



A celebration of female professionals

Tribute offers insight into careers of 48 honorees

The Shelby Report of the West presents its 21st annual tribute to Women of Influence in the food industry. This year's slate of honorees – 48 strong – runs the gamut from presidents and VPs to managers, directors and supervisors.

They are among the leading executives in their respective fields, but their candid responses to questions from the Shelby team also reflect how they handle their other roles – as wives, mothers, sisters and even grandmothers.

Whether they've worked there decades or just a few months, these women are making an impact at their companies. Some have MBAs or law degrees,

while others are pursuing doctorates. Nearly all belong to professional associations and are active in their communities.

In the pages that follow, they share advice for up-and-coming professionals, as well as detail some of the challenges and rewards they've experienced along the way. In addition, you'll learn about the defining moments in their careers.

We found their responses refreshing and inspirational, and hope you will as well. Join us as we celebrate the 2026 Women of Influence.





Lorena Aguilar
Food 4 Less/Foods Co.

Division Operations Manager

Lorena Aguilar's leadership is centered on supporting people and building partnerships that help stores succeed. She provides operational support across multiple districts, ensuring teams have the resources needed to deliver for customers and associates.

A key part of Aguilar's impact is building relationships so stores receive the right support at the right time. She works with partners across operations, facilities, food safety and merchandising to coordinate solutions and remove barriers. She brings the right groups together quickly to clarify priorities and help stores focus on a clear plan. She is known for consistency, responsiveness and a focus on follow-through.

People development is a core element of Aguilar's leadership. She sets clear expectations, coaches on effective store support and reinforces leadership behaviors that build trust and accountability. She believes strong

performance starts with strong leaders, and she takes pride in helping others grow.

Community impact matters to Aguilar, as grocery retail is essential in everyday life. She never hesitates to donate her time to efforts that strengthen families and communities through food donation.

She leads with humility, integrity and commitment to teamwork. By building cross-functional relationships, developing people and ensuring stores have the support they need, she creates lasting impacts for associates, customers and our communities.



Kristin Alas
Gelson's Markets

Category Manager

Kristin Alas plays an integral role in shaping Gelson's product mix, guiding assortment decisions,

vendor strategy and category performance across her areas of responsibility.

She brings a thoughtful blend of analytics and intuition to her work, ensuring that what lands on shelf resonates with customers while supporting the company's broader merchandising goals.

Alas partners closely with internal teams to introduce new items, refine category strategies and execute initiatives that enhance the in-store experience. Outside of her core responsibilities, she is engaged in industry

events and vendor collaborations, building relationships that strengthen both innovation and execution.

Alas also is a strong advocate for Gelson's partnership with Olive Crest, supporting efforts that align business initiatives with community impact. Her ability to connect strategy, relationships and purpose makes her a steady and influential contributor to Gelson's continued growth.



Lisa Ali
Gelson's Markets

Senior Merchandiser

Lisa Ali brings exceptional expertise and passion to her role, where she oversees merchandising strategy,

product innovation and training across all store locations.

A nationally recognized cheese expert, she is among fewer than 100 Certified Cheese sensory evaluators in the United States and one of fewer than 50 IDDBA Certified Salumieres nationwide. These credentials reflect her deep knowledge of specialty foods.

Ali has been instrumental in elevating Gelson's specialty cheese and charcuterie programs through innovative product selections, strategic vendor

partnerships and engaging customer education events. She also mentors and trains cheese mongers across the organization, helping store teams build expertise that enhances the customer experience and drives sales.

Through her leadership, industry involvement and dedication to education, Ali continues to strengthen Gelson's reputation as a premier destination for specialty cheese and gourmet foods.



Shannon Beasley
Superior Grocers

Training and Development Manager

Shannon Beasley exemplifies the forward-thinking, people-centered leadership that is shaping the future of the food industry. Known for her passion, curiosity and creativity in learning and development, she approaches every

challenge with a commitment to elevating both her team's work and the individuals behind it.

Beasley's strong initiative enables her to transform bold ideas into actionable strategies and her talent as a clear, compelling communicator helps drive alignment and inspires cross-functional partnerships.

Beasley consistently ignites modern thinking about leadership, culture and communication. She never hesitates to propose innovative approaches that challenge convention and move the organization toward its strategic goals and a more adaptive future. Her eagerness to learn fuels her own

development, while her creativity continually generates fresh concepts that strengthen engagement and build stronger teams.

With a career foundation in store operations, Beasley brings a rare and invaluable perspective to her role. She understands firsthand the pressures and realities of frontline work, allowing her to design training and solutions grounded in empathy, practicality and true partnership. This deep connection to the field enables her to champion initiatives that support teams and improve the customer experience.

We're So Proud



Celebrating Our Women of Influence



Michelle Bernard
Business Account Manager
Crossmark



Britney Ekerson
Customer Business Manager
Crossmark



Claudia Keyes
SVP, Operational Excellence
Acosta



Tina Kubala
SVP
Acosta



Maura Levis
VP, Northeast
Acosta



Rebekah Steward
VP, Business Intelligence
Acosta





STRONG LEADERS. REAL IMPACT.



KATIE PENNY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
OF STORE OPERATIONS
KNOXVILLE DIVISION



MISTY DESKINS
SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF MARKETING



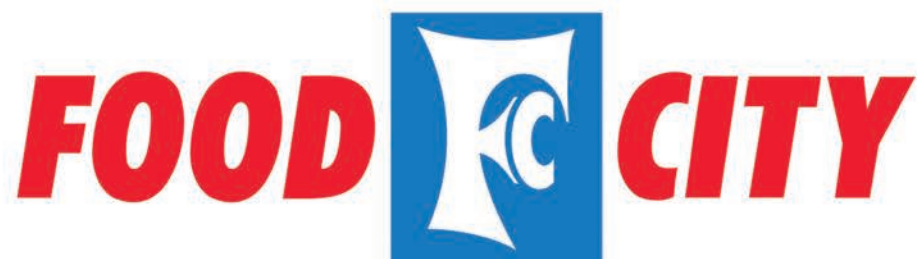
HANNAH SMITH
DIRECTOR OF FRONT
END OPERATIONS



MISTY KERN
DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

INFLUENCE THAT MOVES GROCERY FORWARD.

Every day.





Liz Casas

Ralphs

District Manager

Liz Casas' career in the food industry spans 36 years, and her 11 years of exceptional service as a district manager demonstrate her unwavering commitment to developing people, elevating store performance and shaping the next generation of leaders.

Casas has had a profound impact on leadership development across the Ralphs organization. Many of today's district managers were mentored by her, and their growth and success are direct reflections of her influence. She fosters an environment where professional development, work-life balance and shared success are prioritized, and she articulates the company's vision in a way that inspires teams to feel valued and motivated.

Casas' leadership is equally evident in her operational excellence. She has received multiple best in class awards for composite score results and customer experience – clear evidence of her ability to deliver profitable, controllable performance while maintaining an unwavering

focus on delivering best in class customer service. She leads by example, championing a simple and powerful philosophy: When we keep the customer at the center of everything we do, loyalty and strong sales naturally follow.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Casas contributes to communities and demonstrates creative, people-first thinking in every initiative she leads. Her influence is felt across her teams, her peers and our stores.



Laura Castro

Northgate González Market

Distribution Center Safety and Compliance Manager

Laura Castro oversees safety and regulatory compliance, as well as the inventory control, sustainability and warehouse building maintenance departments. In this role, she helps ensure that operations at the distribution

center run safely, efficiently and in alignment with company standards.

