



A celebration of female professionals

Tribute offers insight into careers of 58 honorees

The Griffin Report of the Northeast presents its 21st annual tribute to Women of Influence in the food industry. This year's slate of honorees – 58 strong – runs the gamut from presidents and VPs to managers, directors and supervisors.

They are among the leading executives in their respective fields, but their candid responses to questions from the Griffin team also reflect how they handle their other roles – as wives, mothers, sisters and even grandmothers.

Whether they've worked there decades or just a few months, these women are making an impact at their companies. Some

have MBAs or law degrees, while others are pursuing doctorates. Nearly all belong to professional associations and are active in their communities.

In the pages that follow, they share advice for up-and-coming professionals, as well as detail some of the challenges and rewards they've experienced along the way. In addition, you'll learn about the defining moments of their careers.

We found their responses refreshing and inspirational, and hope you will as well. Join us as we celebrate the 2026 Women of Influence.





Glauca Afonso

Stop & Shop

Manager

Glauca Afonso aligns with Stop & Shop's culture and upholds core values. She is a trusted leader in her district, known for offering insight and support to her peers. Her energetic and positive leadership fosters trust and empowerment

among her team, encouraging associates to make decisions in the best interest of the customer and company.

Afonso balances humor with accountability, creating an environment where her team feels energized and dedicated to doing their best work. As a result, the team remains engaged, maintains excellent morale and delivers outstanding results. Her focus on talent development and succession planning has been instrumental in strengthening the team.

As a district mentor, Afonso plays a key role in developing future leaders by onboarding new assistant and store managers, guiding them

through operational standards. In addition, she has successfully promoted and backfilled key roles, ensuring operational continuity and growth in her store. She did this by backfilling a grocery manager position, promoting a part-time HBC clerk to full time, preparing a tenured deli lead to step into a deli manager role and mentoring a floral lead who continues to drive sales and unit growth. Afonso's ability to listen, respect and support her team has helped cultivate high morale in her store. Beyond her role, she leads community food drives for A Place to Turn and the Natick Service Council, collecting more than 3,000 units in 2025.



Debbie Allison

Hannaford Supermarkets

Store Manager

Debbie Allison exemplifies the kind of leadership that defines a Woman of Influence in the food industry. She is widely respected for her people-first leadership and a commitment to doing what is right for associates, customers and the communities she serves.

Allison brings the company's values to life every day, empowering and modeling Hannaford's "Uncommon Care" purpose, creating environments where people feel supported, respected and motivated to deliver exceptional customer experiences.

Her leadership translates into strong business results, including double-digit sales growth and impressive movement growth, demonstrating her ability to balance operational excellence with a thriving store culture.

A core strength of Allison's leadership is building trust. Associates are comfortable sharing ideas and speaking up, knowing they will be heard and

valued. She maintains a strong focus on food and workplace safety, reflected in strong audit results and a high associate engagement score, which speaks to the pride and confidence her team feels under her leadership.

Allison's influence extends beyond her store. She supports the United Way and champions inclusion through her involvement in the LGBTQ+ Business Resource Group. As a mentor and coach, she has developed district leaders, guiding associates into new opportunities. Through her leadership, integrity and commitment to people, she represents the very best of leadership.



Erin Baez

Stop & Shop

District Director

Erin Baez is an effective leader who balances people development, community engagement and strong business execution. In 2025, she delivered outstanding results in District 328, driving improvements across operational and financial performance.

Customers noticed her impact, reflected in a customer count increase of 3.86 percent versus 2024. Under Baez's leadership, sales and items remained positive, controllable expenses exceeded budget, and her district recorded the lowest overtime in the company. She also delivered major nonperishable shrink improvements and achieved a 20-point year-over-year increase in Net Promoter Score, demonstrating her strong focus on customer experience and associate engagement.

