



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Colorado Community College System now offering the WAFAC Retail Management Certificate Program

Lakewood, CA – June 3, 2011

“Advancing the Food Industry through Education and Leadership” is the primary mission of the Western Association of Food Chains, Inc.

The Colorado Community College system is the WAFAC’s latest college partner, collaborating with food industry retailers and suppliers to offer the WAFAC endorsed “Retail Management Certificate Program”. This 10-course college curriculum provides relevant and practical content that applies across all segments of the retail food industry. Additionally, the program design is accessible and flexible to meet the varying needs of food industry employees.

The first state-wide advisory meeting was held on May 20, 2011 in Denver, combining several representatives of Colorado’s community colleges and the food industry. Currently, the company members include: Albertsons LLC, Costco, King Soopers/City Markets, Loaf & Jug, Safeway, Whole Foods, and Coca-Cola.

“We are thrilled with the resounding support that we have seen in Colorado for the Retail Management Certificate Program”, said WAFAC Education Director, Cherie Phipps. “The food industry is completely focused on building the skills of our workforce to meet current and future business challenges. The Retail Management Certificate Program is an excellent development tool and has become regarded as a prestigious credential.”

The Retail Management Certificate Program is offered specifically through the nation’s Community College Systems to ensure an affordable, quality education to all food industry associates, regardless of academic background and standing.

First launched in 2000, the Retail Management Certificate Program was established to help provide food industry associates with the tools and credit they need to continue their education and advance in their careers. Today, thousands of industry associates are pursuing their WAFAC-endorsed Retail Management Certificate, and almost 500 more are now proud graduates.

Established in 1921, the Western Association of Food Chains is a non-profit organization comprised of retailers and wholesalers in the 14 Western States representing over 7,500 supermarkets and 200 billion dollars in annual sales. The WAFAC’s primary mission is education, which is made possible with scholarship donations of industry suppliers and individuals as well as staging an annual convention each spring.

To learn more about the WAFAC’s Education Initiatives go to www.wafc.com and click on Education Programs.