

## **USC Marshall School of Business Honors Pete Van Helden of Stater Bros. Markets as the 2018 Executive of the Year for the Food Industry Management Program**

Los Angeles, California, February 2018 – USC Marshall Food Industry Management certificate program will honor Pete Van Helden, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Stater Bros. Markets as the 2018 Executive of the Year. Van Helden will be the keynote speaker at the May graduation banquet bringing over 40 years of experience in the Supermarket Industry.

“Mr. Van Helden is one of the industry’s most passionate supporters of the Food Industry Management Program. He is respected for his focus on developing a culture of learning and is recognized for his continuous dedication to developing leadership talent” said Jim Ellis, Dean of the USC Marshall School of Business.

Van Helden began his career in 1977, working for Rosauers Supermarket as a Courtesy Clerk in his home state of Montana. In 1978, he relocated to Bozeman, Montana where he joined Albertsons as a Clerk. During his tenure at Albertsons, Van Helden held a variety of leadership positions in operations, merger integration and dual branding, and served as President and CEO of all California stores.

In 2006, Van Helden joined Supervalu through the company’s partial acquisition of Albertsons. While at Supervalu, he was promoted to the position of Executive Vice President of Retail Operations. In this role, Van Helden was responsible for overseeing the operations of 1,100 stores in 36 states.

He joined Stater Bros. Markets as President and Chief Operating Officer in 2013. In January of 2016, Stater Bros.’ late Executive Chairman, Jack H. Brown appointed Van Helden as President and CEO.

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Van Helden holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He has also completed the Food Industry Executive Program at USC and the Executive Business Program at Stanford University.

He currently serves as CEO of Stater Bros. Charities, the philanthropic arm of Stater Bros. Markets. Van Helden is a strong believer in helping those in need and volunteers as a pilot for Angel Flight, an organization that arranges free, non-emergency air travel for children and adults with serious medical conditions.

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**About the Food Industry Management Program:** The Food Industry Management Program at USC's Marshall School of Business marked its 60th anniversary. Each year, 35 students are chosen from a wide range of companies in the food industry to participate in the elite semester-long program. Each student accepted into the program receives a full tuition scholarship through the Western Association of Food Chains. Individuals selected must have proven records of management accomplishments with significant potential for future advancement.

**For more information,** please visit our website: [www.marshall.usc.edu/fim](http://www.marshall.usc.edu/fim)

**For banquet information,** please contact Jennifer Fisher at the Food Industry Management Program office at 213-740-0416 or [fim@marshall.usc.edu](mailto:fim@marshall.usc.edu)

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