

Corporate Citizenship Award – Cindi Bigelow



Cindi Bigelow is the 3rd generation President and CEO of family-owned Bigelow Tea, the US market leader of specialty teas. Before assuming this key role, she spent over 20 years in all areas of the company that her grandmother founded in 1945. Headquartered in Fairfield, Connecticut, Bigelow Tea has additional manufacturing plants in Idaho and Kentucky. Cindi has consistently improved company performance by strategically expanding in the U.S. and international markets, as well as by tapping into new channels and innovative products. This includes adding creative new blends to the signature and organic lines, launching seasonal teas, and bringing to market wellness and immune support teas that feature ingredients with functional benefits. In 2002, the company became the leader of the Specialty tea category and in 2020 achieved the #1 overall tea brand in the U.S.A. Bigelow Tea remains a 100%

family-owned business and employs 450 people producing over 2 billion tea bags annually. Recently, Bigelow Tea was certified by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) as a woman-owned and operated small business in the United States.

Cindi holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston College, an MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, and Honorary Doctorates from Johnson & Wales University, the University of New Haven, and Fairfield University. She also holds an honorary associate degree from Housatonic Community College, and most recently, a Doctor of Humane Letters from Albertus Magnus College.

Socially and community minded, Cindi frequently makes appearances speaking to students and industry leaders, sharing insights on business ethics, leadership and marketing. She has received numerous awards for her years of community service and has been a major champion of sustainability throughout the organization. In 2012 Bigelow Tea, due to their unwavering commitment to recycling and composting, was designated a "Zero Waste to Landfill" company. In 2019, the company was certified as a B Corporation with recertification in 2022. In 2020, Bigelow earned the designation of being a Green-e® Certified company, sourcing 100% renewable energy for all Bigelow locations in the United States. Cindi's favorite pastimes include skiing, tennis, taking long walks, being with her family and friends, and, of course, drinking lots and lots of tea.