2024 AFA Food Institute Agenda

Sunday, May 19 - Tuesday, May 21, 2024
Marriott Chicago O’Hare
8535 W Higgins Rd
Chicago, Illinois 60631
*Schedule is Subject to Change

Sunday
2:45pm  Mix and Mingle Registration
3:45pm  Welcome and Orientation
  •  2024 AFA Student Advisory Team Hosts
5:00pm  Dinner with Alumni/Industry Professionals
  •  Hot Topics or Competencies in the Industry Dinner with Alumni and Industry Professionals
  •  Casual
6:00pm  Adjourn for the Evening
Monday

7:15am  Students Load Tour Busses
7:30am  Tour Groups Begin Departing
8:00am  Food Industry and Research Tours
    Visit food manufacturing facilities, sensory labs, research and development innovation spaces to see first-hand what a career in the food industry could look like for you.
3:00pm  Adjourn Industry Tours
4:00pm  Food and Beverage Break
4:40pm  Tour Debrief and Reflection (*main room)
5:00pm  Keynote Speaker: State of the Industry
    Hear the “30,000-foot view” on current trends, challenges, and opportunities that are impacting the food production industry, from right off the farm to right before it ends up on your plate.
5:45pm  Break
5:50pm  State of the Industry: Executive Panel Discussion
    Gather insight from executives who represent unique and important players in the food industry. This will provide an opportunity to ask individual questions of company leaders who are developing innovative solutions in food manufacturing, pioneering new food categories and helping move the industry forward.
6:55pm  Industry, Alumni, and Student Networking
    Network with professionals and peers in an informal setting before dinner.
7:30pm  Dinner with Industry Guests and AFA Alumni
8:30pm  Delegate Reflection
8:30pm  AFA Alumni Social *invite only*
Tuesday, May 21

8:15am  Partner Breakfast

9:15am  Industry and Student Networking
• Network with professionals and peers in an informal setting after partner breakfast.

9:30am  Table Topic Discussions
• Explore a variety of hot topics within the food industry. You will rotate three times, with 20-minute rotations.

10:50am  Food and Beverage Break

11:05am  Career Roundtable Discussions
• Explore a variety of career paths within the food industry. You will rotate four times, with 20-minute rotations.

12:45pm  Final Reflection

1:00PM  Delegate Group Photo

1:00pm  Lunch and Departure