

The Daphne Zepos Teaching Endowment Vision 2026

The Daphne Zepos Teaching Award was started in 2012 as a scholarship to grow a squad of cheese professionals who teach about the history, culture and techniques in making, aging and selling cheese.

Today, we celebrate the selection of our 20th award recipient, an individual who embodies the vision set up for Daphne Zepos back in 2012. The recipient's project speaks to the future of cheese knowledge, education, and engagement with the industry.

Past recipients have utilised the public platform provided by the organisation to elevate their own careers and further solidify their impact and commitment to the cheese industry. Many recipients have taken advantage of our strong mentoring network, a devoted team of administrators, and their research once completed has been presented at our hybrid conferences or one of our online workshops, published for physical distribution, and posted online for free use. This group of cheese professionals has asked difficult questions, led research that is innovative, and helped us maintain our independence from big corporate interests.

The Daphne Zepos Teaching Endowment (DZTE) has been transformed beyond a granting institution to a vibrant centre for the development of knowledge and community engagement. Building on the success of our online meet-ups, we have hosted in person get-togethers in various cities around the US. Our website has become a recognized hub of information centered around the research conducted by our recipients, as well as resources for enthusiasts and professionals alike looking for non-bias peer-reviewed research, and an engaging bulletin board. These free resources are commonly used by many to teach about the world of cheese. This open-arms approach has allowed for many cheese enthusiasts and novices to become professionals, as envisioned by Daphne herself.

Since 2022, we took the time to clean our finances, prospect budgets, and develop systems to ensure the organisation was financially sound and able to follow growth plans to allow for scholarships to be funded in perpetuity. Having awarded 20 scholarships over the years has meant that the DZTE has revamped its fundraising activities, as well as strengthened our outreach activities to publicise the organisation and scholarships.

We have fostered openness and inclusivity in the cheese industry, with a vision to transform lives. We have taken to heart the lessons of past recipients and board members, by engaging with them during their research and tenure. The Daphne Zepos Teaching Endowment exists to grow a squad of cheese professionals who teach about the history, culture, and techniques in making, aging, and selling cheese.

We are guided by the core principles of: RESEARCH. EDUCATE. CHEESE.



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