

Cynthia R. Bigelow

Cindi Bigelow is the 3rd generation President and CEO of family-owned Bigelow Tea, the US market leader of specialty teas that produces over 2 billion tea bags annually. She holds a BS degree from Boston College, an MBA from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, and Honorary Doctorates from Johnson & Wales University, the University of New Haven and Fairfield University. Socially-and community-minded, she frequently makes appearances speaking to students and industry leaders, sharing insights on business ethics and career development, and has received numerous awards for her years of community service. Favorite pastimes include skiing, tennis, yoga, being with her children and friends and, of course, drinking lots and lots of tea.



Cindi Bigelow is the 3rd generation President & CEO of family-owned Bigelow Tea.

Before assuming this key role in 2005, Cindi Bigelow spent nearly 20 years in all areas of the company that her grandmother founded in 1945. Headquartered in Fairfield, Conn, with additional manufacturing plants in Idaho and Kentucky, Bigelow Tea is the national market leader of specialty teas and maker of “Constant Comment”® tea. The company remains a 100% family-owned business and employs 400 people across three manufacturing facilities, producing 2 billion tea bags annually.

To ensure that the finest teas and botanicals continue to be used in her family tea recipes, Cindi visits gardens all over the world -- from the tea estates in the Assam and Darjeeling regions of India, Sri Lanka and China, to Calabria’s family-run bergamot orchards, to the farms in Oregon and California, all of whom are long time partners with Bigelow.

She continues to improve company performance each year by driving market expansion in to U.S., International, Natural and e-Commerce channels through product innovation that includes signature, organic, wellness and seasonal tea products.

At the same time, as a Certified B Corporation, Cindi champions sustainable practices that have included the installation of 880 photovoltaic solar panels that offset energy usage at the company headquarters in Fairfield, the conservation of water and natural gas across all three Bigelow plants and practices that earned Bigelow Tea the designation in 2012 of being a “Zero Waste to Landfill” company.

Cindi initiated the Annual Bigelow Tea Community Challenge in 1988 that has donated over \$1.7 million to local charities since inception and Bigelow’s Tea for the Troops Project that to date has donated over 6 million tea bags to US service men and women. She spearheaded the creation of Sandcastle Playground in 1996, a landmark wooden village playground in Fairfield. Annually recurring volunteer projects include Appalachian Service projects and the Kennedy Center.

Another major area of focus and passion for Cindi is leadership and development. She was a speaker at the first Northwestern Kellogg Global Women's Summit and at the Geno Auriemma UConn Leadership Conference in 2018. She frequently makes classroom appearances speaking to students about business, business ethics and career development.

Additionally, she has been a keynote speaker at the Greenbrier Women in Leadership Conference, Network of Executive Women's Conference, Powerful Women in Business Conference, Fairfield University Awards Dinner, Boston College Alumni Career Day, UConn's Connecticut Celebrates Women Entrepreneurs, University of Bridgeport Executive Speaker Series, Conversations with Extraordinary Women Conference and The Thomas Merton Center's Celebrity Breakfast. She has made several appearances on the Imus in the Morning program and Fox Business Network's After the Bell. She served on Bridgeport and Fairfield Boards of Directors, Boston College Board of Alumni, Bridgeport Regional Council, Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Committee and is the "Champion" for Connecticut's first Center for Family Justice that will provide one-stop crisis management services to victims of domestic violence.

She recently served as one of fourteen members on Connecticut's 2018 Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth and continues to serve on the advisory council for the governor.

Cindi holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College, MBA from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management and Honorary Doctorates from Johnson & Wales University, the University of New Haven and Fairfield University. In 2019, she was the first Visiting Industry Professional (VIP) to address the graduates at Johnson & Wales University (JWU) and the Commencement speaker for JWU Graduation. She was also the Fairfield University Graduate Commencement speaker in 2015.

Through the years Cindi has been widely recognized for her community service. Some of these awards recognizing her years of support include the 2019 Character.org Workplace Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2018 Caroline House Award, Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County Award, the 2017 United Way Norman Leads Giving Back to the Community Award, the 2016 Moffly Media Light a Fire Good Corporate Neighbor Award, Center for Family Justice Award and renaming of the Fairfield Senior Center to Bigelow Center for Senior Activities. 2014 Awards include the Walter H. Wheeler Jr. Business Leadership Award, Best in the State Connecticut Philanthropy Award and John Winthrop Wright Ethics in Action Award. Previous awards include WEDC Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Woman of Influence in the Food Industry, Notable Women in Business Award, Mass Mutual and UCONN Family Business of the Year Award, Ernst & Young Socially Responsible Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Boy Scouts' Good Scout and Girl Scouts' Woman of Distinction Awards. She has been honored repeatedly for her community service by the Cardinal Sheehan Center, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo's Red Ribbon Ball, Operation Hope and featured on Channel 12 News as a "Hometown Hero."

When she's not working, Cindi enjoys skiing, tennis, yoga, being with her children and friends and, of course, drinking lots and lots of tea.

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About Bigelow Tea Company

Based in Fairfield, CT and 100% family owned, the Bigelow Tea Company pioneered the specialty tea category nearly 75 years ago. The three-generational company takes pride in its heritage and successful growth from a one-product, entrepreneurial venture into America's leading specialty tea brand. Producing 2 billion tea bags annually, the Bigelow Tea line includes more than 150 varieties of Flavored, Traditional, Green, Herbal, Decaffeinated, steep by Bigelow Organic and Bigelow Benefits Wellness teas – including its flagship specialty tea flavor, “Constant Comment”®, an all-time American favorite. Bigelow Tea products are available nationwide.

For more information, contact:
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