Castro's journey with Northgate Market began in 1999 at Store No. 2, where she started as a box clerk. Over the years, she grew within the company, holding roles as a cashier, front-end manager, accounting assistant and human resources clerk. She later joined the distribution center, working alongside Don Miguel González in the produce department before being promoted to human resources manager for the DC.

Castro credits the positive work environment and the respect shown to associates across the company as what motivates her most. She believes

strongly in servant leadership and treating others with dignity.

Grateful for the opportunities Northgate Market has provided, Castro says it has been a blessing to grow her career with the company. She is proud to be part of the DC team and excited to contribute to the company's continued growth.

Family is also an important part of Castro's career. Her father, husband, oldest son, two sisters and two nieces are all members of the Northgate Market family.



Patrice Coudray Rubin

Niagra Bottling

Senior Manager, Beverage Department

Patrice Coudray Rubin plays a role in driving performance and strengthening her team. She brings a

thoughtful and intentional approach to leadership, with a focus on people, execution and continuous improvement.

Coudray Rubin is a smart, resourceful and highly motivated leader who brings both passion and discipline to her work. She is recognized for developing talent while consistently delivering strong, measurable results.

Noted by her organization as a high-potential leader, Coudray Rubin

was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She is committed to developing others and expanding her influence as a leader in the evolving food industry.



Darla Deiro

C.A. Fortune

Director, Albertsons SoCal Team

Darla Deiro is a key leader at C.A. Fortune, known for her strength in client development, strategic selling and building high-impact retail relationships. Deiro

tends to sit right in that lane of driving growth through people, process and customer strategy. She leads customer and client engagement and execution at the SoCal Albertsons division.

Deiro is a strong operator and relationship builder. And not just big ideas – she's about getting it done with clients and teams.

She has a client-first mindset and is focused on delivering results and making sure brands feel supported and growing.

Deiro is a connector across teams. She bridges gaps between sales,

clients and internal teams, especially important in a national model like C.A. Fortune.

Deiro also is execution focused. She leans into "how does this actually land in market?" versus just strategy.

In addition, she is active in the community. She is part of the board of NextUp Southern California and attends and volunteers with Illuminators and FISMC.



Paige Venable

Director of Floral

CONGRATULATIONS

PAIGE VENABLE - 2026 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

On behalf of Vallarta Supermarkets and the Gonzalez Family, we congratulate Paige Venable on her remarkable honor of being named a 2026 Women of Influence award recipient by *The Shelby Report*.

We appreciate your commitment to excellence and the impact you've made to those around you. Well deserved!





Deb Allison
Store Manager



Farah Lavigne
Store Manager



Justine Meader
Store Manager



Brittany Vogel
Store Manager

Congratulations to Deb,
Farah, Justine, and Brittany
for being recognized as
2026 Women of Influence.

*Thank you from all your Hannaford
colleagues.*

*Your commitment to our customers
and our associates serves as a model
and an inspiration to everyone at
Hannaford.*





Gricelda Deluna

Stemilt Growers

Repack Supervisor

Gricelda Deluna embodies what it means to pack "world famous fruit." Celebrating 35 years at Stemilt this summer, she has set the standard for how a production department should operate with a quality first mindset.

Deluna's held many roles at Stemilt that have shaped her skillset, from beginning as a hand packer to becoming a pear and cherry supervisor to her current role.

Deluna is one of the highest performing leaders in production. She leads with compassion, accountability and a deep sense of ownership in every decision she makes. She manages six to seven repack lines in one of the most fast paced and dynamic areas of the operation, demonstrating the coordination, calm and leadership required to keep everything running smoothly.

Her understanding of Stemilt's business is exceptional, and she passes that knowledge on to her team. Doing what's right is second nature to her. What sets Deluna apart and makes her an outstanding WOI honoree is her ability to balance a demanding workload while showing genuine care for the people around her, like making Christmas gifts for everyone. She approaches each day with patience, empathy and unwavering commitment.

Deluna's leadership reflects not only her personal values but the best of Stemilt's culture. She is a role model, a steady force and a cornerstone of the company's success.



Erika Deschodt

Mollie Stone's Markets

VP Human Resources

Since joining Mollie Stone's Markets in 2018, Erika Deschodt has played a vital role in shaping the culture and leadership of the organization while

supporting hundreds of employees across stores and the corporate team. In an industry that is constantly evolving, she has consistently demonstrated the ability to lead with clarity, professionalism and integrity.

Deschodt brings a rare combination of resolve, compassion and attention to detail. She approaches challenges thoughtfully and strategically while maintaining a positive and motivating spirit that inspires those around her. Her leadership helps teams remain focused, adaptable and aligned with our company's values.

Through complex workforce and organizational challenges, Deschodt has provided steady guidance to the leadership team and employees alike. Her ability to balance accountability with empathy has strengthened the workplace culture and helped the organization continue to grow and succeed.

Her dedication, professionalism and unwavering spirit make her an exceptional leader and deserving of recognition as a Woman of Influence.



Tammy Duff

Rosauers Supermarkets

Bakery Director

With over 25 years of bakery experience, Tammy Duff has worked hard to ensure that both customers

and stores receive the best bakery experience offered. As a scratch bakery, she makes sure that Rosauers stays ahead of the competition and is always on trend in its markets.

Duff's insights and execution have driven results, including the rollout of new programs in remodel and new store projects, as well as updated packaging and go-to-market strategies to help increase sales. Her implementation of the "Fresh First" program has continued to show

bakery increases week over week and has continually increased the bakery presence in the store, as well as driving sales and margin.

Duff is a reliable and consistent go-to subject matter expert, and she fosters a collaborative and positive work environment – ensuring that all stake holders are informed. Her work ethic, positive attitude and communication make her a valuable member of the team.



Christy Dwyer

Food 4 Less/Foods Co.

Drug-GM Field Merchandiser

Christy Dwyer began her Food 4 Less career in 2001 as an assistant category manager in the grocery department. She was promoted to category manager, a position she held for 12 years and was responsible for the merchandising

and promotional strategies for grocery commodities, including food, non-food, frozen and beverage.

In 2015, Dwyer moved to the drug-GM department, where she managed seasonal one-time-buy programs unique to Food 4 Less. For the last five years, she's served in her current role. Over the last 25 years, she successfully managed commodities totaling more than \$300 million in sales.

Dwyer serves on the Cultural Council and is part of several leadership programs, including Future Leaders eXperience and EDGE Resource Group.

She loves to challenge herself to continue her professional development. She has a passion for results and people, and she's proud to work for a company that champions women in leadership positions.

Dwyer is most proud of her role as mom and sharing her passions with her daughter, including her support of Olive Crest Los Angeles, an organization that equips young adults with successful futures. To be able to help others, while also being a champion and voice for Food 4 Less, is extremely rewarding to her.



CONGRATULATIONS

Erika Deschodt's recognition as a Women of Influence honoree is a reflection of her exceptional leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication to our people and company culture at Mollie Stone's. Erika leads with integrity and heart every day, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate this well deserved achievement.



ERIKA DESCHODT
VP of Human Resources



LOCAL AND FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1986



WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR OUR 2026

Women of Influence



SYDNEY RUGGIERI



EMMY HUME





Britney Ekerson

Acosta Group

Customer Business Manager

Since joining Crossmark in April 2025, Britney Ekerson has driven significant, results-oriented growth across multiple clients and customers through strategic planning, strong relationship management and disciplined execution. She placed more than 1,000 displays directly into retail, expanding in-store

presence and generating immediate sales impact.

