

Press Release for Details Contact:

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For Immediate Release:

First Graduating Class of Tea Professionals Honored in New York City!

At a special celebration held in New York City at the Millennium Broadway Hotel, the Specialty Tea Institute (STI) recognized the first group of tea professionals to complete its' Level Three Tea Certification Program. **Lisa Boalt Richardson** was amongst the **first of 15 students** who graduated from the program after completing a series of foundation and advanced courses requiring a total of **80-100 hours of class and study time.**

Ms. Richardson was awarded the title of "**Certified Tea Specialist**" (**CPS**) and received a "diploma" awarded by her instructors: Donna Fellman, Phil Parada, Yoon Hee Kim, and Suzette Hammond.

The President of the Tea Association, Joe Simrany was also on hand to personally congratulate the students and wish them well with all their future endeavors. The Chairman of STI, Richard Guzauskas, sent the students a message of congratulations for all of their work and dedication in the program.

The **STI Certification Program** was launched on July 08, 2002 and **is the most sought after educational program in the tea industry.** It has attracted students from all segments of the tea industry and all over the world. It is even considered necessary training for many executives from major tea packers, operators of tea rooms, executives from super markets chains and sales brokers because of its' professional content and because it is offered by the Tea Association of the USA. **The Tea Association at 108 years old is one of the first trade Associations in the country and the leading voice for the Tea Industry in the USA.**

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- For more information about STI Certification Programs including future courses offerings and for a list of the recent graduates and their affiliations, visit www.teausa.org or contact Ellainy Karaboitis at ekaraboitis@teausa.org.
 - For more information about Lisa Boalt Richardson, you may go to her website at www.lisaknowstea.com. For an interview with Ms. Richardson or to contact her, she can be reached by email at lisa@lisaknowstea.com or by phone at 678-867-2088.