Known as a developer of people, Baez closed talent gaps and strengthened the leadership pipeline. In 2025, more than 35 associates in her district were promoted into full-time or exempt management roles. Her

ability to build connections, coach effectively and prepare future leaders improved execution and accountability across the district.

These efforts contributed to a year-over-year profit increase of more than 400 percent, a clear reflection of Baez's leadership. Throughout 2025, she and her team supported the Hudson Valley and Sparrows Nest Food Banks and volunteered monthly with Community Action of Danbury, where they also donated \$10,000 from the district's lottery commission. She also is a member of the Veterans Associate Resource Group.



Angela Basnar

Associated Grocers of New England

Transportation Supervisor

Angela Basnar's journey at AG is a powerful example of determination, growth and leadership. Her rise from selector to her current position reflects not only her strong work ethic but a commitment to learning and supporting

those around her.

Throughout her career, Basnar has stepped up to meet new challenges, demonstrating resilience and a willingness to grow. She is undergoing CDL-A training to better support her team and has completed numerous professional development courses, including Frontline Manager Training, UNH Workshops on Foundations of Supervision, Stepping Up to Supervisor and Balancing Workplace Priorities and Demands, as well as DOT Reasonable Suspicion Supervisor Training.

Basnar leads by example, fostering a culture of accountability, teamwork

and continuous improvement. She encourages her team to develop their skills while ensuring operational success.

Beyond her core responsibilities, Basnar is engaged in the community. She is volunteering as part of this year's AG Activities Committee and is in her second year serving on the NH/VT Truck Driving Championship Planning Committee.

Basnar's perseverance, hands-on leadership and dedication to her team and the broader organization make her an inspiring and deserving nominee for the Women of Influence award.

We're So Proud



Celebrating Our Women of Influence



Michelle Bernard
Business Account Manager
Crossmark



Britney Ekerson
Customer Business Manager
Crossmark



Claudia Keyes
SVP, Operational Excellence
Acosta



Tina Kubala
SVP
Acosta



Maura Levis
VP, Northeast
Acosta



Rebekah Steward
VP, Business Intelligence
Acosta





*Congratulations
Angela, Chrissy, and Reimi*

**and to all other 2026
Women of
Influence honorees.**



**Your leadership, dedication, and impact continue
to make AG stronger and inspire those around you.**



Angela Basnar
Transportation Supervisor



Chrissy Michaud
Marketing Manager



Reimi Colson
Retail Accounting Manager

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Associated Grocers of New England is a full service Cooperative Grocery Wholesaler
supplying Supermarkets and Convenience Stores from Maine to New York.



STRONG LEADERS. REAL IMPACT.



KATIE PENNY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
OF STORE OPERATIONS
KNOXVILLE DIVISION



MISTY DESKINS
SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF MARKETING



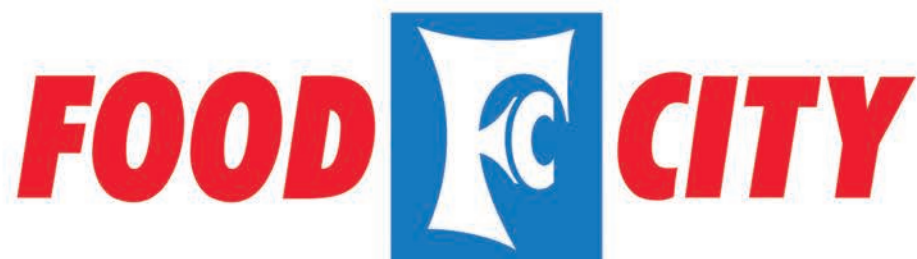
HANNAH SMITH
DIRECTOR OF FRONT
END OPERATIONS



MISTY KERN
DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

INFLUENCE THAT MOVES GROCERY FORWARD.

Every day.





