Re: Request to Attend the CIA’s Global Plant-Forward Culinary Summit

Dear <>:

 I’m writing to request approval to attend The Culinary Institute of America’s [Global Plant-Forward Culinary Summit](https://www.plantforwardkitchen.org/gpfcs), April 18-April 20, 2023, at The CIA at Copia, in Napa, CA.

This three-day summit offers a deep dive into plant-forward culinary and menu R&D strategy, building on the work of the CIA’s [Menus of Change](https://www.menusofchange.org/) initiative and inspired by the global cuisines and cultures focus of their iconic long-running [Worlds of Flavor International Conference and Festival](https://www.worldsofflavor.com/).

As you’re aware, plant-based and plant-forward menu items are more popular than ever, and it is imperative that businesses like ours become educated in this area to continue to drive our bottom line and position ourselves for success. Among the key things I will bring back from the conference are:

* More than 200 globally inspired, plant-forward recipes culled from internationally renowned chefs, featuring authentic flavors and techniques
* An understanding of, and a variety of perspectives on plant-forward eating: not exclusively vegan or vegetarian, but an approach that reflects a wider interest in flexitarian eating patterns
* Insight into plant-forward trends and trajectories that will inform our menus, including case studies and success stories from chefs and foodservice operators
* Firsthand experience tasting the food of, networking with, and, in some cases, cooking alongside renowned chefs and industry leaders from around the world

Upon my return, I look forward to sharing the key takeaways and conference resources and materials with members of the team and working with them on ways we can better position our operation to meet the plant-forward demands of our current and future customers. For additional information on the conference, visit the [summit info page](https://www.plantforwardkitchen.org/gpfcs/about). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,