A LETTER FROM ALAN REED

Executive Director, Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network

One of the best parts about being the Executive Director of the Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network is the opportunity to work closely with our incredible members on an ongoing basis. Getting to know these companies and their leaders/employees has been a great honor and privilege. Our members are truly leading the way in the food & beverage industry locally as well as nationally. Listing just a few of the recent awards our members have won, you’ll find an impressive list of companies and accomplishments:

- **The Kellogg Company** was named one of the top 50 companies for diversity by *Diversity Inc.*
- **FONA International**’s President, Amy McDonald, received an inaugural *Great Place to Work for All* Leadership Award.
- **Tiesta Tea** - Co-founders Patrick Tannous & Dan Klein were recognized in *Inc.* magazine for their Rising Stars 30 under 30 Entrepreneurs List
- **Kinsa Group** - recognized as one of America’s Best Professional Recruiting Firm by *Forbes* magazine
- **Edlong** Named one of America’s Healthiest Companies by Interactive Health, and Edlong was also named among the best places to work by *Crain’s Chicago Business*
- **Kraft Heinz** won the 2018 Plant of the Year award from *Food Engineering*
- **Plante Moran** was #20 on *Fortune’s* 100 Best Companies to work for 2018
- **Perkins Coie** was #58 on *Fortune’s* 100 Best Companies to work for 2018
- **Mars** was #83 on *Fortune’s* 100 Best Companies to work for 2018
- **Foodminds (Padilla)** was recently selected by the Produce for Better Health Foundation as their ‘agency of record’

And, while this is an impressive list, I know that there are many more of our members whose honors and awards I have probably overlooked (if I have, don’t hesitate to let me know at alan@chicagolandfood.org). Thanks to our members for their ongoing engagement, for their commitment to building a better industry, and their dedication to their employees and local communities. You are making a difference for Chicagoland and leading the way for companies here and around the world.

Thank you!

**NETWORK NEWS**

**ACT NOW!! CFBN Start Up Zone at Smart Food Expo**

This summer, we will be hosting “The Chicagoland Food & Beverage Start-Up Zone” on the SmartFood Expo floor to promote food and beverage start-up companies in the city of Chicago. SmartFood Expo is making booth space available to CFBN member companies at a rate of $995 that includes a branded kiosk, allowing attendees to sample products and drive success.

[READ MORE](#)

**Coca Cola's Derk Hendriksen Lays it all Out**

April 17, 2018 by Donna Berry

“If companies stop competing for a second and start collaborating, there’s a lot we can do,” said Derk Hendriksen, vice-president and general manager of the Ekocenter project for the Coca-Cola Co., Atlanta, at Tyson Foods’ Chicago office last week.

[READ MORE](#)

**Forbes, Inc. Names CFBN Member Kinsa Group to America's Best Professional Recruiting Firms List**

April 17, 2018

Kinsa Group announced today they have been recognized by Forbes, Inc. as one of 2018’s America’s Best Professional Recruiting Firms.

[READ MORE](#)

**Inc. Recognizes CFBN Member Tiesta Tea Founders as 30 Under 30**

Nothing better illustrates the vibrancy of entrepreneurship than *Inc.*’s Rising Stars, the inspiring under 30 founders who are blazing paths in fields ranging from diamond-making to tech to beekeeping. Presenting the 30 Under 30 stars of the future— and for today.
This year, they are the only Chicago entrepreneurs on the list and are 1 of 4 Food & Beverage companies that made the list!

READ MORE

Katlin Smith, founder and CEO of CFBN Member Simple Mills, featured in Crain's Article: How to create and sustain more women-led businesses

Crain's talked to two entrepreneurs and one venture capitalist about the challenges they face and what needs to happen for more women-owned businesses to reach the next level of growth.

READ MORE

Dan Klein, Tiesta Tea Founder, Honored in Crain's 2018 20 in their 20s

Looking for the next big thing in Chicago business, tech and innovation? Follow these 20 young change-makers to find clues. Among their ranks: social problem-solvers, emerging entrepreneurs and money masters. Some generate big revenues. Others challenge the status quo. Not one is older than 29.

READ MORE

Welcome to Our New Members!

Our network continues to grow! We are excited to welcome ConnectFood and OwlTing to the CFBN, which includes over 60 corporate members and almost 100 individual members (and counting). Thank you for being a part of the Network!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Corporate Social Responsibility: The Key to Driving Relevant Brands

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Perkins Coie, 131 S Dearborn St #1700, Chicago, IL 60603

Corporate Social Responsibility used to be seen as a separate group of activities and promises that companies made to their customers, and to improve the world around them. But, as CSR has evolved, it has come to be the heart and soul of companies, as well the set of factors that make their brand and company cultures differentiated and relevant. Join us for cocktails and appetizers to hear a panel of experts discuss trends in CSR, how CSR is brought to life within companies (both big and small) today, and walk through an exercise that helps to clarify your CSR statement and give it life.

