



## ACS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS, CELEBRATES TWO TRANSITIONING OFF

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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DENVER, CO – Today, the American Cheese Society (ACS) announced two additions to their Board of Directors, voted in by their peers in the ACS membership. Jessica Little, ACS CCP™ and co-owner of Sweet Grass Dairy, and Daniel Utano, proprietor of Daniel Utano Consulting, join the 2020-2021 [Board of Directors](#).

Jessica and husband Jeremy purchased Sweet Grass Dairy in 2005 and have won over 30 national and international awards. An ACS CCP™ and a Certified Sommelier, she is also a member of the Fellowship of Southern Farmers, Artisans & Chefs of the Specialty Food Association, and the International Guild de Fromagers and serves on the boards of the Southern Cheesemakers Guild and Hands and Hearts for Horses.

Daniel has worked in the cheese industry for over 15 years in a variety of roles from cheesemonger to cheesemaker to food safety officer for Jasper Hill Farm, Ferndale Farmstead, and more. Currently Daniel is the sole proprietor of Daniel Utano Consulting, offering cheese and food safety services across the supply chain. He also serves as the vice-chair of the [ACS Regulatory & Academic Committee](#).

Each year, the ACS Nominating Committee seeks nominations from ACS members of cheese industry professionals to serve in leadership positions on the Board of Directors.

Two board members, Cathy Gaffney, Wegman's Food Markets, and Dr. Dennis D'Amico, University of Connecticut are transitioning off the board after many years of dedicated service.

"I am grateful that our candidates were passionate about serving and I am happy to welcome Jessica and Dan as our newest board members," said Marianne Smukowski, ACS Board President. "And there is no way to thank Cathy and Dennis that would equal the effort they have put in on our behalf."

The Virtual Member Meeting, the first of its kind in the history of ACS, connected almost 300 members and industry leaders through a day of sessions and networking.

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#### **About the American Cheese Society (ACS)**

The American Cheese Society's mission is to build understanding, appreciation, and promotion of artisan, farmstead, and specialty cheeses produced in the Americas. At 2,300 members strong, ACS leads the cheese community through advocacy, education, business development, and networking opportunities. The organization was founded in 1983 by cheesemakers and for cheesemakers. Today, they measure their success by that of their members and the extended industry all while evolving to meet the changing needs of a challenging climate. By offering relevant resources and support, ACS is dedicated to the health and welfare of their constituents throughout the United States. ACS is a 501(c)6 nonprofit association headquartered in Denver, Colo. To learn more about ACS, please visit [www.cheesesociety.org](http://www.cheesesociety.org) or contact 720-328-2788.