Amy Bergeron

C.A. Ferolie

Sales Development Manager

With over 20 years of industry experience, Amy Bergeron brings expertise, strong retailer relationships and a commitment to excellence as she leads C.A. Ferolie's business at Shaw's. Managing multiple departments and a broad

client portfolio, she delivers consistent, measurable results year after year. Bergeron's leadership was instrumental in driving more than \$1 million in incremental sales during the Shaw's Fall 2025 Shipper Show, and she has produced sustained growth across her business over the past two years. Known for her structured planning, disciplined follow-through and ability to connect the needs of clients, customers and internal teams, Bergeron is a steady force who raises the performance of those around her. She also is an exceptional mentor who gives of her time and expertise. She recently played a key role in onboarding a new associate, providing

guidance, coaching and ongoing availability that accelerated their comfort and success within the company. Beyond her core responsibilities, Bergeron leads charitable initiatives for the New England office, most notably supporting the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester. Her passion, experience and consistency represent the best of C.A. Ferolie's culture. With her influence felt across client management, team development and community leadership, 2026 is the ideal year to honor her contributions.



Patty Bianco

Tops Markets

District Manager – Buffalo South

Patty Bianco's 45-year career at Tops Markets reflects operational expertise and a commitment to people, performance and community. She steadily advanced in the bakery department, became a bakery field specialist and then store manager before being promoted to district manager in April 2025.

This progression gives her insight into every aspect of store operations and has made her one of the most respected and effective leaders in the region. Bianco has oversight of 15 stores. Under her leadership, the district has delivered standout financial and operational results. Her stores have averaged plus 4 percent vs. budget year-to-date sales, improved shrink by 0.27 percent vs. budget YTD and increased by \$1.34 million in contribution (+0.32 percent vs. budget YTD). Bianco also is committed to developing the next generation of grocery leaders and has promoted two store managers, two assistant store managers, two operations managers and two grocery managers over the last year.

She identifies those with potential and provides them with the necessary development to continue their career growth. Bianco's leadership style is hands-on, supportive and focused on unlocking potential – ensuring Tops has strong leaders not just today but for years to come. Her district, in partnership with the communities in which her stores operate, has raised more than \$260,000 in support of Check Out Hunger, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Children's Miracle Network, United Way and local food banks.



Rachel Bower

The Campbell's Company

VP of Category Leadership and Strategy – Meals and Beverages

Rachel Bower brings strategic vision and disciplined execution to drive category growth and

improved performance for Campbell's and its customers. She leads the field category management team, translating enterprise strategy into actionable insights that strengthen customer partnerships and deliver measurable results. A trusted leader in customer insight and strategy, Bower elevates how the company listens to customers, translates marketplace signals into clear direction and activates those insights through customer-facing plans. Her work has helped Campbell's show up stronger with sharper strategic narratives, more compelling category recommendations and improved joint

business planning – particularly in her division. Bower is known for her ability to lead high-performing teams, simplify complexity and align stakeholders around shared goals. She serves on the commercial strategy and capabilities leadership team, influencing priorities at the enterprise level. During her nearly 12 years with Campbell's, Bower also has delivered results as senior director of category and shopper strategy for meals and beverages and senior marketing manager for Prego and dinner sauces, as well as in additional positions spanning retail and foodservice.



Melissa Bucklaw

The Campbell's Company

VP, Sales Execution and Planning

Melissa Bucklaw exemplifies the results-driven leadership, strategic vision and commitment to professional and personal excellence that define successful influence in the food industry.

A respected leader, Bucklaw navigates complexity and aligns priorities to improve execution, enhance trade spend efficiency and achieve double-digit share growth. She translates brand strategies into marketplace success by cultivating strong, trusted customer relationships. Through integrated planning, customer-aligned strategies and flawless execution, Bucklaw drives operational efficiencies and unlocks sustainable growth. Her leadership has been particularly impactful in strengthening partnerships with independent direct-to-store delivery partners, enhancing their experience through collaboration, market development and

value-added business services. Her contributions were instrumental in Campbell's recognition as BJ's Partner of the Year in 2025. Throughout her nearly 25-year Campbell's career, Bucklaw has served in various roles, including VP of category and shopper leadership, meals and beverages; senior customer business manager, Costco; team leader, Wakefern and Ahold; customer VP, Ahold Delhaize; and VP and general manager, snacks sales and operations, South. She is a two-time recipient of Campbell's highest sales honor, the Merit Award.

a toast to you & your success

Congratulations to our partner, Beth McGough of Giant Eagle, on being named a 2026 Women of Influence Award recipient.