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Fresh & Less Processed: High Pressure Processing

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Institute of Food Technologists® 525 W. Van Buren Street, Suite 1000 Chicago, IL 60607
As consumers continue to demand fresh and less processed foods, high pressure pasteurization – an old technology – is finding new relevance in the marketplace and spreading rapidly across the US and the world. This is the enabling technology behind many cold pressed juices, fresh dips and salsas, even fresh fruits and vegetables in smoothies, shots, and other applications. Join us for breakfast to hear about the trends that are driving the industry, the process of getting started and using the technology on your products, and the leading edge of science and food safety related to this exciting technology.

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE: INNOVATION BREAKFAST

Thursday, June 14, 2018
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Fifty Gazelles
WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION!

FamilyFarmed's Good Food Financing & Innovation Conference

Tuesday, June 19, 2018
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Morgan MFG, 401 N Morgan, Chicago, IL 60642

Entrepreneurs can apply now for two great opportunities for visibility and new connections. Apply by May 23 for the Conference’s first-ever competitive business Pitch Slam. Apply by May 29 to be selected for the Financing Fair, where rising food businesses exhibit their products and interact with an elite audience of investors, potential business partners and buyers.

In its 8th year, FamilyFarmed’s Good Food Financing & Innovation Conference is the Midwest’s premier event for thought leaders, innovators, stakeholders and entrepreneurs to learn, connect, cultivate ideas and drive innovation in Chicago’s booming Good Food landscape. Businesses in FamilyFarmed’s network, which includes the Good Food Accelerator, have generated over $50 million in financing. Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network is proud to be a sponsor of FamilyFarmed’s Good Food Financing & Innovation Conference.

Early bird prices are in effect through May 31.

MORE INFORMATION

Dinner on the Roof: A Farm to Table Experience

Wednesday, June 20, 2018
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Roof Crop, 1516 W Carroll Ave Chicago, IL 60607
WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Using Big Data to Build Food & Beverage Brands

Tuesday, June 26, 2018
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
In today’s digital environment, data is everywhere. The key is not only in gathering the information, but leveraging it such that it grows your business. You not only have to compile the information, but skillfully analyze the results, providing insight into customers, marketing and more. Companies who are able to use data to inform their decisions show a productivity rate 5-6% higher than their competitors. Come for breakfast and learn from our panelists about how Big Data can help your company grow.

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE: CFBN 2nd ANNUAL MEETING: NextGen Leadership

Tuesday, October 10, 2018

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION!

STAY IN THE KNOW! Our food & beverage industrywide events calendar is updated regularly.

CAREER BOARD

Check out new opportunities in the Chicagoland area!

Our members are always looking for talented candidates to fill positions within their organizations. We’re here to connect you to those wonderful opportunities. Check out these latest postings from our members!

Engineering & Facilities Manager II, The Kellogg Company

Provide technical expertise and management around capital projects, construction projects, facility maintenance, and much more. LEARN MORE

Beverage Scientist, Imbibe

This position will lead product development and commercialization efforts across a wide variety of beverage formats, from powders and shots, to juices and low-acid protein drinks. READ MORE

Business Process Owner, Mars Wrigley Confectionery

This role leads the design, development, training, education and application of world class business processes and controls to resolve complex business technical issues related to the finance processes. READ MORE

For access to all job postings from our members, visit our job board. Check back often as new openings are added regularly.

INDUSTRY NEWS
SIMPLE MILLS CEO, KATLIN SMITH TALKS WITH CRAIN’S ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF BEING A FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR
April 30, 2018 by Crain’s Chicago Business

A lack of organizational funding is one of the biggest challenges that start-up CEOs have to face. When asked about this imbalance, Katlin feels that “fewer women entrepreneurs receive funding because they simply don’t have the network.” Katlin references to her own experience, going through the New Venture Challenge at Booth, “it created this built in network of investors. Our first fundraising round was insane, and I heard "no" a million times. But I was also...
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MILLERCOORS GETS INNOVATIVE WITH FERMENTATION PROCESS
March 23, 2018 by Andrew Klosinski

The work of an optimization engineer involves finding ways to increase the amount of product the plant produces using its existing equipment, combined with reducing costs wherever possible, all while maintaining critical product quality attributes. Some modest spending for equipment upgrades is normally expected to accomplish these tasks, but usually the idea is to avoid significant capital costs. So, let's think about how this...
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TYSON FOODS’ VC ARM INVESTS IN ISRAELI LAB-GROWN MEAT BUSINESS
May 3, 2018 by Cathy Siegner

"This is our first investment in an Israel-based company and we’re excited about this opportunity to broaden our exposure to innovative, new ways of producing protein," said Justin Whitmore, Tyson Foods’ executive vice-president, corporate strategy and chief sustainability officer,
READ MORE »

KELLOGG’S Q1 EARNINGS TOP ESTIMATES
May 3, 2018 by Emma Liem

The company updated its guidance and now expects 3% to 4% net sales growth and 9% to 11% adjusted EPS growth. "we made visible progress on key elements of our growth plan, achieving accelerated growth in frozen foods and Pringles, stabilizing cereal in developed international cereal markets...."
READ MORE »
in growing the region’s food & beverage industry and in making a better Chicagoland!

OUR MISSION
To drive inclusive economic growth in Chicagoland by bringing together the region’s food and beverage industry stakeholders to pursue collaborative opportunities.