PURDUE UNIVERSITY | College of Agriculture

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Bernie Engel
Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture

BOARD APPROVED
October 9, 2026
Cindy Ream
Corporate Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patrick Wolfe, Provost

FROM: Bernie Engel, Dean of Agriculture

DATE: July 15, 2026

RE: William R. Scholle Endowed Chair in Food Processing

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of **Dr. Ozan N. Ciftci** as the **William R. Scholle Endowed Chair in Food Processing** and to request your approval of this appointment.

The Scholle Chair was established through the generosity of the Scholle family to honor William R. Scholle, a Purdue alumnus whose innovations in food packaging transformed the food industry and whose work with Professor Philip Nelson helped revolutionize the storage and distribution of food products. The intent of this endowed chair is to advance excellence and leadership in food processing through scholarship, innovation, and industry engagement. Dr. Ciftci embodies these objectives exceptionally well.

Dr. Ciftci is an internationally recognized scholar in food engineering and sustainable food processing whose research addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing modern food systems. His work spans advanced food processing technologies, sustainable manufacturing, supercritical fluid applications, value-added utilization of agricultural products, circular bioeconomy systems, alternative proteins and lipids, and next-generation food production technologies. His research program aligns remarkably well with Purdue's strategic priorities in agriculture, food innovation, sustainability, economic development, and industry partnership.

His accomplishments demonstrate the level of distinction expected of a holder of a premier endowed chair. Dr. Ciftci has authored more than 80 refereed publications, secured over **$24 million in competitive research support**, including more than **$17 million as principal investigator**, and holds multiple patents and technology disclosures. His scholarly work has been cited extensively, with more than **3,400 citations** and a strong trajectory of continued impact. He currently serves as Principal Investigator and Director of the NSF Global Centers initiative *Food Innovation and Diversification to Advance the Bioeconomy (FoodID)*, a major international collaboration involving partners across North America, Europe, and Asia. This leadership role illustrates both the global reach of his scholarship and his ability to build and lead large interdisciplinary teams.

Equally important, Dr. Ciftci's work demonstrates a strong commitment to translational research and industry engagement. His innovations have attracted interest from major food, ingredient, and biotechnology companies and have generated opportunities for commercialization, licensing, and startup development. These activities align directly with the vision of the Scholle endowment, which was created to foster transformative advances in food processing with broad societal and industrial impact.

Dr. Ciftci has also established an outstanding record of teaching, student mentoring, workforce development, and professional leadership. His contributions have been recognized through numerous honors and awards, including the American Oil Chemists' Society Timothy L. Mounts Award, the LIST International Award in Bioinnovation, and the Darrell W. Nelson Excellence in Graduate Student Advising Award. External reviewers consistently describe him as a leading innovator in his field whose research has achieved national and international prominence.

The external evaluations were uniformly enthusiastic regarding Dr. Ciftci's accomplishments, reputation, and future trajectory. There is broad agreement that he possesses the scholarly distinction, leadership capacity, and strategic vision appropriate for the Scholle Endowed Chair.

For these reasons, I enthusiastically recommend Dr. Ozan N. Ciftci for appointment as the **William R. Scholle Endowed Chair in Food Processing**. His achievements, leadership, and commitment to innovation position him to enhance Purdue's reputation as a global leader in food science and food processing while advancing the legacy of William Scholle and the purpose of this distinguished endowment.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this appointment.

Approval Recommended:

07/24/2026

Patrick J. Wolfe — Date
Provost & Miller Family Professor of
Statistics and Computer Science

Approved:

8/17/26

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. — Date
Interim President