



AACT Stroud Jordan award to Michelle Schwenk, PhD

Michelle Schwenk, PhD, has been selected as the 2024 recipient of the Stroud Jordan award by the American Association of Candy Technologists (AACT). The award will be presented on October 8, 2024 during the National Technical Seminar banquet.

Schwenk is the founder and president of Bellis Food Solutions, which provides contract product development and research to food, pharmaceutical and supplement companies.

She studied Food Science at the University of Illinois and started her career at Crest Foods. Wanting to learn more, she returned to school and received her master's degree in food science. She went on to work at Domino Sugar, then transitioned to A.E. Staley and eventually to Tate & Lyle for 20 years in roles from food scientist to principal scientist. After Tate & Lyle, she worked for several years at ADM as a group director of wellness and carbohydrate technology before founding Bellis Food Solutions.

Earning her PhD in Food Science, Schwenk conducted research on thermal behavior of crystalline carbohydrate material. In 2024, she and her team

launched Candy Mentor, an online resource for technical candy knowledge and information.

She is an active member of AACT, joining the board in 2010 and has served in many leadership roles including president. She teaches classes with PMCA and has been an instructor for Candy School at University of Wisconsin – Madison for over 20 years. She is a frequent speaker at technical seminars and has published several articles in the *Manufacturing Confectioner* magazine.

Additionally, Schwenk is the executive director of Engineer in the Classroom, an all-volunteer based organization that pairs technical people with fifth grade classrooms to share engineering careers.

This award is given in honor of the late Stroud Jordan, a pioneer candy technologist, to recognize individuals who have provided exceptional and outstanding service, not just to the AACT, but to the confectionery industry as a whole.



Michelle Schwenk, PhD

Past recipients of the Stroud Jordan award

2023 Lynn Wieland	2005 Ed Minson	1987 Odvar Solstad	1968 Herbert Knechtel
2022 Michelle Frame	2004 Tim J. Murphy	1986 William N. Duck	1967 Jay C. Musser
2021 Sandra Murphy	2003 Ron Bixler	1984 George Jenkins	1966 Rodney Welch
2020 Eric Schmoyer	2002 Reg Ohlson	1983 George Richardson	1965 John W. Vassos
2019 Rose Potts	2001 Melvin O. Warnecke	1982 Silvio Crespo	1964 Prudence W. Allured
2018 Gwen Evenstad	2000 Ed Seguine	1981 Bernard Minifie	1963 Archie B. Cramer
2017 Pam Gesford	1999 Jack Collins	1980 Donald Mitchell	1962 W. Tresper Clarke
2016 Randy Hofberger	1998 James McGovern	1979 John A. Kooreman	1961 Samuel F. Hinkle
2015 Marlene Stauffer	1997 Richard Schier	1978 Robert P. Allen	1960 Kathryn E. Langwill
2014 Michael Allured	1996 Reg Groves	1977 Bart Siebers	1959 Otto H. Windt
2013 Bob Huzinec	1995 Joachim (Joe) H. von Elbe	1976 Lloyd Latten	1958 Horace B. Cosler
2012 Rich Hartel, PhD	1994 Carl O. Moore	1975 Gerald Doolin	1957 Norman W. Kempf
2011 Terry Richardson	1993 Allen R. Allured	1974 Horton Corwin	1956 John M. Krno
2010 Robert Boutin	1992 Patrick J. Huffman	1973 Simon O. Schnitzer	1955 C. Rudolph Kroeckel
2009 Judy Cooley	1991 Walter Vink	1972 Fred Janssen	1954 Justin J. Alikonis
2008 John Urbanski	1990 Patrick Hurley	1971 Elwood W. Meyers	1953 Hans F. Dresel
2007 Ed Wilson	1989 Maurice Jeffery	1970 Gordon R. Maybee	1952 James P. Booker
2006 Paul Richards	1988 John Kitt	1969 L. Russell Cook	1951 James A. King