

Board Leadership Award Series Food & Friends

What does being a finalist for this award mean for you and your organization?

Our board members are wonderful thought partners. During the first year as Executive Director, they were a really great resource as I transitioned to the leadership role, both individually and as a group. Recognizing the Board for their excellence in leadership with this award is validating, especially since they are volunteers.

What have you learned through the application process for the Board Leadership Award?

Answering the questions on the application affirmed that we have a really generous and engaged board. We also learned that we have some good processes in place, but that there are things we can do better—for example, term limits. We are always interested in ways we can improve and it piqued our curiosity to find out what we can learn from other organizations.

What advice would you offer for other organizations/board members striving for excellence in board leadership?

The importance of setting expectations and strong communication are two things that Food & Friends does really well. The multi-step board nomination process provides several opportunities for prospective board members to ask questions and understand the commitment and expectations before they are officially asked to join the board.

Also, the weekly calls between the Executive Director and the Board President ensures strong communication and a true partnership.