Ekerson also secured new distribution for eight clients with customers they had not previously reached, unlocking new revenue streams and accelerating brand growth. She introduced a new distributor program that delivered an average of 20 percent quarter over quarter growth, demonstrating strong bottom line performance and scalable strategic value.

Ekerson consistently executed high impact initiatives across multiple clients, including large scale displays, LTOs, assortment expansions and 2026 promotional commitments that strengthened pipeline visibility and long-term partnerships.

Beyond revenue generation, Ekerson championed new processes that simplified and streamlined workflows for customers, improving efficiency, clarity and execution across accounts. She repaired challenged relationships and pursued new customer partnerships, rebuilding trust and expanding Crossmark's footprint.

Her ability to manage complex programs across numerous clients and retailers – while delivering measurable growth, future commitments and operational improvements – has positioned the business for sustained success.



Jeri Elsasser

Trinity Fruit Company

Director of Marketing

Jeri Elsasser plays a key role at Trinity Fruit Company, working alongside the VP of marketing and the business' efforts to grow consumption at a consumer level and elevate marketing efforts across all commodities. She is a rock star.



her career in the stores and becoming a retail systems manager, she has strengthened alignment between stores and corporate teams, elevated training standards and inspired her department to perform at its best.

Estrada's passion for her work is evident every day. She approaches challenges with positivity, encouraging team members to grow, learn and strive for excellence. She continues to grow personally and professionally. She translates complex processes into clear, practical steps, helping others succeed while continuously improving operations.

Respected across the organization, Estrada leads with integrity, collaboration and a commitment to lifting others. Her influence goes beyond her title, shaping people and processes.

Outside of work, Estrada is a devoted wife and mother, and her pride in her family reflects the values she brings to her leadership with dedication, resilience and compassion. Her performance, character and influence make her exceptionally deserving of this recognition.



Veronica Estrada

Superior Grocers

Retail Systems Manager

With more than 30 years in the grocery industry, Veronica Estrada has built a career rooted in dedication, growth and strong leadership. Beginning



Martha Gabriel

Superior Grocers

Category Manager – Meat

Martha Gabriel is worthy of WOI recognition by virtue of her outstanding track record, inspirational leadership and commitment to the advancement of Superior Grocers.

Throughout her 21 years in the industry, she has demonstrated an exceptional ability to generate positive changes, driving projects that have benefited the meat department's growth. Her strategic vision, empathy and perseverance have served as an example for women and men alike, opening paths and breaking down barriers in the meat department.

Among her most relevant achievements are:

- Completed leadership fundamentals and coaching courses through Cerritos College, strengthening her ability to mentor, guide and develop future leaders within the organization.

- Graduated with honors with an associate's degree in retail management, demonstrating her commitment to continuous learning and professional growth.

- Played an integral role in the implementation of Oracle, working with the IT department to ensure a smooth transition and helping maintain CGO accuracy to minimize operational disruptions.

Beyond her professional merits, Gabriel embodies the values of integrity, solidarity and resilience, inspiring new generations to dream big and act with purpose.

Gelson's

From operations and innovation to mentorship and community involvement, our Women of Influence honorees continue to shape the future of Gelson's and our industry through leadership, passion, and purpose. We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition.

– Ryan Adams, President & CEO, Gelson's Markets



Kristin Alas
Category Manager



Marnie Nemcoff
Director of E-Commerce



Lisa Ali
Senior Merchandiser



Gretchen Johnson
Category Manager



Danielle Wortham
Warehouse Operations Manager



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WOMEN OF INFLUENCE



Lorena Aguilar
Food4Less



Christy Dwyer
Food4Less



Kimberly Johnson
Food4Less



Liz Casas
Ralphs



Karol Moorman
Ralphs



LeAnne Romesburg
Ralphs

Thank you for your impactful leadership and for the powerful experience you create for our customers and associates.





Catherine Gipe-Stewart

Superfresh Growers

Director of Marketing

Catherine “Cat” Gipe-Stewart is a results-driven marketing leader known for elevating her company and the broader produce community. In her current role, she combines strategic vision with a commitment to service, believing

strong businesses and strong communities go hand in hand.

Gipe-Stewart leads the company’s volunteer program, encouraging teammates to give back with up to eight hours of paid volunteer time annually. Focused on pillars of education, food security, military support, recreation and environmental sustainability, she organizes volunteer initiatives that strengthen community partnerships and invest in the region.

Across the industry, Gipe-Stewart champions leadership development and connection. She spearheaded the first regional IFPA Women’s Fresh Perspectives conference in Yakima, Washington, bringing together 228

attendees from across the Pacific Northwest. The conference created an empowering space for women across every role in the supply chain, from orchards and warehouses to accounting, HR and administrative teams.

Gipe-Stewart also dedicates time to mentorship and community leadership. She served four years on the FPFC Apprentice Taskforce, mentoring emerging industry professionals; serves on the Second Harvest board, supporting food security in the Inland Northwest; and contributes nationally through IFPA’s Women’s Fresh Perspectives Committee.



Karla Gonzalez

Northgate González Market

Customer Experience Specialist

Karla Gonzalez is a passionate, results-oriented leader. She brings energy and enthusiasm to her work,

with a natural ability to rally teams and collaborate effectively with those around her.

Authentic and approachable, Gonzalez builds strong connections and fosters a high-performing environment. She leads with compassion while demonstrating the strength and resilience to achieve ambitious goals.

Grounded in her values, Gonzalez maintains a strong focus on performance, results, team development and operational excellence.

Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, she was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Melissa Gonzalez

Stemilt Growers

Food Safety Specialist

When most people say someone gives 110 percent, it sounds like an exaggeration, but for Melissa Gonzalez, that’s simply where the bar begins. She started her journey at Stemilt picking apples and has grown into a respected leader within the food safety department, earning trust through hard work,

humility and a commitment to doing things the right way.

Gonzalez supports more than 130 of Stemilt’s growers, ranging from large corporate orchards to 5-acre farms. She’s the first person they meet, helping them understand and implement food safety practices and regulations, meeting each grower exactly where they are.

During an unannounced audit, one of Gonzalez’s growers was unable to participate due to a family emergency. She immediately stepped in and managed the entire audit so the grower could focus on her husband’s recovery.

Gonzalez brings that same commitment to her own team, mentoring

new employees and supporting them even when it requires taking on extra responsibility.

Within the company’s culture, Gonzalez embodies what it means to be an exceptional Stemilter. She is the team’s cheerleader, encouraging, positive and invested in raising the bar for food safety not only at Stemilt but across the industry.

Gonzalez is the kind of leader who makes the produce industry better simply by being in it. Her dedication, compassion and drive make her a deserving candidate.



Annette Gutierrez

Northgate González Market

Replenishment Manager – Center Store

Annette Gutierrez oversees replenishment strategies for key center store categories. In her role, she manages the purchasing of liquor, wine and beverages for the company’s distribution center, monitors weekly

out-of-stock and inventory performance reports and supports purchase and sales order coordination for the company’s joint venture with El Moro Bakery at the Echo Park location.

Gutierrez also leads a team of four buyers responsible for sourcing and replenishing product categories to help ensure stores remain well-stocked and operationally efficient.

Gutierrez joined Northgate Market in 2014 as a consultant, supporting the consolidation of warehouse orders following the company’s acquisition of another grocery business. Her dedication and collaborative approach

led to new opportunities and growth within the organization, ultimately advancing into leadership roles in replenishment and procurement.

Gutierrez is motivated by the opportunity to empower others and work alongside passionate team members. She describes her leadership style as supportive and grounded in the company’s core values of respect, trust and accountability. She believes that strong teamwork and clear communication help teams achieve results.

