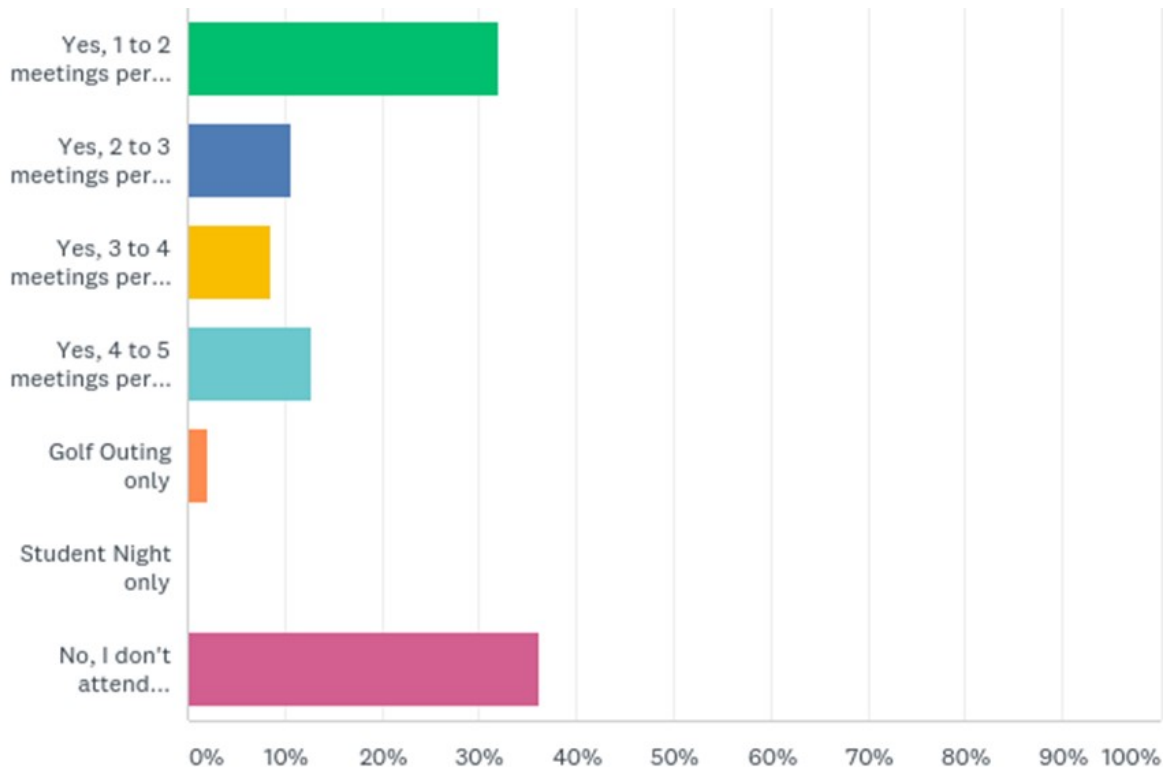


Thank you everyone who participated in our 2020 election surveys. Your feedback is valuable to us as we continue to strive for excellence in serving our members. Please see below for the survey results.

## What is important to you in being a WIFT member?



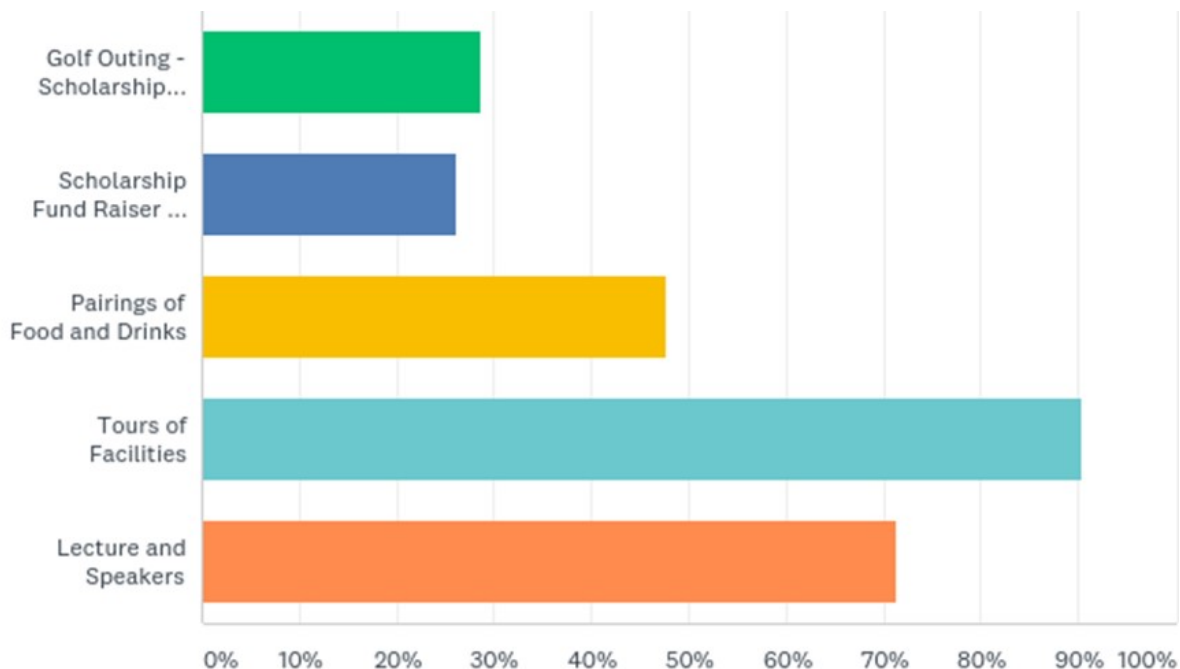
## Do you attend WIFT meetings?



