

Donna Tyndall, Executive Vice President of Gelson’s, named 2020 USC FIEP Executive-in-Residence

LOS ANGELES, 2/10/2020 -- The USC Marshall School of Business Food Industry Executive Program (FIEP) has named Donna Tyndall, Senior Vice President, Store Operations at Gelson’s Markets, as Executive-in-Residence for FIEP 2020. Founded in 1951, Gelson’s operates 27 premier supermarkets in the southern California market. Each year, USC Marshall designates an Executive-in-Residence from nominees with exceptional leadership experience who will bring a valuable vision and deep commitment to the food industry program attendees seeking professional development and inspiration.

“Educational programs like the FIEP are an important part of the ongoing growth and development of leaders in the food industry,” said Tyndall. “This program directly benefits our companies by providing our managers with the practical knowledge, skills and inspiration to lead us into the future. I am humbled and honored to serve as the 2020 Executive in Residence for this program.”

Tyndall is a seasoned executive with over 45 years of deep retail leadership experience. She began her career with Gelson’s Markets in 1973 as a clerk’s helper at the first Gelson’s location in Burbank. After graduating with her undergraduate degree at UCLA, Tyndall entered management as the first female manager in the company. She worked her way up to Store Manager and was later promoted through the ranks to hold leadership positions in Operations, Grocery Buying and Merchandising,



Distribution, and Marketing. Tyndall has held the position as Senior Vice President of Store Operations since 2004.

Tyndall graduated from the Food Industry Management Program in the Marshall School of Business at USC in 1989. In 2007, she was recognized by Progressive Grocer as one of the “Top Women in Grocery” in the United States, and was honored by the Food Industries Sales Managers Club (FISMC) in 1998 and 2009 at their annual “Women in the Industry” event. In 2017 Tyndall was recognized by the Shelby Report as the “Woman Grocery Executive of the Year”.

Tyndall is involved in a wide variety of Grocery industry causes. She served on the Board of Directors for the California Grocers Association and now serves on the Board of the Western Association of Food Chains. Throughout her career, Tyndall has been involved in charitable organizations including the City of Hope Food Industries Circle, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), Olive Crest, and the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ). In 2010 she received the Humanitarian Award from CCEJ. She has also been a strong supporter of the CGA Educational Foundation and was inducted into their Hall of Achievement in 2016.

Tyndall is happily married to Mike Ketcham (from Albertsons) since 1994. They reside in Sherman Oaks with their two dogs, and together they enjoy golfing, traveling, and gardening.

“Each year we consider executives who are passionate about education and work as partners with the team at USC and the WAFC to find a way for every employee to have a chance at getting an education,” said Cynthia McCloud, Director Food Industry Programs at USC. “Donna Tyndall has



been passionate about life-long learning and helping others grow for her entire career. As a 1989 USC FIM graduate, there is no one more deserving of this special honor.”

The FIEP Program at USC Marshall

The spring session of the Food Industry Executive Program (FIEP) will be held March 16-19, 2020 in Los Angeles. The fall session will be held September 21-24, 2020. Visit marshall.usc.edu/FIEP for more detailed information and course schedule.

About the Food Industry Management Program at USC Marshall

The Food Industry Management Program at the University of Southern California’s Marshall School of Business was established in 1958. Each year, students attend either a 4-day executive program or a semester-long leadership program. The leadership program selects 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). Individuals selected must have proven records of management accomplishments with significant potential for future advancement.

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