Proud Partners in Deli





Deb Allison
Store Manager



Farah Lavigne
Store Manager



Justine Meader
Store Manager



Brittany Vogel
Store Manager

Congratulations to Deb, Farah, Justine, and Brittany for being recognized as 2026 Women of Influence.

Thank you from all your Hannaford colleagues.

Your commitment to our customers and our associates serves as a model and an inspiration to everyone at Hannaford.





Jenna Busby

The Giant Co.

Category Manager, Fruit

Jenna Busby leads with vision and precision. She models leadership by coaching, developing and empowering her team while overseeing a diverse and

high-impact portfolio.

Busby manages key areas across assortment, pricing, merchandising and procurement, driving performance in some of the company's most critical categories. Two of the categories under her leadership rank among the top three in total sales for The Giant Co.'s produce department.

Busby leads a high-performing team of five and oversees a business portfolio generating 30 percent of the total annual produce sales. Her leadership extends far beyond category management; she is a strategic

connector who brings together marketing, advertising, private brands, transportation and store operations to ensure execution for customers and nearly 200 stores.

In 2025, Busby was selected to participate in NextUp's Rising Stars Program, a leadership development experience that recognizes high-potential talent. She volunteers with organizations dedicated to fighting food insecurity, including Project SHARE's food pantry distribution and New Hope Ministries' food drives.



Michelle Carfagno

The Greater Knead

Founder and CEO

Michelle Carfagno is a visionary leader whose commitment to "inclusion for everyone" has revolutionized the allergen-free food sector. Driven by her family's struggle with celiac disease, she transitioned from a career

in human resources to build a company that restores the joy of eating for millions.

Her results-oriented leadership is most evident in her Bensalem, Pennsylvania-based, 10,000-square-foot manufacturing facility. This dedicated top-nine allergen-free plant – certified by MenuTrinfo – ensures the highest safety standards for products found in more than 2,000 stores nationwide, including Whole Foods and Wegmans.

Carfagno's influence extends far beyond her brand. As co-chair of the RISE Philly committee through WBENC, she mentors the next generation of

female entrepreneurs, turning her dream of a "food incubator" into a reality for other women-owned businesses. Her leadership is defined by a passion for empowering women to navigate the complexities of the food industry.

A philanthropist, Carfagno addresses food insecurity by donating 1 percent of profits and products to local food banks, specifically targeting the often-overlooked need for allergen-friendly options. Through The Greater Knead, she isn't just making bagels; she is fostering a world where everyone can eat confidently, making her a true Woman of Influence in the food industry.



Shan Case

Utz Brands

SVP Sales, Club Channel

Shan Case has been instrumental in driving growth in the club channel for Utz Brands. Prior to

joining the company in summer 2023, she worked at Harvest Group and Continental Mills, calling on Costco.

Case has been instrumental in changing Utz's approach in the club channel, including entering new product categories, innovation launches and partnering on national events. Case is an organized and driven leader who has had a significant impact at Utz over the past two-and-a-half years.



Jane Ciccone

Onesto Foods

Owner

Jane Ciccone is deserving of recognition for her leadership, integrity and lasting contributions to the

food industry. Through her vision, hard work and commitment to quality, she has built Onesto Foods into a respected and trusted company that produces gluten-free crackers.

Ciccone leads with authenticity, professionalism and a passion for excellence, earning the respect of customers, partners and peers alike. She understands that long-term success is built on strong relationships, consistency and doing things the right way.



