Klein E. Ileleji is the 2021 recipient of the Kishida International award for his contributions to food security in sub-Saharan Africa through building sustained local capacity in the grain commodity sector.

Ileleji is a professor and extension engineer in the agricultural and biological engineering department at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. There, he teaches courses in biomass feedstock systems engineering and electric power and controls. Ileleji also conducts research in grain and crop post-harvest technology, powder technology, and biomass feedstock systems engineering. Ileleji also leads both the renewable energy and grain post-harvest extension efforts at Purdue.

Ileleji has extensive international experience in Africa, Middle-East, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, China, and Central Asia. He led an impactful USDA/USAID 10-year capacity building effort in stored grain commodity management in Nigeria, which trained extension agents, industry personnel, and university students and faculty. He is the co-founder, CEO and CTO of JUA Technologies International, a 5-year old start-up company incubated at Purdue Foundry that develops solar dehydration technologies and mobile off-grid power generators for everyday use, with a focus on small and mid-size farms and businesses. The portable solar dehydrator, Dehytray™ sold by JUA Technologies has been shipped to four continents (Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America).

Ileleji is a 27-year member of ASABE. Throughout his membership with ASABE, he has served as a leader and member on a number of committees. He is currently one of the co-leads of a recent effort to utilize ASABE membership expertise to modernize Africa agri-food systems. He is also a past chair of INTL 601 and E-2050 committees and helped lead INTL601 through its transition to E-2050.

Ileleji is author or coauthor of more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceeding papers, and extension publications. He also has coauthored four book chapters and holds four US patents. Throughout his career, Ileleji has received a number of awards. He was inducted into the Purdue Innovator Hall of Fame in 2016 and received the Andersons Cereals and Oil Seeds Award of Excellence in 2017. He also received the Purdue A Seed for Success Award for $1 million in grantsmanship. The Dehytray™ received an ASABE AE50 product award in 2019 and Ileleji has received two Educational Aids Blue Ribbons and an ASABE Superior Paper award.