

**USC Marshall Convenes 60th class of food industry leaders to its
Food Industry Management Program**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, January 4, 2018 -- The Food Industry Management Program at the USC Marshall School of Business announces its 60th class. This year's program starts with a January 5th orientation for the 15-week certificate program.

"We are delighted to welcome the 60th class of food industry executives to USC Marshall," said FIM Director Cynthia McCloud. "Each year companies choose their best-emerging leaders to spend four months immersed in Marshall's top-ranked business education. It's an investment of time that pays off greatly for them in the future."

Many current industry leaders have come through the program over the years, stepping into their company's most senior roles after having the unique opportunity to learn and practice new skills in strategy, marketing, communication, and finance. These executives also participate in an intense personal assessment and growth process to better understand their own strengths and weaknesses and learn how to more effectively implement productive leadership practices.

Class Numbers

The class of 2018 is made up of 32 members with an average age of 36 and an average tenure of approximately 15 years in the industry. Just about one-third of the class members are leaders with consumer packaged goods companies, and the other executives have senior-level roles with retailers. Most hold at least an undergraduate degree, and we continue to see growth in the number of executives who have masters-level degrees. These executives are hand-picked by their



companies and have a proven record of management accomplishments in addition to significant potential for future advancement.

Executives in the 2018 class join us from retailers and wholesalers: Albertsons, Bristol Farms, Costco, Food4Less, Fred Meyer, Fry's, Gelson's, King Soopers, Northgate Gonzalez, Raley's, Ralphs, Safeway, Smart & Final, Stater Bros., SUPERVALU, and Vallarta along with several other new companies this year. Supplier food industry companies include Bimbo Bakeries USA, Coca-Cola, Dean Foods, Earth-Friendly Products, Mondelez, Nestle, Niagara, and Pepsi Beverage Co.

Top Speakers

Speakers for the year include a roster of C-suite industry leaders who bring their career stories and leadership insights to share with the class. The 2018 class will meet Kevin Davis (FIM graduate 1978), CEO of Bristol Farms/Lazy Acres; Valerie Jabbar, President Ralphs; Bryan Kaltenbach, President Food4Less; Jonathan Mayes, Chief Diversity Officer for Albertsons; Todd Morris, global president at Catalina Marketing; Valerie Oswald, President Mondelez; Dan Sanders, COO of Sprouts; Karl Schroeder, (FIM graduate 1988) President Albertsons – Seattle; Sarah Wehling, VP General Merchandise Manager for Costco; and Evan Anthony, CEO EDA Consulting.

The WAFC

This 60th-anniversary celebration wouldn't be possible without the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC) who has partnered with USC Marshall to support the Food Industry Management Program since 1958. Through the generous donations of companies and individuals in the food industry, this partnership has helped grow some of the top executives in the industry.

About the Food Industry Management Program at USC Marshall

The Food Industry Management Program at USC Marshall School of Business was established 1958. Each year, students attend a semester-long four-month leadership program. The university admits a maximum of 35 students from a wide range of companies in the food industry. Each student accepted into this elite program receives a full-tuition scholarship from the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC).

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