

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Jedlinsky

703-213-5802

ajedlinsky@safnow.org

SAF Honors 15 AAF and PFCI Inductees at SAF Amelia Island 2026

ALEXANDRIA, VA – AUGUST 20, 2026 – The Society of American Florists honored 15 floral professionals with induction into the American Academy of Floriculture (AAF) and Professional Floral Communicators – International (PFCI) during the Stars of the Industry Awards Ceremony at SAF Amelia Island 2026, the Society of American Florists' annual convention. Six professionals were inducted into AAF and nine earned the PFCI designation.

American Academy of Floriculture (AAF)

AAF recognizes floral professionals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the industry and their communities through leadership, service and volunteerism. Inductees are nominated by their peers in recognition of their professional accomplishments and contributions to floriculture.

The 2026 AAF inductees are:

- Irving Casiano, AAF, Flower Shop Network, Paragould, Arkansas
- Sarah Ekberg, AAF, AIFD, CFD, PFCI, Lazy Acres Decor & Floral, Wakefield, Nebraska
- Kristin Gilliland, AAF, Gardens America, Doral, Florida
- Corrine Heck, AAF, PFCI, Details Flower Software, Ormond Beach, Florida
- Andreia “Andie” Muller, AAF, AIFD, PFCI, FSMD, The Flower Studio, Oxford, Florida
- Dani Pritt, AAF, AzMF, Cactus Flower Florists, Scottsdale, Arizona



The 2026 AAF class reflects the many ways floral professionals are shaping the industry. The inductees include a third-generation floral importer, a florist who turned her industry experience into a technology company, and designers and business leaders with decades of experience. Beyond their businesses, they have advocated for floriculture on Capitol Hill, mentored students and emerging professionals, and served industry organizations at the local and national levels.

Professional Floral Communicators – International (PFCI)

PFCI recognizes the floral industry's leading educators and communicators. Members have demonstrated through their education and experience the ability to speak authoritatively on topics relevant to floriculture and to effectively share their expertise with industry audiences.

The 2026 PFCI inductees are:

- Martha Aaron, AIFD, CEJ, PFCI, TMF, Mountain High Flowers, Sedona, Arizona
- Michael Black, PFCI, Jet Fresh Flower Distributors, Doral, Florida
- Cortnie Davis, PFCI, Cortnie Dee Consulting, Dallas, Texas
- Lane DeVries, AAF, PFCI, CalFlowers, Arcata, California
- Melissa Maas, AIFD, CFD, PFCI, Bank of Flowers, Menomonee Falls and Pewaukee, Wisconsin
- Mirella "Mimi" Pacheco, PFCI, Jet Fresh Flower Distributors, Doral, Florida
- Monty Pereira, AAF, PFCI, Watanabe Floral, Honolulu, Hawaii
- J. Ross Railey, AIFD, CEJ, CFD, PFCI, J Designs and Events LLC, Minette, Alabama
- Lea Romanowski, AIFD, CAFA, CFD, CFEJ, PFCI, Designing on the Edge, Calgary, Alberta, Canada



The 2026 PFCI class brings a wide range of expertise to floral education and communication. Among the inductees are award-winning designers, a sales educator helping florists build more profitable businesses, a grower who built a 700-employee operation, a longtime Teleflora educator, and an international designer with 24 years of teaching experience. Their collective expertise spans floral design, growing, retail, marketing, business development and nearly every link in the floral supply chain.

[Event photos are available here.](#)

About The Society of American Florists

The Society of American Florists is the association that connects and cultivates a thriving floral community through training, education, marketing resources and advocacy. Our vision: The power of flowers in every life. For more information, visit safnow.org.