Misty Bryant

Director of Retail Operations



Shannon Clark

Senior Director of Marketing & Communications



Candace Henderson

Merchandising & Operations Support Manager



Courtney Meador

VP of Human Resources



Houchens Food Group proudly congratulates our winners of the **2026 Women of Influence** in the Food Industry award.





Brandy Coccia

Stop & Shop

Store Manager

Brandy Coccia demonstrates exceptional leadership and operational excellence. Her commitment to creating a seamless shopping experience has driven double-digit online sales growth versus last year and turned a challenging projection into positive year-over-year results, marking

an impressive turnaround.

Coccia advocates for talent development and works with associates toward promotions and growth. She coaches store leaders to succeed. She also has strengthened community partnerships and supported multiple charitable initiatives. She led several food drives and community events throughout the year.

In May, Coccia established a community partnership and collected 2,300 pounds of food. Her efforts were recognized by the local Rotary Club. She also partnered with the local police department for the annual “Give the Cop a Bird” event, resulting in a donation of 3,000 turkeys for the

community.

Coccia led a major district community event at a soup kitchen, organizing daily donations from vendors and restaurants. She guided peers as they loaded the local pantry and sorted products for families.

Her dedication to building partnerships, organizing impactful events and supporting her community exemplifies outstanding leadership and commitment to service. Her efforts have made a measurable difference in the lives of many and reflect the highest standards of excellence.



Jennie Coleman

Equifruit

President and Co-owner

Equifruit is a leading North American importer and marketer of Fairtrade bananas, recognized for its ethical sourcing. Since acquiring the company in 2013, Jennie Coleman has transformed it into a high-growth, values-led

business with expanding distribution across North America – demonstrating that responsible supply chains and strong commercial performance can scale together.

Under her leadership, Equifruit has achieved consistent growth and secured major retail partnerships, helping bring Fairtrade bananas into the mainstream. This success has delivered measurable impact: more than \$5.5 million in Fairtrade Premiums have been generated for banana-growing communities, funding worker-led investments in education, infrastructure and workplace safety.

Coleman’s influence extends beyond her company. She serves on the board of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (2023-present), is a non-executive director of BananaLink (2022-present) and contributes to the World Banana Forum (2024-present), where she advocates for fair pricing, labor protections and gender equity in agriculture. She also is a voice on supply-chain accountability, including issues of forced and child labor.

Coleman’s leadership has received national recognition, including Canada’s Most Admired CEO (2024), RBC Women of Influence Momentum Award (2023) and Outstanding Woman in Produce (2022).



Reimi Colson

Associated Grocers of New England

Retail Accounting Manager

Reimi Colson is an exceptional leader whose dedication, expertise and commitment to excellence make her deserving of recognition as a Woman of Influence. Her focus on supporting AG and its corporate stores has had a

lasting impact on the organization.

Colson demonstrates a results-oriented mindset, ensuring that financials are delivered in a timely manner and with the highest level of accuracy. Her attention to detail and strong sense of accountability have made her a trusted partner across the business. She approaches every challenge with a solutions-driven attitude, always willing to go above and beyond to support her team and the broader organization.

Colson’s career progression is a testament to her determination and capability. Rising from accounts payable clerk to her current role, she has

developed a deep and well-rounded understanding of the business. This experience allows her to lead with technical expertise and practical insight, making her an invaluable resource to her team and peers.

As a leader, Colson fosters a culture of collaboration, accountability and continuous improvement. She leads by example, demonstrating professionalism, resilience and a strong work ethic in all that she does. Her ability to balance operational excellence with team development sets her apart.



Tracey Colston

Giant Food

Store Manager

Tracey Colston exemplifies the qualities celebrated by the Women of Influence program. In her current role, she delivers outstanding results, driving team performance while fostering a culture of accountability, collaboration and

growth. Her leadership extends beyond operational excellence; she inspires and mentors her staff, modeling integrity, resilience and a commitment to community.

