



AACT Stroud Jordan award to Joseph Sofia

Joseph (Joe) Sofia has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Stroud Jordan award by the American Association of Candy Technologists (AACT). The award will be presented October 14, 2025 during the National Technical Seminar banquet.

Sofia is senior technical services advisor at Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate, providing technical and product development support to Cargill's confectionery customers. Joe studied chemical engineering at Cornell University. Cornell had a lottery system to choose who received an interview with popular employers, and he won the lottery. He started his career as an engineer in the chocolate division of Nestlé in Fulton, New York. Nestlé Foods was the company he wanted to work for.

Wanting to learn more about chocolate and its applications, he moved into the R&D department as a product and process specialist, supporting the Nestlé confectionery brands sold at retail. Joe transferred to the Nestlé facility in Burlington, Wisconsin, and became active in the Milwaukee chapter of the AACT. It was during this time he also began developing a love for making his own confections, and an interest in the

Peter's bulk chocolate division of Nestlé. Sofia was offered a position as district sales manager for the Peter's division. In 2002, the Peter's Chocolate division was sold to Cargill where Joe has been ever since, moving back into the technical side of the business.



Joseph Sofia

He teaches classes with PMCA and has been an instructor at the RCI Chocolate Boot Camp and other RCI classes for more than 15 years. Joe has been a speaker at the AACT Technical Seminars and has published articles in the *MC/Manufacturing Confectioner* and *RCI Kettle Talk* publications. He supports the RCAP and their Philadelphia Candy Show with seminars and demonstrations. His favorite hobby is making chocolates with friends in his home candy kitchen.

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.

Past recipients of the Stroud Jordan award

2024 Michelle Schwenk, PhD	2006 Paul Richards	1988 John Kitt	1968 Herbert Knechtel
2023 Lynn Wieland	2005 Ed Minson	1987 Odvar Solstad	1967 Jay C. Musser
2022 Michelle Frame	2004 Tim J. Murphy	1986 William N. Duck	1966 Rodney Welch
2021 Sandra Murphy	2003 Ron Bixler	1984 George Jenkins	1965 John W. Vassos
2020 Eric Schmoyer	2002 Reg Ohlson	1983 George Richardson	1964 Prudence W. Allured
2019 Rose Potts	2001 Melvin O. Warnecke	1982 Silvio Crespo	1963 Archie B. Cramer
2018 Gwen Evenstad	2000 Ed Seguin	1981 Bernard Minifie	1962 W. Tresper Clarke
2017 Pam Gesford	1999 Jack Collins	1980 Donald Mitchell	1961 Samuel F. Hinkle
2016 Randy Hofberger	1998 James McGovern	1979 John A. Kooreman	1960 Kathryn E. Langwill
2015 Marlene Stauffer	1997 Richard Schier	1978 Robert P. Allen	1959 Otto H. Windt
2014 Michael Allured	1996 Reg Groves	1977 Bart Siebers	1958 Horace B. Cosler
2013 Bob Huzinec	1995 Joachim (Joe) H. von Elbe	1976 Lloyd Latten	1957 Norman W. Kempf
2012 Rich Hartel, PhD	1994 Carl O. Moore	1975 Gerald Doolin	1956 John M. Krno
2011 Terry Richardson	1993 Allen R. Allured	1974 Horton Corwin	1955 C. Rudolph Kroeckel
2010 Robert Boutin	1992 Patrick J. Huffman	1973 Simon O. Schnitzer	1954 Justin J. Alikonis
2009 Judy Cooley	1991 Walter Vink	1972 Fred Janssen	1953 Hans F. Dresel
2008 John Urbanski	1990 Patrick Hurley	1971 Elwood W. Meyers	1952 James P. Booker
2007 Ed Wilson	1989 Maurice Jeffery	1970 Gordon R. Maybee	1951 James A. King
		1969 L. Russell Cook	