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Kitchen Innovations® Awards Submissions Are Now Open for Recognition at the 2020 National Restaurant Association Show

KI Awards program celebrates innovative new equipment that delivers advancements in speed, efficiency, safety, and more

CHICAGO, IL — Now in its 101st year and embarking on a new centennial, the 2020 [National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show](#)®, the premier event to learn about technology innovations, unique ingredients, and emerging trends in the restaurant industry, is now accepting applications for the 2020 Kitchen Innovations (KI) Awards. Celebrating its 16th anniversary, the KI Awards program has earned a reputation for defining the gold standard of foodservice equipment. The program recognizes innovations that meaningfully improve back-of-house operations. Forward-thinking and cutting-edge, this is the equipment that generates industry growth through a focus on automation, efficiency, safety improvements, sustainability, waste solutions, and more.

“The overarching goal of the National Restaurant Association Show is to identify, showcase and celebrate industrywide innovations and trends that are improving efficiency and supporting business growth,” said Tom Cindric, president of Winsight Exhibitions. “The Kitchen Innovations Awards will give a nod to forward-thinking, cutting-edge equipment that will shape and showcase the future of the industry. We look forward to seeing the emerging trends and innovative products that will be submitted for this year’s awards.”

Recognized products will be featured in the popular KI Showroom at the 2020 Restaurant Show, May 16-19, at Chicago’s McCormick Place. Thousands of operators, dealers, consultants, and media professionals can see product demonstrations in the KI Showroom throughout the four-day event. The KI Showroom draws large crowds with dedicated exhibit space for each KI-awarded product, open spaces for conversations, and Fireside Chats where experts share insights about implementing

innovative equipment solutions.

"I believe the KI Awards is one of the best and most comprehensive evaluations of new products in the foodservice industry because of the deliberate selection process and the professed panel of judges. It is an honor to be chosen and a privilege to have a booth in the KI Pavilion where we are able to talk with top-tier attendees who are truly interested in cutting-edge technology and equipment that can elevate their operations," said Sally Ray, Senior Marketing Manager, Hoshizaki America, Inc.

KI-awarded equipment enjoys significant return on investment and industry-wide exposure before and after the Show:

- Validation and credibility from a panel of expert industry judges, including operators, consultants, and specifiers
- Turnkey exhibit space in the highly trafficked KI Showroom
- KI Awards logo and custom signage for use in marketing efforts for the life of the product
- High-profile exposure on and off the Show floor
- Increased media coverage and visibility with influential dealers and operators
- Exposure through Show attendee marketing, including listings on the National Restaurant Association Show's website
- Manufacturers' recognition as an industry leader

EJ Morrow, Global President, Lancer Corporation, a recipient of a 2019 KI Award, shared why they participate in the program: "It's an honor to receive the National Restaurant Association's KI Award. It has highlighted the hard work of our team, giving us market exposure we would not have generated without the award."

Application information for the 2020 KI Awards is available at nationalrestaurantshow.com/event-info/kitchen-innovations. The deadline to apply is December 18, 2019. To qualify, all equipment innovations must have been introduced within 24 months prior to the 2020 Restaurant Show. These products must demonstrate considerable benefits to foodservice operators as determined by our independent panel of industry experts: Dan Bendall (Principal, FoodStrategy, Inc.), David Chislett (Executive Principal, Ricca Design Studios), Richard Eisenbarth, FCSI (President/COO, Cini-Little International), Foster F. Frable, Jr., FCSI, Associate AIA (President, Clevenger Frable LaVallee), Randy Homer (Program Manager, Food & Beverage Operations Asset Management, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts), Jim Krueger, Jr., CMCE, NRAMF (Chief, Air Force Food & Beverage Policy, Procedures, Business Development & Strategic Initiatives Air Force Services Activity, Food & Beverage Branch), and Steve Otto (Director, Capital Equipment Purchasing, Darden).

Visit nationalrestaurantshow.com/event-info/kitchen-innovations for more details on the KI program, how to apply, and to see a list of previous award recipients. Registration for the show opens late October. To be notified when registration opens, [click here](#). For more information and stay engaged with the community, visit the Show on social at [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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The National Restaurant Association Show, Hotel-Motel Show is owned and operated by Winsight LLC in equity partnership with the National Restaurant Association.

About the National Restaurant Association

Founded in 1919, the National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant industry, which comprises more than one million restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of more than 15.3 million employees. It represents the industry in Washington, D.C., and in partnership with 52 state associations, advocates on the industry's behalf in states and locations across the nation. The Association manages the leading food safety training and certification program (ServSafe); a unique career-building high school program (the NRAEF's ProStart); and sponsor the industry's largest annual trade show (National Restaurant Association Show May 16-19, 2020, in Chicago). For more information and stay engaged with the community, visit the Show on social at [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

About Winsight LLC

Winsight LLC is a business-to-business information, event and market intelligence company serving the restaurant and noncommercial foodservice, convenience and petroleum retailing and grocery industries. Winsight provides research and analytics, branding solutions, face-to-face opportunities, lead generation initiatives, and content marketing services through products including subscription data products, reports, research tools, research programs, fully custom studies, conferences, custom marketing services, meetings, print, digital trade media and tradeshows, including the National Restaurant Association Show. Winsight LLC is a portfolio company of Pamlico Capital.