Gutierrez is proud of completing retail management courses through the Western Association of Food Chains.



We are proud to celebrate one of our own on being named a Women of Influence in the Food Industry Award nominee. This well-deserved honor recognizes her leadership, dedication, and impact.



Congratulations to Katherine Lunde and to all the outstanding nominees!



EVERY VISIT HAS A STORY.™

Recognizing Excellence and Leadership

Northgate González Market proudly honors this year's Women of Influence—exceptional leaders shaping our future with purpose and heart.

We celebrate seven remarkable Associates whose dedication and impact continue to inspire our team and uplift our company and our communities.

Thank you for embodying the spirit and excellence of Northgate González Market.

¡Felicidades!



Erika Mota
Store Team Leader



Karla González-Ramos
District Customer
Experience Specialist
Nominated by the USC FIM Program



Annette Gutierrez
Replenishment Manager,
Center Store



Teresa Jimenez
Sr. Director of González Family Office,
Development and Administration



Carolina Pinedo
Fresh Replenishment Manager



Laura Castro
Distribution Center Safety
and Compliance Manager



Janet Moreno
Sr. Asset Protection Manager,
Safety

*“Women
Who
Inspire”*



Carla Inama
Rosauers Supermarkets
Controller

Carla Inama has been a dedicated part of Rosauers Supermarkets for 28 years, building an outstanding career through hard work, curiosity and

a commitment to the business. She began as a staff accountant and, after holding several roles within the accounting department, worked her way up to her current position.

Today, Inama manages many of the financial functions that keep the company running smoothly, including budgeting, accounts payable and receivable, pharmacy third-party reconciliation, store licensing and capital tracking and depreciation. Her institutional knowledge and steady leadership make her an invaluable resource across the organization.

Inama continues to invest in her professional growth and is pursuing her certified management accountant designation. She is a graduate of Gonzaga University and a proud Zags basketball fan.

Outside of work, Inama's favorite role is being a grandmother to a young granddaughter, with another little girl on the way.

Inama's longstanding commitment, leadership and positive impact on the company make her a deserving recipient of The Shelby Report's Women of Influence Award.



Teresa Jimenez
Northgate González Market
Senior Director of Gonzalez Family Office of Development and Administration

Teresa Jimenez assists the EVP of the family office in developing and implementing programs and

policies that will help the Gonzalez family group of entities meet its goal of becoming a 100-year company.

Jimenez has been part of the Northgate Market family for more than 30 years and is recognized as one of the company's success stories. She began her career as a cashier and has since held several roles across the organization, including positions in human resources, safety and risk management and operations project management. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with cross-functional teams on initiatives that have helped support operational improvements and organizational growth.

Reflecting on her career, Jimenez says she is most proud of her 30 years with Northgate Market and the opportunity to witness the company's tremendous growth. What inspires her most are the company's strong values of faith, education and wellness. She says those values create an environment that encourages associates to bring their best selves every day.

Jimenez has an MBA and a master's degree in human resources from Pepperdine University, along with several professional certifications. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, photography and exploring new places.



Kimberly Johnson
Food 4 Less/Foods Co.
District Manager

Kimberly Johnson measures success not only by business results but also by the leaders she develops, the communities she serves and the lives she positively influences.

Johnson leads by following her core values and commitment to

feeding the human spirit of both her associates and customers. She believes leadership is not just about achieving results; It's about creating an environment where individuals feel supported, valued and empowered to grow.

Johnson prioritizes developing those around her. One of her greatest sources of pride is seeing those she has mentored grow into leadership roles.

Johnson believes that leadership extends into communities. She connects with her community through projects and partnerships that support those in need. One initiative especially important to her is placing special needs candidates in stores, providing opportunities that foster independence,

confidence and a sense of belonging.

Johnson also supports those facing difficult circumstances. Further, she dedicates her time and resources to community organizations and events, including Juneteenth celebrations and local churches that strengthen communities. In addition, she holds a special place in her heart for the elderly and assists them whenever she has the opportunity.

At the heart of everything Johnson does is a desire to serve others, build leaders and create positive change in the workplace and community.



Gretchen Johnson
Gelson's Markets
Category Manager

Gretchen Johnson brings a sharp, merchant-first mindset to her role overseeing key center store categories, including baking, cereals, snacks and

pantry staples.

Johnson has a strong ability to spot emerging trends and translate them into assortments that feel both relevant and elevated for Gelson's customers. Her vendor relationships and product curation consistently strike the right balance between everyday essentials and distinctive, premium offerings.

In addition to her merchandising leadership, Johnson serves on the Gelson's Foundation board of directors, helping shape the company's philanthropic strategy and deepen its community impact. She approaches

both sides of her role with intention – driving business performance while staying grounded in purpose.

Her influence can be seen across store shelves and within the communities Gelson's supports, making her a valued leader who connects product, people and purpose.



Congratulations to our 2026 Women of Influence Honorees!

We're so proud of you!



Martha Gabriel
 Category Manager, Meat



Claudia Velgara
 Loss Prevention Specialist



Veronica Estrada
 Manager of Retail Systems



Nancy Paredes
 Director of Culinary Operations



Irma Trias
 Category Manager, Grocery



Shannon Beasley
 Director of Training and Development



Patrice Coudray-Rubin

Congratulations to Patrice Coudray-Rubin on being honored as a *Women of Influence in the Food Industry* award recipient. Patrice's career-long dedication to innovation, scientific excellence, and people-centered leadership has made a lasting impact on the beverage industry and the teams she leads.

Congratulations to Becca Morgan on being named a *Women of Influence in the Food Industry* award winner. This recognition celebrates Becca's exceptional leadership, sustained impact, and meaningful contributions that continue to strengthen both Niagara and the broader food industry.



Becca Morgan





Kristyn Lawson
Preferred Sales & Marketing
President

Kristyn Lawson is an amazing leader in the food industry and her company is happy to nominate her.



Katherine Lunde
Fry's Food Stores
Store Manager

Katherine Lunde leads with integrity, honesty and a strong sense of discipline. She is a dependable and humble leader, known for being a champion for others and bringing passion to her work. People-centered in her approach, Lunde balances a strong focus on

performance with excellence. As a wife and mother, she exemplifies what it means to build a successful career while prioritizing family. She brings a commitment to personal and professional growth, leading and influencing teams across her area.

Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, Lunde was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Carrie Mack
Walmart
Senior Sourcing Manager

Carrie Mack is a respected leader known for elevating others and strengthening the produce industry through mentorship, advocacy and community impact. She believes leadership means opening doors for others and works to ensure emerging voices across the industry are heard.

Mack played a pivotal role in launching the first regional IFPA Women's Fresh Perspectives conference in Yakima, Washington, in 2026, an event that drew 228 attendees – surpassing attendance at the national conference.

The event created an empowering space for women across the Pacific Northwest supply chain, from orchard and warehouse teams to professionals in accounting, human resources and administrative roles. She served as a key advocate and connector, encouraging participation across companies and helping ensure the event represented the diverse voices of the industry.

Throughout her career, Mack has invested in the next generation of leaders. She seeks out those with emerging talent, sponsoring and mentoring

them while helping them grow professionally.

Mack also demonstrates deep commitment to her community. She is involved with the YWCA, championing programs that support women's independence, leadership development and access to education and opportunity.

Within the industry, Mack served two years as co-chair of the IFPA Women's Fresh Perspectives Committee and continues to contribute as a member.



