

## **USC Master's Program Partners with WAFC to Provide Scholarships to Students**

*Western Association of Food Chains to offer \$20,000 to USC Food Industry Leadership Students*

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, January 28, 2020 – The USC Marshall School of Business, Master's in Food Industry Leadership (MS.FIL) Program and the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC) today announced a significant scholarship opportunity for all students who work for a WAFC [educational donor company](#), a WAFC [Board of Directors](#) company, or are previous graduates of USC's [Food Industry Management](#) (FIM) Certificate Program. Each eligible student will receive a \$20,000 scholarship over the course of their program of study.

USC Marshall's MS.FIL program is designed for food industry professionals who are interested in learning about innovative practices in team-building, problem-solving, critical thinking and advanced decision-making to facilitate the assessment and resolution of key business issues. The MS.FIL program, which takes place over four semesters, is an online program that includes weekly class sessions where students can engage with one another and with faculty virtually. It also includes two on-campus residential weeks as well as a final capstone presentation.

“The MS.FIL is designed to leverage the leadership and organizational skills of food executives while exposing them to new tools and innovative solutions for being both proactive and reactive to new food trends, new consumer demands, and new paradigms in how food is developed, sourced, acquired and consumed,” said Cynthia McCloud, director of Marshall's Food Industry Programs. “This program provides tools, concepts, frameworks and

critical thinking as well as practical hands-on, experiential learning in areas such as leadership, strategic planning and managing change as a senior leader.”

“We are thrilled at the prospect of being able to invest in the future of the food industry in a way that is both meaningful and personal to those who have chosen to embark on an exciting academic journey,” said Carole Christianson, Chief Operating Officer for the WAFC. “There are many people in the food industry who’ve always dreamed of going back to school but never had the wherewithal to realize that dream. It is our hope that every one of our WAFC members and Food Industry Program graduates can now further their own careers as well as the industry as a whole.”

Recruitment has begun for August 2020. For more information about the program and the admissions process, please go [www.marshall.usc.edu/fil](http://www.marshall.usc.edu/fil).

### **About the Food Industry Programs at USC Marshall**

USC Marshall School of Business is known for offering two coveted food industry programs. Individuals have the choice of participating in either the once-a-year, one-semester spring Food Industry Management (FIM) program established in 1958, or in a four-day Food Executive Program (FIEP) offered each year in the spring and fall. The Master of Science, Food Industry Leadership (MS.FIL) program launched in 2019 and is a 16-month hybrid master’s degree program offered every fall.

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