



**THE FRAGRANCE
FOUNDATION**

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**AT CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS EVENT HONORING FIT FACULTY
THE FRAGRANCE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED ITS FIRST-EVER ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
TO ADVANCE INDUSTRY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

**\$100,000 Scholarship to Benefit FIT's Cosmetics and Fragrance Programs as the Latest
Development in The Fragrance Foundation's #FragranceForwardTFF DEI Initiative**

NEW YORK, November 5, 2021 – Within weeks of launching **#FragranceForwardTFF**, a sweeping initiative to advance industry diversity, The Fragrance Foundation has announced a new scholarship program to benefit the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) and students of diverse backgrounds interested in pursuing a career in fragrance. ***The Fragrance Foundation FIT Diversity Scholarship*** is a \$100,000 academic award that will benefit FIT's Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing programs on the undergraduate and graduate levels. Scholarships for both programs will be awarded based on application criteria for the desired program. The first of its kind, *The Fragrance Foundation FIT Diversity Scholarship* serves as an ongoing investment in the future of the industry, as well as a pillar of support in creating opportunities for more diverse students to pursue their passion for fragrance through a rigorous, industry-focused education at FIT.

"The Fragrance Foundation FIT Diversity Scholarship signifies a collective commitment to diversity, and a natural next step in the advancement of our #FragranceForwardTFF initiative," says Linda G. Levy, president, The Fragrance Foundation. "This is a groundbreaking moment for us all as we amplify our commitment to championing diversity in all of its forms, and strive towards a fully inclusive industry that is an accurate reflection of our world."

The announcement of the scholarship was made at TFF's *Circle of Champions 2021* event held at 583 Park Avenue, honoring **Virginia Bonofiglio**, assistant professor and head of the Bachelor of Science program in [Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing](#) (CFM) and **Stephan Kanlian**, professor and head of the master's degree program in [Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing and Management](#). The event – which this year marked the first time that educators have been honored and included FIT students – is an annual tradition of The Fragrance Foundation. Hosted by **Linda G. Levy**, president of The Fragrance Foundation, the event featured remarks by both honorees; **Dr. Joyce F. Brown**, president of FIT; and two FIT graduates: **Tennille Kopiasz**, global chief marketing officer, Fresh: LVMH, who received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from FIT's cosmetic and fragrance programs and **Crystal Sai**, executive director, chief of staff, global online, Estée Lauder Companies, who received her master's degree from the CFMM program.

Adds Ms. Levy, "We are absolutely delighted to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of FIT's Virginia Bonofiglio and Stephan Kanlian, whose dedication to training and

instructing future leaders in the fragrance industry through academic purpose and innovation is truly unparalleled.”

“FIT is honored to receive this timely and important support from The Fragrance Foundation that will help change the face of the fragrance industry,” says Dr. Joyce F. Brown, president, FIT. “With thanks to TFF, our students will have the benefit of exemplary teaching, involvement with current research, and exposure to industry best practices. This scholarship will transform our students’ lives and prepare them for executive ranks and leadership roles.”

Among the 175+ attendees were renowned artist and designer **Rebecca Moses**, an FIT alumna, whose original drawings are being donated to FIT by The Fragrance Foundation; **Dr. Brooke Carlson**, Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies at FIT; **Shannon Maher**, interim dean, Jay and Patty Baker School of Business and Technology; **Chris Collins**, owner World of Chris Collins fragrance brand; **Rob Smith**, LGBTQ+ advocate and founder, The Phluid Project; **Linda Song**, senior perfumer, Givaudan; top editors **Linda Wells and Bridget Foley**; designer **Francisco Costa**; NEST Fragrances CEO **Laura Slatkin**, and several board members of The Fragrance Foundation, including: **Kate Oldham**, Saks Fifth Avenue; **Emily Bond**, Givaudan; **Ann Gottlieb**; **Julie Walsh**, Macy’s Inc.; **Denis Ferenc**, IFF; **Birgit Benayoun**, Mane; **Belinda Pickford**; Estee Lauder Companies.; **Ron Rolleston**, Revlon; **Julien Gommichon**, Diptyque & Byredo; **Maria Dempsey**, NEST New York; **Pierre Wulff**, Robertet; **Nancy Berger**, Hearst; and, **Marc Blaison**, Cosmo International Fragrances.

The Fragrance Foundation FIT Diversity Scholarship is just one facet of #FragranceForwardTFF, a focused initiative that was created to open the doors of the fragrance industry to everyone. Having launched in October 2021 with an insightful webinar on *Industry Perspectives on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion* offering actionable next steps and best practices from pioneering industry leaders, the initiative also includes a series of career development workshops at colleges and universities nationwide. Spelman College, an Historically Black Institution in Atlanta, was the first in the workshop series. Other elements of #FragranceForwardTFF include dedicated resources towards education, mentorship, and recruitment, as well as a push for awareness and acceptance at all levels. TFF members have also committed to a signatory TFF DEI Pledge that calls for a commitment to being “fragrance forward” in hiring practices, advancement opportunities, mentorship, recruitment and inclusivity.

About The Fragrance Foundation:

The Fragrance Foundation is the premier resource for industry expertise, innovation, and education. United under the mission statement “to inspire the world to discover the artistry and passion of fragrance,” The Fragrance Foundation is devoted to nurturing talent, engaging consumers and driving diversity, equity and inclusion. Through its signature initiative, #FragranceForwardTFF, The Fragrance Foundation is making the industry accessible, welcoming and diverse through the collective power of its 100+ members and an unwavering commitment. Follow The Fragrance Foundation on social media: @fragrancefoundation.

About FIT:

A part of the State University of New York, FIT has been a leader in career education in art, design, business, and technology throughout its history. Providing almost 9,000 students with an uncommon blend of hands-on, practical experience, theory, and a firm grounding in the liberal arts, the college offers a wide range of affordable programs that foster innovation and collaboration. Its distinctive

curriculum is geared to today's rapidly growing creative economy, including fields such as computer animation, toy design, production management, film and media, and cosmetics and fragrance marketing. Internationally renowned, FIT draws on its New York City location to provide a vibrant, creative community in which to learn. The college offers nearly 50 majors and grants AAS, BFA, BS, MA, MFA, and MPS degrees, preparing students for professional success and leadership in the new creative economy.

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