Barb McGlothlin
C.A. Fortune
VP, E-Commerce

Barb McGlothlin is a results-driven, solutions-oriented leader whose impact on the food and CPG e-commerce landscape is measurable and influential. With more than 20 years of CPG experience, she brings exceptional grit, hustle and strategic clarity to her role, consistently

helping large and small brands profitably scale across Amazon and Pure Play platforms.

McGlothlin is recognized as an expert in the Amazon ecosystem, translating its complexity into clear, executable strategies that drive sustainable growth. She leads end-to-end e-commerce strategy development – ensuring product availability, optimized content and customer acquisition – while holding a sharp focus on profitability. Her success is ultimately measured by clients' ability to scale efficiently. Her track record speaks for itself.

In a fast-paced, high-growth environment, McGlothlin embodies true

entrepreneurial leadership. She leads with solutions, sets a high bar for performance and delivers best-in-class results without losing sight of people. She is a fierce advocate for her team, investing in coaching and development to help individuals grow into confident, high-performing leaders.

Beyond her professional excellence, McGlothlin is a vocal supporter of her community and brings authentic passion to everything she does – whether championing her team, her clients or cheering on the Seattle Seahawks. She exemplifies what it means to be a Woman of Influence.



CONGRATULATIONS

to our 2026 Woman of Influence!



Monica Rolon
Regional Sales
Development Manager



Deb Pasternack
Senior Director,
Category Management Lead



Amy Bergeron
Sales Development Manager



Sarah Sheaffer
Sales Development Manager



Jennifer Falzon
HR Manager



Teri-Anne Colurciello
Senior Director of
Business Intelligence



Jacqueline Michlitsch

Albertsons Cos. – Shaw’s

Senior Director of Sales Support

Jacqueline Michlitsch leads with inspiration and a commitment to achieving high standards for herself

and her team. She is an authentic and thoughtful leader, known for being collaborative, team-focused and a joy to work with.

A humble, people-centered leader, Michlitsch brings a strong foundation of experience and a commitment to continued growth. Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, she was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She

represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping to shape the future of the food industry.



Karol Moorman

Ralphs

Deli-Bakery Field Merchandiser

Karol Moorman has served in her current role since 2020, making a strong impact on merchandising execution, program growth and team development. She created schematics for both departments, significantly improving sales

through consistent merchandising.

Moorman’s leadership has contributed to significant growth in key areas, including the addition of 55 Starbucks and 43 Murray’s Cheese locations. She prioritizes adding new items and maintaining relevant assortments to create an exciting, inclusive shopping experience.

Moorman is committed to team development, mentoring associates and strengthening the bench for future growth. Through coaching, skill development and leadership guidance, she works to build a strong pipeline of talent to support continued success. One especially meaningful area

to her is mentoring three high-potential women within the deli-bakery department. She provides honest feedback and helps them think through opportunities and challenges as they grow, developing their leadership skills and preparing them for the future.

Moorman also dedicates time to charitable organizations such as City of Hope and Olive Crest, championing efforts that strengthen communities and support others in need. She also supports German Shepherd rescue and adoption, reflecting her compassion for animal welfare. These efforts highlight her inherent sense of service



Janet Moreno

Northgate González Market

Senior Asset Protection Manager – Safety

Janet Moreno supports safety initiatives across Northgate González Market’s stores. In her role, she helps ensure associates have the proper personal protective equipment, that safety equipment is maintained in good condition and that training programs promote safe work practices. She also

collaborates with cross-functional teams to develop programs and processes that help associates perform their responsibilities safely.

Moreno began her career with Northgate in 2002 as a courtesy clerk. Over the years, she has grown within the organization, holding several roles that have shaped her professional journey. She worked as a cashier and payroll clerk before moving into the role of safety coordinator. She later joined the risk management department as a claims coordinator and eventually transitioned into human resources as a district manager, where she supported several districts.

Through these experiences, Moreno gained a deep understanding of company operations and the importance of supporting the associates who are at the heart of Northgate Market.

She describes her leadership style as collaborative, supportive and focused on continuous improvement. She believes in leading by example, encouraging open communication and building trust through hard work, honesty and respect.

Outside of work, Moreno enjoys cooking and spending time with her husband going to the movies.



Rebecca Morgan

Niagra Bottling

Regional Sales Manager

Rebecca “Becca” Morgan is an open-minded,

optimistic leader who brings passion, energy and thoughtfulness to her work. She is known for being trustworthy and approachable, creating an environment where others feel supported and confident relying on her.

Driven and results-oriented, Morgan leads with a grounded presence and a strong commitment to delivering outcomes. She is a pleasure to work with and consistently elevates those around her.

Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, Morgan was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Misty Bryant

Director of Retail Operations



Shannon Clark

Senior Director of Marketing & Communications



Candace Henderson

Merchandising & Operations Support Manager



Courtney Meador

VP of Human Resources



Houchens Food Group proudly congratulates our winners of the **2026 Women of Influence** in the Food Industry award.





Erika Mota
Northgate González Market
Store Team Leader

Erika Mota is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy environment for Northgate González Market associates and guests while leading diverse teams to achieve operational excellence. In her role, she focuses on mentoring team members, upholding high operational standards and

ensuring the freshness and quality of merchandise to support strong store performance and customer satisfaction.

Mota began her journey with Northgate in 2004 as a cashier and quickly grew within the organization. She went on to serve as a customer service representative, scan coordinator and human resources manager before being selected for the company's operational fast-track program, now known as immersive leadership training. This experience launched her path in store operations leadership, where she advanced through roles as second assistant and assistant store team leader before assuming her current position.

Mota is motivated by the opportunity to positively impact the lives of associates and customers. She believes in servant leadership, open communication and respect as guiding principles in how she leads her team. She is especially proud of mentoring associates who have grown into leadership roles within the company, viewing their success as one of her greatest accomplishments.

Outside of work, Mota enjoys spending time with her husband and their two children. As a family, they enjoy outdoor activities such as camping and biking.



Kirti Mutatkar
UnitedAg
President/CEO

Kirti Mutatkar is a visionary leader whose impact across the food and agriculture industry is transformative and human centered. In her current role, she has consistently delivered results by advancing innovative healthcare solutions that improve access, affordability and quality of care for

agricultural employers and their workforce.

Under her leadership, UnitedAg has expanded access to care to more than 55,000 agricultural workers and their families, opened seven regional health and wellness centers and extended care nationally and across borders through strategic partnerships with Blue Shield and the SAIN Mexico Health Network.

Mutatkar is recognized for her authentic and empowering leadership style. She cultivates a culture grounded in purpose, collaboration and growth, developing high-performing teams and inspiring others to lead with confidence and intention. Her commitment to elevating women in

agriculture is exemplified through the WomenAg Leadership Academy, which she founded to provide a supportive, judgment-free space for connection, development and advancement.

A respected industry leader, Mutatkar also has served as a past board member of AgSafe and as past chair of the Health Care Administrators Association, reflecting her influence in advancing best practices across healthcare and agriculture. Her civic and philanthropic efforts further demonstrate her dedication to community health, education and food security.



Marnie Nemcoff
Gelson's Markets
Director of E-Commerce

Marnie Nemcoff plays a pivotal role in shaping the company's digital grocery experience and driving omnichannel growth. Overseeing Gelson's online

shopping platforms and partnerships with Instacart and DoorDash, she ensures a seamless connection between technology, merchandising and customer experience. Her leadership has helped grow Gelson's digital business.

