



MEET THE TEAM



ANDRE SALDIVAR, SENIOR ENGINEER

Andre is a Senior Engineer managing the Foodservice Technology Center (FTC) in Irwindale for over ten years and engaged with testing foodservice equipment, customer demonstrations, and foodservice educational seminars. He is also one of the technical leads for the statewide foodservice rebate program for the California Investor-Owned Utilities. Andre is a member of the F26 committee & Co-Chair of the F26.06 sub-committee for the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) for Foodservice Equipment, responsible for the various test methods for commercial foodservice equipment. He is also the Chair of ASHRAE TC5.10 Kitchen Ventilation and Vice-Chair of SSPC 154 Ventilation for Commercial Cooking Operations & Co-Chair of the Commercial Kitchen Committee for the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE). Andre has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology, Cal Poly Pomona, CEM, CEA, CDSM & CVMP certified by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) and CFSP certified by the National Association of Foodservice Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM).

OLIVER TA, ENGINEER

Oliver is the FTC's Engineer and Senior Technical Specialist, with over six years of experience within the foodservice industry. He oversees the FTC's commercial kitchen's day-to-day test operations, applying standard test methods to foodservice equipment to determine energy efficiency and performance. He is also an active member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Oliver has a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, California State University-Los Angeles and nine years of testing experience.





IAN CHRISTENSEN, TECHNICAL SPECIALIST/CONSULTANT

Ian is a Technical Specialist and Consultant engaged in commercial foodservice equipment testing at the FTC since 2019. He is a 15 year seasoned expert in construction management and has applied his knowledge to the logistics and organization of operations at the FTC. Ian holds a California Food Handlers Card and is a trained specialist in Measurement and Verification from the Efficiency Valuation Organization.

BRIAN CHOI, TECHNICAL SPECIALIST/CONSULTANT

Brian is a Technical Specialist and Consultant active in commercial foodservice equipment testing at the FTC since 2019. His technical experience in alternative energy and energy efficiency within the automotive industry and energy efficiency upgrades through the management of his family's grocery business has benefitted Brian's contributions to the FTC. Brian holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology and Business Administration from California State University, Los Angeles. He is also an experienced bartender with certification in wine & spirits and alcohol service.



GWEN YAMASAKI, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS, ADVISOR

Gwen is the Marketing and Outreach Advisor for the FTC, working with the Irwindale staff for over seven years, promoting events, seminars and demonstrations focused on the commercial foodservice industry. She oversees the Table-Top Induction Lending Program, administration of the FTC office and assists with the day-to-day operations. Gwen has over 20 years of experience in project management and event marketing within the utility and mortgage banking sectors and holds certificates in Lean Six Sigma and Project Management.