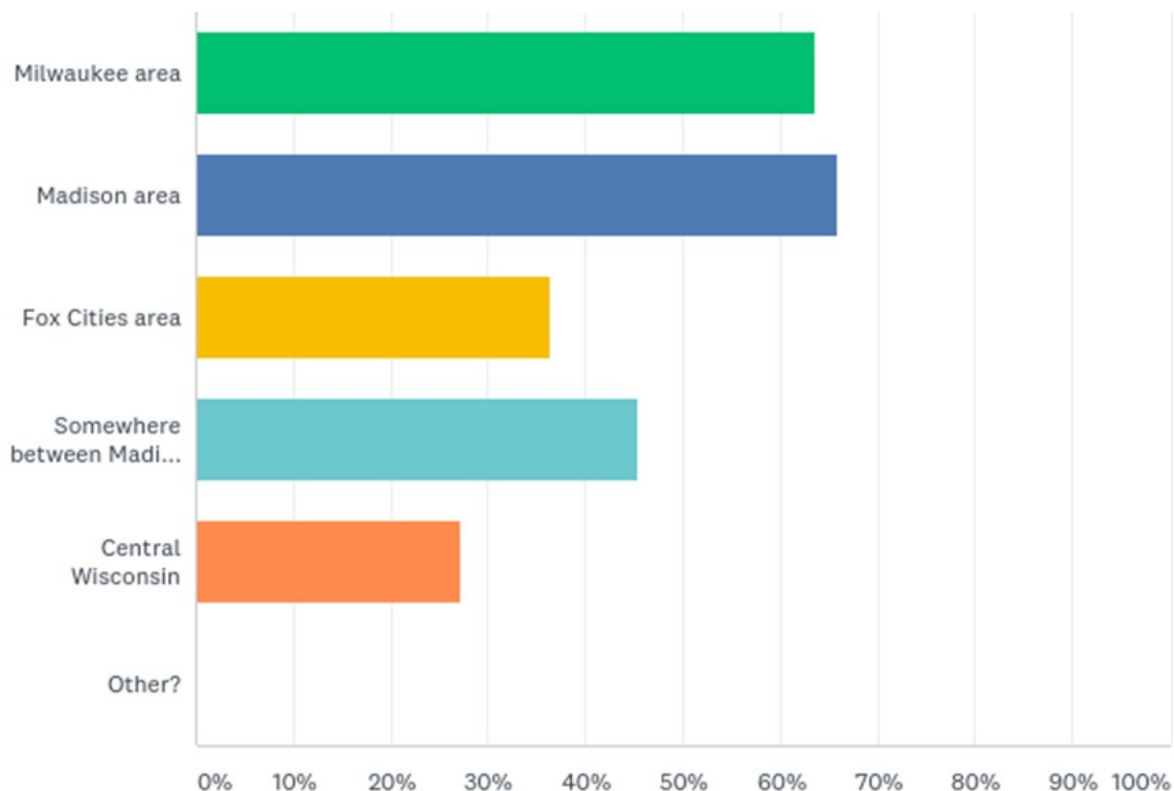
# 2020 WIFT SURVEY RESULTS



## What type of events would you like WIFT to have?



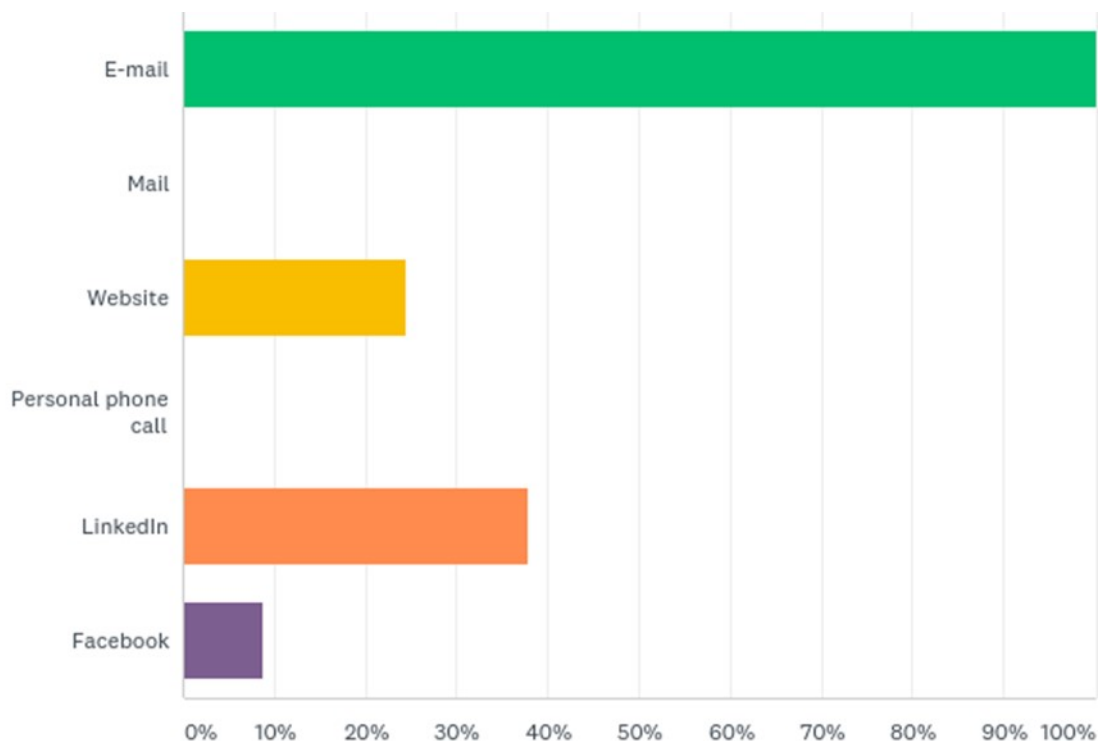
## Where would you like WIFT to hold events?



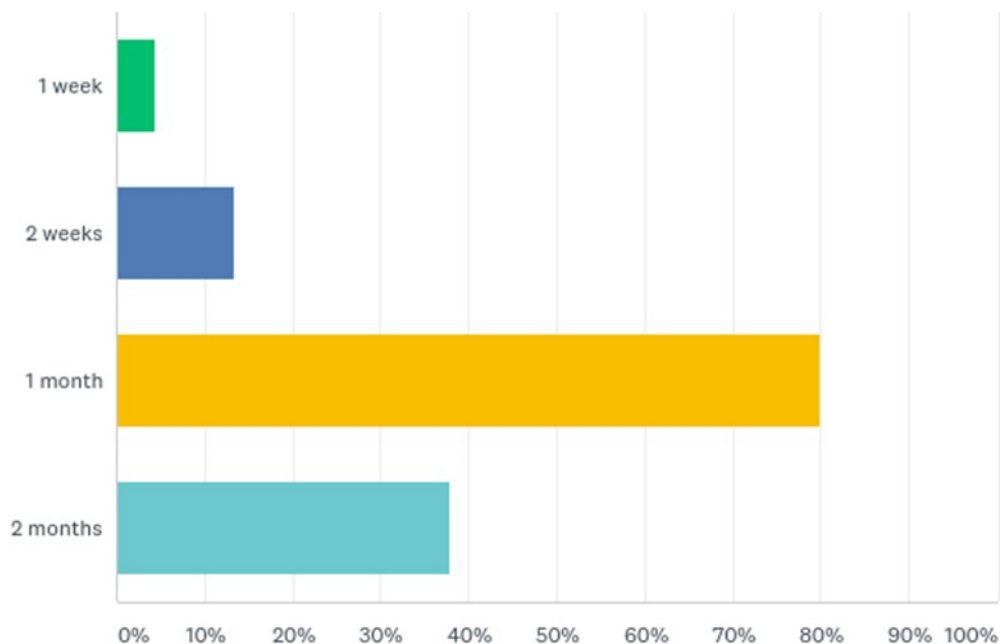
# 2020 WIFT SURVEY RESULTS



How would you like to receive information from WIFT about events and other important information?



How far in advance of an event do you want to hear about it?





## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

### Are you interested in being more involved with the food science community?

We invite you to volunteer with WIFT! A wide range of volunteer opportunities exist, from serving as a board member to volunteering for a committee. Volunteering with IFT is a great way to learn, make connections, collaborate, and share your knowledge with a global community of people who are passionate about the science of food. Please reference the Volunteer Spotlight section on page 4 to learn how volunteering has had a positive impact for WIFT Past-President Jessie Pawlowski!



**Thank You, IFT Volunteers!**

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Please see below for helpful resources provided by Kinsa Group.

- Maneuvering Your Job Search Through COVID-19
  - <https://www.kinsa.com/2020/04/13/job-search-tips-during-covid-19/>
- Resume & LinkedIn Profile Writing Services
  - <https://www.kinsa.com/2020/04/06/resume-writing-partnership/>
- Know your worth. Access competitive salary insight to attract and retain. Download Kinsa Group's free 2020 Food and Beverage Salary Guide now!
  - <https://www.kinsa.com/2020/04/20/developing-a-competitive-compensation-package-for-the-food-and-beverage-industry/>
  - <https://www.kinsa.com/2020-salary-guide/>

### Contact Us!

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### Hole Sponsors