Known for her strategic mindset and cross-functional leadership, Nemcoff works closely with marketing, IT and category management teams to implement innovative digital marketing initiatives, improve site functionality and enhance customer engagement. She also spearheaded key

partnerships and artificial intelligence-driven marketing tools that continue to expand Gelson's digital reach.

Through her forward-thinking leadership and commitment to innovation, Nemcoff is helping position Gelson's as a leader in the evolving world of online grocery retail.



Stefanie Pandol
Pandol Brothers
Marketing/Sustainability Specialist

Stefanie Pandol is a true leader in the food industry and someone who embodies influence both professionally and personally. As a fourth-generation steward of her family's business, she carries forward

more than 75 years of farming in California's Central Valley with pride, integrity and a deep sense of responsibility. She honors tradition while confidently driving innovation through strategic marketing and sustainability initiatives that will impact the industry for generations.

Pandol is hardworking, driven and passionate about produce and the people behind it. She leads with ethics, respect and long-term vision. Sustainability under her leadership is not a trend but a commitment to land stewardship, operational excellence and thoughtful innovation.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Pandol is loyal, encouraging

and supportive. She celebrates others' wins, leads with humility and creates a sense of belonging wherever she goes. The same trust and care she builds with growers, partners and employees are the qualities that make her an extraordinary friend to so many.

Pandol's influence extends far beyond her title. She lifts up those around her and represents the best of the next generation of leaders in the food industry.

a toast to you & your success

Congratulations to our partner, Beth McGough of Giant Eagle, on being named a 2026 Women of Influence Award recipient.

Proud Partners in Deli



THE
Campbell's
COMPANY

CELEBRATING THE
**2026 Women of Influence
Award Winners**



Rachel Bower

Vice President, Category Leadership
& Category Strategy,
Meals & Beverages



Melissa Bucklaw

Vice President,
Sales Execution & Planning



Angie Smith

Head of Commerce
Marketing, Snacks



Sydney Gaston

Customer Vice President,
National Grocery, Meals & Beverages



Kristen Wilson

Customer Vice President,
West Regionals, Snacks



Nancy Paredes

Superior Grocers

Director of Culinary Operations

Nancy Paredes is a respected leader whose influence is defined by her ability to elevate standards, develop people and translate strategy into consistent execution across Superior Grocers. She plays a pivotal role in protecting

brand integrity while strengthening performance at scale.

Paredes' impact is most evident in her commitment to clarity and consistency. She authored the Hot Foods Training Checklist, a standardized training resource that reinforces food safety, execution discipline and operational alignment across stores. This work reflects her focus on practical innovations, simplifying complex expectations into tools that empower frontline teams and leaders.

Equally central to Paredes' influence is her people-first leadership approach. Through regular field engagement and weekly operational recaps,

she provides coaching, reinforces accountability and shares actionable insights that connect corporate priorities to daily behaviors that drive results. Her communication consistently emphasizes development, ownership and protecting the brand.

Paredes also collaborates cross-functionally on safety initiatives, product rollouts and operational issue resolution, ensuring alignment and timely support across departments. Her credibility, follow-through and leadership presence make her a trusted partner and influential voice within the organization.



Jennifer Petersen

Sun World

EVP and Chief Science Officer

Jennifer Petersen exemplifies the leadership, discipline and forward-thinking required to move the food industry forward. She leads Sun World's global research and breeding programs, ensuring scientific innovation translates into commercial outcomes.

Over her four-and-a-half years with the company, Petersen has played a critical role in aligning breeding, licensing and commercialization into a unified model designed to deliver consistent quality, scalability and long-term value across the supply chain.

Her impact is clear. She:

- Built a global innovation pipeline, overseeing the development of 56 advanced selections and commercial varieties across grapes, stone fruit and mango.
- Leads a team of 40 scientists and professionals, including a largely women-led group at Sun World's research headquarters.

- Drove commercial success at scale, helping develop Autumncrisp grapes to surpass \$1 billion in global retail sales, demonstrating her ability to translate science into sustained consumer demand.

Petersen's impact also is reflected in how she leads. She has built a culture grounded in curiosity, accountability and shared ambition, where teams come together to push boundaries and deliver results. It is the kind of leadership that can be seen in action – new varieties on the table, quickly picked over and the best ones gone first.



Kori Pierson

Foods Etc. IGA

Owner

Kori Pierson exemplifies what it means to be a true Woman of Influence through her exceptional business leadership, community engagement and unwavering commitment to the people she serves.

As a results-oriented business leader, Pierson has built Foods Etc. IGA

into a thriving independent supermarket known for outstanding service, strong sales and consistent profitability. Through disciplined management, attention to detail and understanding of her customers and employees, she has driven exceptional financial performance while maintaining the personal touch that defines a successful community grocery store. Her ability to balance operational excellence with a welcoming neighborhood market experience has made her store a trusted local institution.

Pierson's leadership extends well beyond the bottom line. She is recognized as a leader in her community, earning appreciation from the

local school district, Rotary Club and hospital for her commitment to service and collaboration.

Within the business community, Pierson plays a leadership role through the local chamber of commerce, the California Grocers Association and partnership with C&S Wholesale Grocers.

Inside her store, Pierson leads by example – mentoring managers, supporting frontline employees and fostering a culture of teamwork, accountability and pride. She is the epitome of a Woman of Influence to her business, community and associates.



Carolina Pinedo

Northgate González Market

Fresh Replenishment Manager

Carolina Pinedo oversees planning and supply strategies for key Northgate González Market fresh departments, including prepared foods, meat, produce, bakery and tortillería. She aligns demand

forecasting, production planning and inventory management across stores and commissary operations to ensure teams have the right products available at the right time.

Pinedo works with cross-functional partners to improve processes, strengthen supplier relationships and support operational execution that enhances the overall customer experience.

Pinedo began her career with Northgate on the front lines as a bagger and cashier, gaining valuable insight into store operations and customer service. Through determination and a commitment to continuous

learning, she advanced into roles in supply chain, category management, replenishment and procurement. These experiences helped her develop a strong understanding of the company's operations and the importance of collaboration in driving growth and supporting store teams.

Pinedo is motivated by the positive impact Northgate has on customers and associates. She values the company's strong culture, family roots and dedication to serving the community while continuing to innovate. She describes her leadership style as collaborative and focused on accountability.



Congratulations to Catrin Williams, a 2026 Woman of Influence!

For almost a decade, there has been one driving force behind every new store, every major remodel or venue renovation at New Seasons Market. Catrin Williams IS that force. She leads the Design & Construction team with a personable approach, attention to detail and flexible, but firm, fiscal management, bringing projects to fruition on time AND on budget. Catrin's true success is her ability to marry her experience with the values New Seasons Market stands for, weaving them throughout a project.

Catrin's background in architecture, combined with her extensive project management experience and strong intuitive leadership, makes her an exceptionally effective leader and a valued colleague. Her recent completion of the USC Food Industry Management Program further complements her already impressive skill set, adding depth to her expertise and enhancing an already distinguished career.

This recognition is so well deserved.

Congratulations Catrin! We're proud to celebrate you.





We're proud to celebrate Schraad's Women of Influence and all of the 2026 honorees.



NELLIE CARLSON
Senior Director of Retail Strategy



KACY SPRINGER
Creative Development Project Manager



CASEY MARTIN
Senior Client & Customer Support Analyst



EMILEE ALBRIGHT
Category Insights Manager



LISA LAM
Retail & Data Systems Specialist



NICKI ZUBER
Business Development Manager

Congratulations!



