

Mary Earle Mentorship Award – Neala Hart

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

This year's winner has been a dedicated and committed member of the NZIFST Auckland branch since 2012, serving in various roles including Student Representative, Committee Member, Treasurer, and currently Chair. She has also served as a member of the Conference Organising Committee over the past four years and has been the driving engine of the LinkedIn posts. She organised and led numerous student career events, CV and Interview workshops, and student introductions to NZIFST, demonstrating her passion for encouraging students to join the Institute. Her commitment to mentorship is evident through her involvement in the CREST Challenge, where she mentored school teams and spoken at judging events. As a FutureInTech ambassador, she inspired students to pursue food technology, and her mentoring efforts have continued at Suntory Oceania, Symrise, and Fonterra. Her mentees have gone on to become leaders, a testament to her exceptional mentoring skills. Her recent work with "Inspiring the Future" as a role model has reached over 300 students at high schools and primary schools, introducing them to food technology as a career option. Her dedication to mentorship, contributions to NZIFST, and passion for helping young people make her a deserving recipient of the Mary Earle Mentorship Award.

