

**Valerie Jabbar, President of Ralphs, named 2018 FIEP Executive-in-Residence**

LOS ANGELES, January 11, 2017 -- The USC Marshall School of Business Food Industry Executive Program (FIEP) has named Valerie Jabbar, President of Ralphs Grocery Company, a division of The Kroger Co., which operates 191 stores throughout Southern California and employs more than 20,000 associates, as Executive-in-Residence for FIEP 2018. 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.

“It is an honor to serve in this capacity for the Food Industry Executive Program,” said Jabbar. “I am an advocate for education programs such as FIEP that help develop industry leaders and provide them with the skills and tools to progress and innovate.”

Jabbar began her career in 1987 as a clerk at Fry’s. Over 30 years, she has held numerous leadership roles, including assistant store director, category manager, Drug/GM coordinator, G.O. seasonal manager, assistant director of Drug/GM and director of Drug/GM, as well as district manager in the Fry’s Division. In 2012, Jabbar moved to the Mid-Atlantic Division to serve as vice president of merchandising before moving to the Ralphs Division in 2013 as vice president, merchandising. Jabbar was promoted to president in July 2016.



Jabbar attended the Colorado Institute of Art and has also completed leadership seminars at Babson College and University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. She is a board member of the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC), President of the City of Hope Food Industry Council, and serves as a mentor for the Ralphs Division Women's EDGE, an associate resource group that develops talent. In 2012, *Progressive Grocer* recognized Valerie with the Top Women in Grocery "Rising Star" Award.

"It is an honor to name Valerie Jabbar as the 2018 Food Industry Management Program Executive-in-Residence. She serves both our industry and her company by investing in the development of future leaders. In addition, Ms. Jabbar has an impressive track record of teaching and mentoring her associates about key leadership principles that will help them grow in their careers," said Cynthia McCloud, Director, USC Marshall Food Industry Management Programs.

### **The FIEP Program at USC Marshall**

The spring session of the Food Industry Executive Program (FIEP) will be held March 12-15, 2018. The fall session will be held September 17-20, 2018. Visit [marshall.usc.edu/fiep](http://marshall.usc.edu/fiep) for more detailed information, faculty 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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