Megan Poppe
Rosauers Supermarkets

Store Manager

Megan Poppe has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication since being hired on Aug. 28, 2023, to manage Rosauers Supermarkets' newly acquired and fully remodeled store in Pullman, Washington. Taking on the

responsibility of leading a new location is a significant challenge, but she embraced the opportunity with confidence, professionalism and a clear vision for success.

Poppe's Women of Influence selection reflects the leadership qualities and potential she demonstrated early in her career with the organization. Under her leadership, the Pullman store has experienced consistent gains in sales and net profits. She approaches the business with a strategic mindset and strong understanding of her local market.

When corporate purchasing introduces products that may be more

difficult to sell in her area, Poppe develops creative solutions such as recipes, meal ideas and simple shopping guides that help customers understand how to use the items while increasing basket size through complementary ingredients.

Beyond financial performance, Poppe leads with a strong focus on people. She cares about her employees and customers, holds her leadership team to high standards and maintains a culture of accountability, respect and service.



LeAnne Romesburg
Ralphs

Human Resources Director

With nearly three decades of human resources experience, LeAnne Romesburg's focus is to strengthen the grocery workforce and develop leaders. For the past five years, she has served as human resources leader for Ralphs and Food 4 Less, supporting business performance and an engaged workplace

culture.

Romesburg creates opportunities for associate success, including the launch of two Associate Resource Groups. EDGE ARG provides networking and professional development opportunities for female leaders. The Multicultural ARG ensures associates from diverse backgrounds have a voice and advancement opportunities.

Romesburg has implemented initiatives that reduced employee turnover while maintaining strong engagement. She empowers HR leaders to resolve issues at the store level, an approach that built trust and communication between associates and leadership.

Another key initiative was partnering to launch the English at Work program, which demonstrated the value of providing language-learning opportunities to associates whose first language is not English.

Romesburg's leadership extends into the community, where she has served on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles and volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank, Olive Crest and Orangewood Foundation.

Through a commitment to people, community and operational excellence, Romesburg demonstrates how strong leadership can positively shape the organization and the communities it serves.



Sara Rueda Cuartas
Frieda's LLC

Director of Global Procurement and Business Development

Sara Rueda Cuartas brings a deep passion to her

work, consistently driving initiatives forward with a focus on operational excellence. She is naturally curious, always seeking ways to improve both herself and business outcomes. She leads with courage, embracing what is possible and taking action to achieve it.

With a strong focus on performance and team development, Rueda Cuartas is committed to continuous growth for herself, her team and the business. Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, she was

selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact.

Rueda Cuartas represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Irma Trias
Superior Grocers

Category Manager - Grocery

Irma Trias is a veteran of the grocery business, with extensive experience spanning store operations

and years in purchasing. She brings passion, professionalism and deep industry knowledge to everything she does. As an important member of Superior Grocers' purchasing team, she leverages her experience to negotiate effectively and help grow brands in partnership with vendors.

Trias recently completed the Leadership Development Course at Superior Grocers, gaining additional skills that have further enhanced her ability to mentor and develop team members. She is respected within the

vendor community as a strong business partner who is always looking for opportunities to nurture emerging brands and expand existing ones.

Trias' leadership, commitment and impact make this recognition well deserved.

The Women Moving the Industry Forward

Congratulations to C.A. Fortune's Women of Influence who are recognized for leadership, impact, and raising the bar across our business and beyond.



Darla Deiro
Director,
Conventional
Sales

Alex Hickey
VP, Natural
Strategic
Partnerships

Caitlyn Koriakos
Sr. Director,
Sales Ops

Barb McGlothlin
VP,
E-Commerce

Nicole Teeters
SVP, Strategy,
SRW | C.A.

Nery Vazquez
SVP,
DTH | C.A.

Kate Weidner
Chief Creative
Officer,
SRW | C.A.

Let's build what's next.

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CONGRATULATIONS

JERI ELSASSER - 2026 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE AWARD RECIPIENT



We are honored to celebrate our Director of Marketing, Jeri Elsasser, on being recognized as a Woman of Influence in our industry. Jeri plays a vital role in our company, and we are incredibly grateful for her dedication and contributions.



Claudia Velgara

Superior Grocers

District Loss Prevention Specialist

Claudia Velgara is a forward-thinking loss prevention leader who drives measurable impact across shrink reduction, associate safety and operational discipline at Superior Grocers.

Beginning her career in frontline grocery operations, she developed firsthand insight into store execution and customer experience. She advanced into investigative and analytical leadership, leveraging POS exception reporting, trend analysis and case development to identify internal and external theft patterns and implement targeted corrective strategies.

Wicklander certified, Velgara conducts investigations with professionalism, integrity and sound judgment. She played a pivotal role in helping launch the company's SAFR facial recognition program. She supported implementation, compliance alignment and store-level adoption

– ensuring the technology was deployed responsibly and effectively. Her leadership improved visibility on repeat offenders, accelerated case resolution and strengthened proactive deterrence, enhancing both safety and profitability.

Bilingual, Velgara builds trust across diverse teams and partners cross-functionally to embed sustainable loss prevention practices. She does not simply respond to risk; she builds systems that prevent it.

Her innovation, influence and operational results make her deserving of this recognition.



Paige Venable

Vallarta Supermarkets

Director of Floral

Paige Venable leads with compassion and tenacity. She is a naturally curious, values-driven leader who

is committed to continuous personal and professional growth as a lifelong learner.

Venable inspires her teams through her steadiness, sincerity and thoughtful, supportive approach, while also motivating them to achieve strong results. With a strong focus on performance, team development and operational excellence, she consistently delivers on what she sets out to accomplish.

Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, Venable was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Catrin Williams

New Seasons Market

Senior Director of Store Development

Catrin Williams leads with a thoughtful, people-centered approach that inspires and motivates those

around her. A lifelong learner, she brings humility and a collaborative mindset to her leadership, effectively aligning and synergizing teams to achieve results.

Williams is a caring and authentic leader, known for her integrity, trustworthiness and deep commitment to others.

Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, she was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University

of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Danielle Wortham

Gelson's Markets

Warehouse Operations Manager

As a woman in a male-dominated distribution center, Danielle Wortham embodies strength and a no-nonsense, get-it-done kind of grit that leads the way.

Beginning her career as a temporary clerk in human resources, she worked her way into the distribution center where she now oversees the daily operations of a complex, high-volume logistics environment.

Known for her direct leadership style and operational discipline, Wortham plays a critical role in coordinating across warehouse teams, transportation, buyers and store leadership. Her journey from temporary employee to operational leader reflects her determination, resilience and unwavering commitment to accountability and excellence.



