

# Press Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Blodgett Receives a 2020 Kitchen Innovation Award for the New VLF Ventless Convection Oven**

March 3, 2020

*Essex Junction, Vermont* - Blodgett is proud to announce the new VLF Ventless Convection Oven was awarded a 2020 Kitchen Innovation (KI) Award from the National Restaurant Association (NRA). Each year, the NRA honors progressive equipment that increases efficiency and productivity in commercial kitchens by honoring recipients at the annual National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago, which will be held from May 16-19 at McCormick Place.

The KI Awards program has earned a reputation for defining the gold standard of foodservice equipment innovations. The 18 selected award recipients address operator concerns including labor, inventory management, cleanliness, energy and water efficiency, food safety, sanitation, cross-functionality, and space-saving measures.

“Blodgett has always been recognized as a durable brand and the KI Award is another example of how longevity reaches across more than the iconic build of our ovens. It is a part of our organization that is best shown through our innovation including the Ventless Convection Oven.” from Erica Havers, President of Blodgett Brands, a division of the Middleby Corporation. “It is a true testament to the start of a new decade that we as a group, as well as all of Middleby, are prepared to provide for the kitchens of the future.”

Blodgett is being recognized for the VLF, the industry’s first full-size ventless convection oven with an embedded catalyst right inside the cooking chamber. The catalyst incinerates grease laden vapors before they leave the oven, and a top-mount hood removes excess moisture and provides a filter as a second grease-vapor barrier. The configuration is approved for bone-in, skin-on, raw proteins and allows full-size stackability.

As the global restaurant and hospitality industry’s premier trade show, the National Restaurant Association Show brings together more restaurant and hospitality buyers and equipment manufacturers than any other industry event. It is owned and operated by Winsight LLC in equity partnership with the National Restaurant Association.

**About Blodgett:** Blodgett has been innovating the best ovens for commercial kitchens since 1848. Today Blodgett is the leading manufacturer of commercial ovens in the world. Restaurants, fast-food chains, hotels, hospitals, institutions, small businesses and large corporations alike rely on the Blodgett name.

**About the National Restaurant Association:** Founded in 1919, the National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant industry, which comprises more than one million restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of more than 15.3 million employees. It represents the industry in Washington, D.C., and in partnership with 52 state associations, advocates on the industry's behalf in states and locations across the nation. The Association manages the leading food safety training and certification program (ServSafe); a unique career-building high school program (the NRAEF's ProStart); and sponsor the industry's largest annual trade show (National Restaurant Association Show May 16-19, 2020, in Chicago). For more information, visit the Show on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.