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Meet Our Partner – IAOM

The IGP Institute partners with the International Association of Operative Millers to provide education and training to professional millers for the global grain industry.

MANHATTAN, Kansas – Bakeries continually seek efficient methods to improve recipes for cakes, cookies and other sweet foods that consumers enjoy every day. Since flour was first created through the process of milling grains, it has become a staple baking necessity and continues to be in global market demand.

As the milling industry continues to expand, education and professional experience must grow to support it. One organization that supports education and training opportunities for millers is the International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM).

IAOM is an international organization that is comprised of flour millers, cereal grain and seed processors, and allied trade representatives. It also includes companies that are devoted to the advancement of technology and improvement of professionalism and competency in the flour milling, cereal grain and seed processing industries.

With its members, IAOM promotes fellowship and cooperation, and provides an international forum for networking, exchanging of ideas and discovery of new products and services. The association also strives to enhance the proficiency of grain millers around the world through education and training.

Joining to deliver part of this education is the IGP Institute in the Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University (KSU).

“IGP has a talented staff and exceptional resources at its Manhattan location and has managed the online exams for IAOM’s Correspondence Course in Flour Milling for several years,” says Melinda Farris, International Association of Operative Millers executive vice president. “Although we operate in the same spheres, IGP reaches a somewhat different group, which is a benefit to IAOM as it helps to expand IAOM’s visibility within these new audiences.”

The correlation began with efforts for millers and other industry experts to further their knowledge and experience in flour milling through several technical and hands-on training courses.

“The continued and strong partnership with KSU, the IGP Institute and IAOM is a great benefit, not only for the association, university and institute, but also for the students,” says Shawn Thiele, IGP Institute flour milling and grain processing specialist.

Farris describes the IAOM and IGP Institute partnership and how it benefits each organization, and how there will be opportunities to expand the cooperation to include face-to-face training.

“It is my hope that this renewed commitment between our organizations will result in even greater collaboration and bring more value to the international milling community,” says Farris.

In 2017, IGP offered 88 courses, with 21 of those focused in flour milling and grain processing.



Throughout the year, the IGP Institute also offers several courses in grain marketing and risk management, and feed manufacturing and grain quality management, through on-site and online training. Courses offered in 2018 will be focused on topics including an introduction to flour milling, and principles in both basic and advanced milling.

“We are very fortunate for IAOM and its many avenues that help create opportunities for IGP and its course participants and also the students in the dynamic milling science program at K-State,” says Thiele.

Farris says, “As an international organization, IAOM has long had a global presence, but our affiliation and close cooperation with KSU and IGP has opened new opportunities for IAOM and its members around the world.”

To learn more about IAOM, visit their website at www.iaom.info.

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