Colston’s impact resonates far beyond her professional role. As a horse owner, she has partnered with her sister for local fundraisers in Pasadena, Maryland, offering pony rides to support the installation of new park equipment, bringing joy to children and families while raising community resources. For the past 26 years, Colston also has been committed to supporting those recovering from addiction. She volunteers her time as a

mentor and sponsor, providing guidance, encouragement and practical advice to help others rebuild their lives.

Her combination of results-oriented leadership, commitment to her team and extensive civic and philanthropic involvement makes Colston an inspiring example of influence in both business and community.

She demonstrates that true leadership is measured not only by professional achievements but by the positive impact one leaves on the lives of others.



Congratulations
to our Women of Influence Award Recipient!



Melissa Harrington
Vice President, Finance

You *nourish* our brand, strategy and culture every day,
making Food Lion a great place to *work* and *shop*.



Teri-Anne Colurciello

C.A. Ferolie

Senior Director, Business Intelligence

Teri-Anne Colurciello is a visionary data and technology leader whose impact is felt across every division of C.A. Ferolie. As the architect of the company's modern analytics ecosystem, she oversees all internal reporting systems, syndicated data sources and digital infrastructure that support

strategic decision-making.

Colurciello's enterprise SharePoint reporting platform transformed how the organization accesses and applies information, creating a unified hub that brings structure, transparency and speed to processes that once required extensive manual effort. She also engineered a fully automated, retailer customizable inventory tracking model that replaces weeks of spreadsheet work with immediate, actionable intelligence, enabling teams to move faster and with greater accuracy.

Colurciello stands out not only for her technical depth but for her collaborative leadership. She excels at simplifying complex

problems, partnering closely with cross-functional teams and elevating organizational analytical maturity through education, clarity and thoughtful communication. Her influence extends beyond business intelligence; she is a trusted advisor, problem solver and steady force behind the company's culture of continuous improvement.

After years of designing the tools and processes that are now foundational to everyday decision-making across the organization, 2026 is the ideal time to recognize her enduring leadership, strategic mindset and transformative contributions.



Stephanie Doherty

Birdzi

Chief Relationship Officer

With a career rooted in both retail and technology, Stephanie Doherty helps turn complex data tools into human-centered partnerships. As the first face new partners meet at Birdzi, an artificial intelligence-powered customer platform built for grocery retailers, she sets the tone for every client relationship.

Doherty's hands-on approach to onboarding and strategy has driven 100 percent retention among long-term retail partners and expanded services in more than 50 percent of accounts. In the first quarter of 2025, 32 percent of clients' shoppers moved up in customer value segments compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, a direct signal that the personalization strategies she co-designs drive success.

The campaigns Doherty helps build on Birdzi's VISPER platform generated an average of \$7.4 million in incremental sales per retailer in 2024, with email open rates of 58.4 percent, far above industry benchmarks.

Beyond the metrics, Doherty is a champion for her communities. For example, she played a key role in Birdzi's commitment to the Western Association of Food Chains Education Fund. Birdzi joined as a donor family member and contributed \$15,000 to support workforce development and education across the industry.

Doherty mentors teams navigating digital transformation, designs high-impact shopper engagement programs and shows up as a trusted partner. She brings a friendly, warm demeanor to a tech industry that can often feel impersonal.



Tonya Douglas

Giant Food

SVP Omnichannel Merchandising – Chief Merchant

Tonya Douglas exemplifies transformative, people-centered leadership in the food retail industry. With 30-plus years of experience, she has built a career defined by exceptional business results and a commitment to innovation,

collaboration and human-centric leadership.

Douglas leads Giant Food's full merchandising organization across 164 stores and digital platforms, driving a customer-centric strategy blending data, tech and human insight. She has been instrumental in modernizing the company's omnichannel experience, championing digital tools that enhance in-store shopping, expanding ready meal and wellness-focused assortments and strengthening affordability through initiatives like "Fresh Low Prices."

