The USC FIM Program Class of 2016

In its 50th year, the Food Industry Management (FIM) Program at the USC Marshall School of Business, in association with the Western Association of Food Chains Inc. (WAFIC), has brought together faculty, industry participants and teaching materials in a unique educational environment. The program runs 16 weeks—Jan. 8-April 17, 2016.

"The program at USC is designed specifically for the industry's high-potential executives who have expertise in one or two areas of the business but need a bit more exposure to other disciplines. They are effectively being groomed as future leaders for their respective companies," according to Cynthia McCloud, director of USC Marshall Food Industry Programs. "Our goal is to expose them to new and innovative ideas so they become stronger, more balanced contributors. Our motto is, 'You pick them, We polish them.' These students leave the program as thought leaders with more confidence, new techniques and the most current tools to address current business needs and identify future opportunities.

They will challenge their organizations to think differently and take risks to compete in an industry that is changing faster than we can imagine."

The participants in the 2016 FIM Program were handpicked by their employers to attend this career-building, and often life-changing, program. The ideal candidates are senior-level managers from food retailers, wholesalers or manufacturers, or from companies that support the food industry. Tuition is funded by the WAFIC, a nonprofit organization composed of the senior executives from food retail and wholesale companies that account for sales exceeding $140 billion annually in 16 western states. Since 1959, the WAFIC, with the generous donations of both supplier companies and individuals, has supported the Food Industry Management Program with scholarships in excess of $23 million. More than 1,700 students have qualified, persevered and graduated.

2016 FIM Participants