



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Research Chefs Association Announces 2017 Board of Directors

Chicago (March 20, 2017) – The [Research Chefs Association](http://www.researchchefs.org) (RCA) has announced its 2017 board of directors. The newly elected and continuing officers and directors began their term as of March 18, 2017, and include:

PRESIDENT

Jason Behrends, Ph.D., CCS®
R&D Director of PDM Business Strategy
Tyson Foods, Inc.
Springdale, Arkansas

VICE PRESIDENT

Anh Nguy
Principal Culinologist
Ingredion Incorporated
Bridgewater, New Jersey

TREASURER

Paul Rockwell, CEC, CFS
Executive R&D Chef
Diversified Foods & Seasonings
Madisonville, Louisiana

SECRETARY

Justin Kanthak
Account Director
Griffith Foods
Bartlett, Illinois

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Catherine Proper, CEC
Senior Director Product Development and Quality Assurance
SUPERVALU, Inc.
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Gerrie Bouchard, CRC®, MBA

Director of Marketing
ADM/Eatem Foods
Vineland, New Jersey

Amanda Bushong

Director of Merchandising
Kansas City State Co.
Kansas City, Missouri

Erich Chieca

Culinary Sales Manager - National Accounts
Lactalis Culinary
Commerce Township, Michigan

Jeff Cowles, CCS®

Director of Culinary Sales
SugarCreek
St. Simons Island, Georgia

Stephen A. Kalil, CEC, CRC®

Director of R&D, Global Executive Chef
PepsiCo
Plano, Texas

Jaime Mestan, CSC®

Director of Bistro Products
Vienna Beef Ltd.
Chicago, Illinois

Nelson Serrano-Bahri

Vice President & Executive Chef
Puerto Rico Food Innovations, LLC
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Kami R. Smith, C.E.P.C.

Director of Culinary Showcasing
Pecan Deluxe Candy Company
Dallas, Texas

Rosemary Trout, MS, Food Science & Biotechnology

Department Head, Culinary Arts and Food Science and Instructor of Food Science
Drexel University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Barbara Zatto

Shoreline, Washington

Mark Hughes

President
Anderson Partners Food Ingredient Marketing
Omaha, Nebraska

BOARD ADVISOR

Allen Freed

President

AJ Freed, LLC

Tucson, Arizona

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About the Research Chefs Association

Founded in 1996, the [Research Chefs Association](#) has rapidly grown to more than 2,000 members, including chefs, food scientists, technologists, writers, nutritionists, academics, researchers, consultants, sales and marketing professionals, suppliers, co-packers, distributors and students. RCA integrates food science and culinary arts expertise to elevate product development and is committed to the advancement of Culinology®—the blending of the culinary arts and food sciences.

For more information on the RCA, visit www.culinology.org.