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Robert Hermanns to Join USC Marshall School of Business as Director of Food Industry Programs

The USC Marshall School of Business announces the appointment of Robert Hermanns as Director of Food Industry Programs. Hermanns, a long-time leader within the food retail industry, joins USC from the Park City Group, where he was Senior Vice President and a Board Member.



In his new role, Hermanns will be responsible for Marshall's programs for the food industry, which currently include the 51 year old Food Industry Management Program and the Food Industry Executive Program. The Food Industry Management Program is a semester long program for high potential managers in the food retail and supplier communities. Students in this program are supported by a full scholarship provided by the Western Association of Food Chains.

"Robert Hermanns has an excellent reputation within the food industry," said Marshall Dean James G. Ellis. "We are pleased to have his expertise and experience and look forward to the next 50 years of the USC Food Industry Management Program."

Hermanns, who received his MBA from USC Marshall, has more than 40 years of experience in all phases of retail and wholesale grocery operations. He was President & Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Associated Grocers, Inc. in Seattle, from 2002 through 2005. Prior to joining Associated Grocers, Inc., he was Chief Operating Officer of Weis Markets. Hermanns had a 30-year career with American Stores Company, an \$18 billion food and drug retailer, where he held a number of executive management positions, including Chief Operating Officer for Procurement and Logistics. Hermanns began his career with Jewel Food Stores, serving in a variety of management positions from store manager to grocery merchandising manager.

"I am excited to join USC Marshall's Food Industry Programs," Hermanns said, "as I have personally seen how this program makes an impact on the future leaders in the food industry."

Hermanns served on the Board of Directors of Food Marketing Institute (FMI), the Board of Directors of the Western Association of Food Chains and the Board of Directors of Western Family Foods. In addition to his USC Marshall MBA, Hermanns also received a bachelor's degree in Food Marketing from Western Michigan University.

About USC Marshall School of Business

Based in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, at the crossroads of the Pacific Rim, the USC Marshall School is the best place to learn the art and science of business. The school's programs serve nearly 5,000 undergraduate, graduate, professional and executive-education students, who attend classes in facilities at the main Los Angeles campus, as well as satellite facilities in Irvine and San Diego. USC Marshall also operates a Global MBA program in conjunction with Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, China.