



FRED RUIZ ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD

AWARD OVERVIEW

The Fred Ruiz Entrepreneurial Award was created in 2015 to support the mission of the Expo through mentorship and guidance from the founder behind one of the largest food manufacturing companies in the region. Named in honor of Fred Ruiz, founder of Ruiz Food Products, Inc. and Fresno Food Expo Board Member, this award honors companies who have the same vision and qualities that took Ruiz Foods from a small, family start-up to the largest frozen Mexican food manufacturer in the United States. Ruiz is known as a community steward as he demonstrates a unique passion for mentoring other entrepreneurs in the Central California region.

The Fred Ruiz Entrepreneurial Award will recognize an innovative Central California food or beverage processing company whose entrepreneurial spirit matches Ruiz's hard-working nature. This company should be known among its peers as a pioneer in innovation and a steward in the community, as well as demonstrate outstanding leadership, a risk-taking mindset and extraordinary passion for the Central California region.

AWARD CRITERIA

- Company is a Food Processor. *(See application for complete details)*
- Company is operational, profitable, and demonstrates potential growth.
- Company has innovative employee programs and corporate culture.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2017 at 5:00 PM.
- The application is available on our website: [Fred Ruiz Entrepreneurial Award](#)
- Applications must be submitted through the online registration form.
- The application must be filled out in its entirety.
- The final recipient will be selected by a panel of food industry leaders.

SITE TOUR FOR TOP TWO APPLICANTS

All applications will be received by Fresno Food Expo staff, and reviewed by a panel of food industry judges, including Fred Ruiz, who will identify the top two applications. Once the top two applicants are identified they will be contacted by Expo staff **no later than July 10** to set up a Site Tour with Fred Ruiz and other judges on one of the dates listed below. ***If you are applying for this award, you must confirm that you can be available for a site tour during either of these times:***

- Friday, July 14 at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 19 at 1:30 p.m.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT & PRIZE

- The top two award applicants will be invited to attend Pairings, our Opening Reception with one guest on the evening of Wednesday, July 26 at 6 p.m., where the winner of the 2017 Fred Ruiz Entrepreneurial Award will officially be announced.
- In addition to the designation as the annual award recipient, the winning company will receive goods and services, valued at over \$5,000.