**CELEBRATING OUR 2026
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE
WINNERS** !!!



50
YEARS 

**LEADING WHAT'S NEXT
POWERED BY WOMEN OF INFLUENCE**

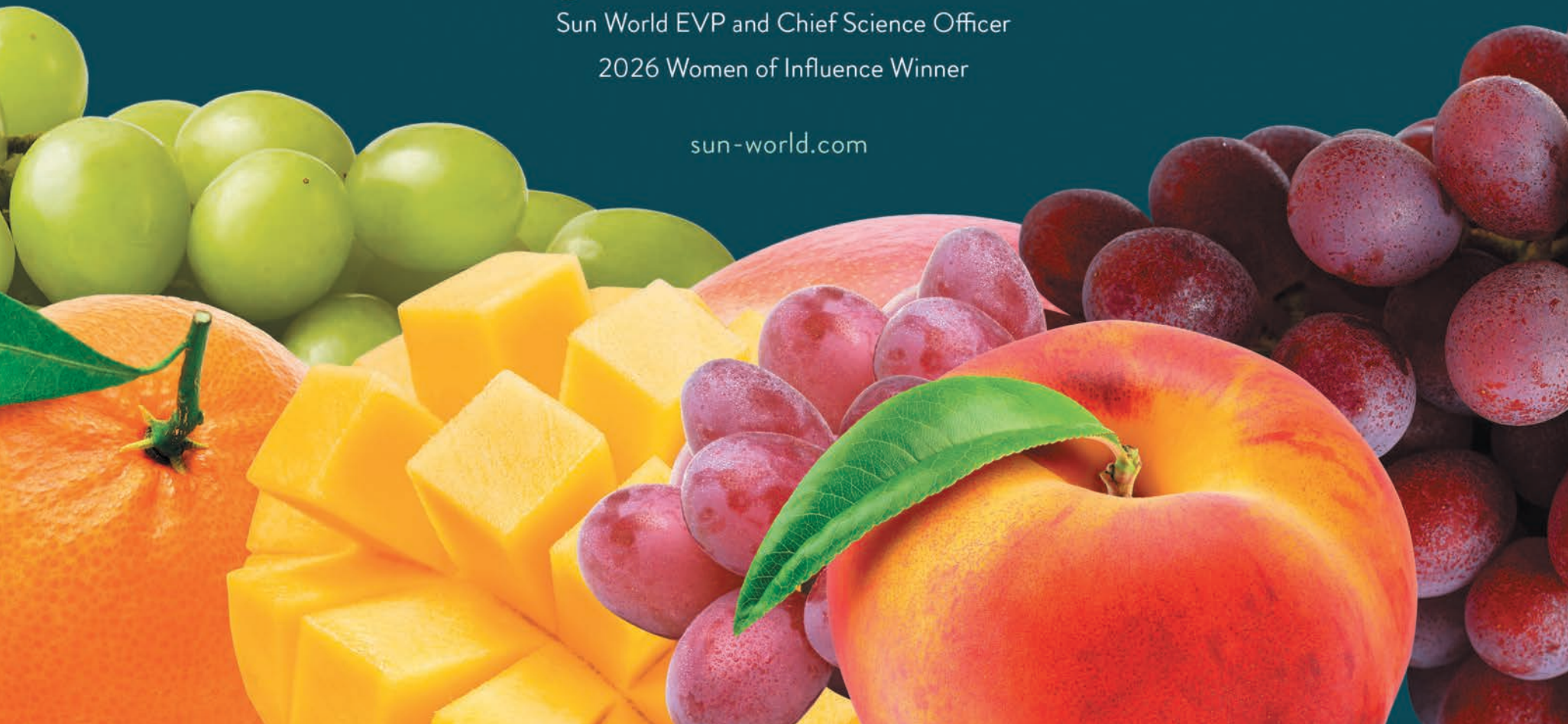


Congratulations Jennifer Petersen

Sun World EVP and Chief Science Officer

2026 Women of Influence Winner

sun-world.com



Congratulations

to our Women of Influence Award Recipient!



Melissa Harrington
Vice President, Finance

You *nourish* our brand, strategy and culture every day,
making Food Lion a great place to *work* and *shop*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STOP & SHOP'S 2026 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE!



Brandy Coccia
Store Manager



Elsie Martinez
Human Resources
Business Partner



Erin Baez
Director of Operations
Support



Joelle Smith
Manager Distribution
Services



Rachel Razzano
Human Resources
Business Partner



Glauca Afonso
Store Manager



EMPIRE

Kroger partners for 45+ years



**Congratulations to
Empire Marketing Strategies
own Kim Gustina
for winning
“The Women of Influence in
the Food Industry” award!**



Empirefoods.com



The United Family is proud to congratulate five outstanding team members who were recognized by *The Shelby Report* as Women of Influence in the food industry.

Their dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence make a meaningful impact on our company and the communities we serve across Texas and New Mexico.

We are honored to celebrate their achievements!



The
**United
Family**TM





Shelby Publishing has expanded its popular Women of Influence section from the Northeast to the other four regions of the nation. Look for the following outstanding female leaders from across the country to be featured in our May editions...

NORTHEAST

Glaucia Afonso
Debbie Allison
Erin Baez
Angela Basnar
Amy Bergeron
Patty Bianco
Rachel Bower
Melissa Bucklaw
Jenna Busby
Michelle Carfagno
Shan Case
Jane Ciccone
Brandy Coccia
Jennie Coleman
Reimi Colson
Tracey Colston
Teri-Anne Colurciello
Stephanie Doherty
Tonya Douglas
Hume Emmy
Jennifer Falzon
Jennifer Frailey-Custer
Sydney Gaston
Angelena Goot
Grace Gruber
Kathy Guertin
Juliana Havriko
Michelle Kalicky
Claire Ko
Caitlyn Koriakos
Farah Lavigne
Maura Levis
Laura Viola Maccarone
Sabrina Malloy
Elsie Martinez
Beth McGough
Rachel McLaughlin
Justine Meader
Chrissy Michaud
Jessica Mosner

Sae Pansare
Deborah Pasternack
Rachel Razzano
Darla Rieg
Monica Rolon
Sydney Ruggieri
Jordan Schenck
Stacey Schultz
Sarah Sheaffer
Joelle Smith
Stevie Smith
Angie Smith
Staci Smith
Meaghan Tetreault
Brittany Vogel
Karen Weinstein
Cathy Williams Owen
Kristen Wilson

MIDWEST

Angel Anderson
Michelle Bernard
Casie Broker
Dea Calkins
Jamie Collins
Tammy Durnan
Azeb Gebrewihot
Jennifer Lambert
Kristi Magnuson Nelson
Tara McDermott
Shelly Moore
Meagan Nelson
Jessica Ringena
Jody Rudh
Carla Rydberg
Natalie Santiago
Heather Standifer
Rebekah Stewart
Anna Stoermer
Jenna Sullivan
Nicole Teeters

Lori Turner
Amy Wadstrom
Kate Weidner
Alyson Woods
Nicki Zuber

SOUTHEAST

Susan Abernathy
Ruth Bain
Lindsey Baron
Brittany Benton
Taylor Berry
Misty Bryant
Lindsay Capozziello
Jordan Carter
Shannon Clark
Jan Concannon
Anna Cook
Henley Coulter
Rhonda DeMello
Misty Deskins
Geri Downing
Meghan Edwards
Sarah Frey
Lucy Gibbons
Tracey Gregorski
Kim Gustina
Constance Hammond
Melissa Harrington
Candace Henderson
Tabitha Henry
Elizabeth Hinson
Karin Humanik
Jamila Jackson
Mary Kellmanson
Misty Kern
Claudia Keyes
Tina Kubala
Hye Suk Makley
Sarah Matejowsky
Sherry McBride

Courtney Meador
Dora Merrick
Tish Mills
Kara O'Malley
Katie Penny
Tamara Rose
Caroline Short
Shelby Silvia
Hannah Smith
Martha Taylor
Paige Vance

SOUTHEAST

Angela Ables
Emilee Albright
Liz Bleakley
Sarah Boddy
Jessica Brown
Kaela Canzoneri
Nellie Carlson
Kindle Chapman
Crystal Dominguez
Amanda Emerson
Taylor Escamilla
Sabrina Fair
Marty George
Alexandra Hickey
Amber Hook
Beth Keeton
Lisa Lam
Macaela LeClair
Casey Martin
Chesley Maschhoff
Jennifer O'Malley
Abie Rampy
Becky Schaeffer
Kacy Springer
Kayleigh Swift
Lisa Tiblow
Nery Vazquez