



WAFC Announces Leadership Transition: Mike Hendry Retires as Education Chairman, Levi Wingo Named Successor

Yorba Linda, CA. — The Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC) announced the retirement of longtime Education Chairman Mike Hendry and the appointment of Levi Wingo as his successor.

Hendry, who has served as WAFC Education Chairman since 2018, was recognized during the 2026 WAFC Convention for his outstanding leadership and commitment to advancing the WAFC's mission of transforming lives through learning. Wingo was elected by the WAFC Board of Directors during the annual WAFC Convention in May.

Hendry recently announced his retirement from Northgate Markets after 14 years with the company, where he served as Executive Vice President of Merchandising and Marketing. Throughout his distinguished career spanning more than four decades in the grocery industry, Hendry held leadership roles with Northgate Markets, Vons, Safeway, Catalina Marketing, and SUPERVALU. As Education Chairman, he played a pivotal role in strengthening WAFC's educational programs, expanding industry engagement, and supporting the development of emerging leaders across the food industry.

"Mike's dedication to education and leadership development has left a lasting impact on the WAFC's Education Programs and the many industry professionals who have benefited from our programs," said Pat Posey, Chief Operating Officer, WAFC. *"His passion for investing in people and strengthening our industry will continue to influence the WAFC for years to come."*

Hendry reflected on his time as Education Chairman with gratitude and optimism for the future of the WAFC.



"Serving as Education Chairman has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. Throughout my time with WAFC, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand how education and leadership development can transform careers and strengthen our industry. The WAFC's greatest impact isn't measured by programs or scholarships alone - it is measured by the people who return to their companies inspired, better prepared to lead, and committed to helping others succeed. I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together and confident that the WAFC is in great hands with Levi and the next generation of WAFC leaders."

Levi Wingo brings more than 20 years of retail grocery leadership experience to the position. He serves as Senior Vice President of Product & Merchandising Innovation at the Raley's Companies, leading major merchandising initiatives, innovation, private brands, manufacturing, construction, facilities maintenance, and the pharmacy business for the enterprise as well as leading the premium format AJ's Fine Foods. His career began on the store floor and progressed through key leadership roles in operations, including leading the development of new store formats and key merchandising programs.

A graduate of California State University, East Bay, Wingo also completed both the Food Industry Management Program (2015) and the Master of Science in Food Industry Leadership Program (2020) at the USC Marshall School of Business.

"Levi's passion for education and growing the next generation of industry leaders makes him exceptionally well-suited to help lead the WAFC Education Programs into the future," said Posey. *"We are excited to welcome him into this important role and look forward to his leadership."*

Wingo said he is honored to continue the WAFC's mission and build upon the strong legacy established by those who came before him.



"What's always made WAFC different to me is that it's never just been about networking or business development. At its core, it's about investing in people—helping create opportunities for growth, leadership, and education that genuinely change careers and lives. I'm really grateful to follow leaders like Mike, whose leadership and vision helped build such a strong foundation for all of us to continue growing from. It's exciting to think about the next generation of leaders going through these programs right now and the impact they'll have on our industry over the next several years."

The WAFC remains committed to providing educational opportunities, scholarships, and leadership development programs that strengthen the food industry workforce and support future generations of leaders.