



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SCA and S&D Coffee & Tea Announce Recipients of 2019-2021 LEAD Scholarship Program

**August 28, 2019**— The Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) and S&D Coffee & Tea have announced the recipients of the 2019-2020 [Leadership Equity and Diversity \(LEAD\) Scholarship Program](#). LEAD, launched at Re:co Symposium in April 2018, is aimed at increasing diversity of leadership within the global coffee community by enabling access to professional development resources to people from underrepresented or marginalized communities. This program is made possible thanks to the generous support of [S&D Coffee & Tea](#).

#### The 2019-2020 LEAD Scholars are:

- Sunghee Tark | Co-founder and Director of Bean Voyage in Costa Rica
- Karla María Boza Carbonell | Marketing, Innovation, and Business Relations for Finca San Antonio Amatepec in El Salvador
- Emi-Beth Quantson | CEO & Founder of Kawa Moka Limited in Ghana
- MJ Engel | Teaching Fellow at Phillips Academy Andover in the United States
- Amara Sao | Founder and Coffee Roaster at Homecoming Coffee Company in Cambodia

“We were pleased to work with SCA to develop the LEAD program in 2018. Our unified goal of providing access to resources otherwise beyond the reach to many in our coffee community is being fulfilled! The first year of this two-year inaugural cohort has exceeded our expectations, and we are so pleased that we decided to sponsor another five scholars for 2019-2020,” said Helen Griffith, VP, Marketing, S&D Coffee & Tea. “These scholars have the proven ability to create real change in the industry and we want to make sure they get off to an excellent start.”

As a global nonprofit organization, SCA recognizes that access to membership, coffee events, and education differ for individuals depending on their identity, background, and access to financial resources. The coffee industry has a lot of work to do to diversify its leadership at every point in the value chain and overcoming these obstacles will require proactive efforts and dedicated resources. [LEAD](#) is designed to be a small but important step towards progress in this area.

SCA Executive Director Yannis Apostolopoulos said, “The LEAD Scholarship Program is now in its second year, thanks to the generosity of our partners at S&D Coffee & Tea, and we receive dozens of applications from all over the world each year. We couldn’t be happier to work with these five professionals who will embark on a 2-year program with us that includes free participation at SCA’s industry events and educational activities, as well as career development and network expansion opportunities.”

Learn more about the LEAD program on our website at [sca.coffee/LEAD](http://sca.coffee/LEAD).

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## Resources

- [Photos of the 2019-2021 LEAD Scholars](#)
- [Promotional Graphics for 2019-2021 LEAD Program](#)
- [LEAD Scholarship Benefits and Requirements](#)

## About the Specialty Coffee Association

The SCA is a trade association built on foundations of openness, inclusivity, and the power of shared knowledge. From coffee farmers to baristas and roasters, our membership spans the globe, encompassing every element of the coffee value chain. The SCA acts as a unifying force within the specialty coffee industry and works to make coffee better by raising standards worldwide through a collaborative and progressive approach. Dedicated to building an industry that is fair, sustainable, and nurturing for all, the SCA draws on years of insights and inspiration from the specialty coffee community. Learn more at <https://sca.coffee/>.

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## About S&D Coffee & Tea

S&D Coffee & Tea partners with more than 110,000 customers, delivering beverage solutions to some of the world's best-known foodservice operators. With nearly 100 years of history, we are now driving the beverage menu of the future. As a subsidiary of Cott Corporation, we have our sights boldly set on becoming the world's leading beverage innovator, dedicated to a sustainable portfolio of coffee, tea and botanical ingredients. To discover your next beverage solution, visit [sdcoffeetea.com](http://sdcoffeetea.com).

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