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SAFE CHEESEMAKING HUB WINS PR NEWS AWARD

Denver, CO (March 26, 2018) – <u>The Safe Cheesemaking Hub</u>, a project of the American Cheese Society, was honored last week with a 2018 <u>PR News Nonprofit Award</u>, winning the *Website* category.

The PR News Nonprofit Awards celebrate nonprofit campaigns and communicators making a positive, lasting impact on the world. On March 20, the top campaigns were honored at a luncheon at Washington, D.C.'s National Press Club. The <u>winners</u> were judged on the impact of the campaigns they've led, and on the positive influence they've had on society at large.

ACS's Safe Cheesemaking Hub, launched in March 2017, is an easily searchable "one-stop shop" for resources, research, training, and tools to enhance industry food safety practices. The site is largely focused on the needs of small- to mid-sized producers in the United States; it also includes resources for the retailers who sell their products. Access to the site is available publicly, as the resources compiled on the site are vital to the continued health and growth of the American artisan and specialty cheese industry. In 2017, the Safe Cheesemaking Hub was also honored with a Silver "Power of A" Award from the American Society of Association Executives for *The Power to Prepare for the Future*. Visit the site at www.safecheesemaking.org.

Nora Weiser, ACS Executive Director, says of the honor, "When industry members have access to current, practical, educational resources and tools, all areas of the industry are stronger as a result. The Safe Cheesemaking Hub has proven to be a vital tool in ensuring that cheese professionals are prepared for an increasingly food safety-focused future. A lot of hard work went into this project, and we are honored that PR News recognized the site for its impact, influence, and contribution to the industry."

This is the second PR News Nonprofit Award for ACS. In 2017, ACS won in the *Marketing* category for its "Cheese Party" campaign to raise the visibility of American artisan cheese among consumers and industry members, while supporting the work of the American Cheese Education Foundation to grow artisan cheese awareness, appreciation, and education.

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About the American Cheese Society

The American Cheese Society is the leader in promoting and supporting American cheeses, representing nearly 1,800 cheese industry professionals. ACS provides the cheese community with educational resources and networking opportunities while encouraging the highest standards of cheesemaking focused on safety and sustainability. www.cheesesociety.org.