



Contact:

Carole Christianson

Western Association of Food Chains

carole@wafc.com; www.wafc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2014

“WAFC Announces Former First Lady, Laura Bush, as a 2015 Annual Convention Headliner”



Lakewood, CA - The Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC) is pleased to announce that Laura Bush will be the opening speaker at the Tuesday morning general session at the 94th Annual “Advancing the Food Industry Through Education and Leadership” WAFC Convention to be held May 2-6, 2015 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs in Palm Desert, California.

Laura Bush, the wife of 43rd U.S. President George W. Bush, served as first lady from 2001 to 2009. Known as “One of the most beloved and admired American First Ladies,” for decades Laura Bush has championed key issues in the fields of education, health care, and human rights. The author of the bestselling memoir, *Spoken From The Heart*,

Mrs. Bush also founded both the Texas Book Festival and the National Book Festival in Washington D.C. Today, as the Chair of the Women’s Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute, Mrs. Bush continues her work on global healthcare innovations, empowering women in emerging democracies, education reform, and supporting the men and women who have served in America’s military. The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries was founded in 2002. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$11.5 million to schools to support the education of our nation’s children by providing funds to update, extend and diversify the book and print collections of America’s school libraries. Laura Bush holds a degree in education and a master’s degree in library science.

“Mrs. Bush’s continued involvement in education demonstrates her commitment to positively influence and shape the lives of others which fits perfectly with WAFC’s mission of “Advancing the Food Industry Through Education and Leadership,” stated WAFC President & Chairwoman, Sue Klug of Unified Grocers.

Established in 1921, the WAFC is focused on providing educational opportunities for food industry associates. The highly acclaimed Food Industry Management Program at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business has been available to qualified industry participants for 56 years. In 2000, the WAFC expanded its scope by working with community colleges throughout the Western United States to establish the “Retail Management Certificate Program.” The Retail Management Certificate Program curriculum is currently available online and at 160 college and satellite locations.

To learn more about the WAFC, go to www.wafc.com.