

Mary Earle Mentorship Award – Chathurika Samarakoon

This award recognises members who have excelled at mentoring others in achieving their career objectives through moral, social and intellectual support.

This person is a principal lecturer, researcher, an innovator, the Chair of the Waikato branch of the NZIFST and a supporter of future food scientists and technologists.

She brings a passion and enthusiasm to education which is inspirational. She was also a major driver behind Wintec's involvement in Science Spinners, bringing STEM education to under-privileged schools, and other instances of encouraging Students into Food Science, such as career days and campus tours.

As Chair of Waikato Branch, she developed a strong and holistic plan for the branch to revive it and bring energy to it. Her ideas around FED Talks were so successful these have now been implemented nationally.

Her passion for promoting and inspiring future food scientists and technologists is evident in everything she does, and her students are very lucky to have her. She puts focus on organising student tours to food industries and organises guest speakers to Wintec to spark the interest of her students in science and technology and show them how their studies are applied in the working world.

She also engages in community work where she is a committee member at the Sri Lanka Friendship Society Waikato.



DIVERSITY in the food industry
NZIFST Conference 2024

2 – 4 July Distinction Hotel Hamilton

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