Douglas' leadership ensures that each merchandising decision reflects a deep understanding of what customers buy, why they buy it and how

Giant can improve their daily lives. Defined by her commitment to "Grow Our People," she fosters psychological safety, prioritizes individualized development and mentors emerging leaders industrywide.

Douglas champions a culture where all feel seen, valued and empowered, bringing "Grow, Care, Belong" to life. Her advocacy extends beyond Giant through service on the NextUp Board and USO Metro Board of Directors.

Douglas' hallmark is her ability to pair strategic rigor with empathy. She leads with purpose, inspires clarity and elevates those around her.



Jennifer Falzon

C.A. Ferolie

HR Manager, People and Culture

Jennifer Falzon is a people-focused human resources leader whose work positively impacts all 475-plus employees across C.A. Ferolie. She led the complex transition from Rippling to Paylocity, ensuring

the change was seamless, intuitive and centered on employee needs.

Falzon personally recruited and onboarded more than 24 associates, including senior-level hires, and she manages key compliance activities such as ACA reporting and annual audits. Her ability to balance technical detail with empathy makes her a trusted partner throughout the organization.

Falzon is known for providing hands-on support to leaders, guiding them through difficult conversations, clarifying expectations and helping strengthen team structures. She goes above expectations, most notably spending New Year's Eve downloading and delivering benefit cards so

employees had uninterrupted access to coverage after a vendor delay. Her leadership extends beyond the workplace as well, serving as PTA president and youth soccer coach.

Falzon's impact grew further with the launch of C.A. Ferolie's new division. She quickly researched an unfamiliar sector, defined talent needs and successfully hired three key team members, saving significant recruiting costs and strengthening the company's reputation. With her expanding influence, dedication and deep commitment to people, 2026 is the ideal year to recognize her contributions.



**Congratulations to all of the
2026 Women of Influence in the Food Industry!**
We are especially proud of our leaders who have made significant contributions to JOH and the industry.



Dea Calkins
Business Manager
Center Store Division
North Central



Grace Gruber
Director
Center Store Division
Mid-Atlantic



Michelle Kalicky
Business Manager
Specialty & Natural Division
New England



Jody Rudh
Customer Manager
Center Store Division
North Central



WE ARE PROUD TO HONOR OUR 2026

Women of Influence



SYDNEY RUGGIERI



EMMY HUME





Jennifer Frailey-Custer

Ravynx

Integrator

Jennifer Frailey-Custer is a results-driven technology leader whose impact is felt across her organization and the retailers she supports. As the lead trainer in all aspects of POS technology and process, she plays a critical role

in ensuring teams and customers fully understand and leverage their systems. She oversees all SMS Level 1 and Level 2 (v3 and v4) live trainings, guiding attendees through certification with clarity, structure and confidence.

Recognized as a subject matter expert in the LOC software POS application, Frailey-Custer possesses a deep understanding of the platform's complexity and functionality. What sets her apart is her ability to translate technical concepts into practical, easy-to-understand guidance for end users.

Through the development and delivery of monthly webinars, she educates a broad user base on key software features and best practices,

empowering retailers to operate more efficiently and effectively.

Frailey-Custer's leadership extends beyond training. Her insight into customer needs contributes to successful solution implementations, helping retailers maximize performance and minimize operational disruption. She approaches every challenge with accountability, urgency and a genuine commitment to helping others succeed. Always willing to step in where needed, she exemplifies collaboration, expertise and dedication, making her a trusted resource, respected leader and powerful advocate for tech-driven growth in the food industry.



Sydney Gaston

The Campbell's Company

Customer VP, Direct Grocery for Publix, Meijer and Wakefern – Meals and Beverages

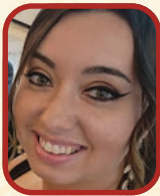
Sydney Gaston is an outstanding leader known for elevating strategic customer partnerships and

delivering sustainable, profitable growth. Since joining Campbell's in 2019, she has held roles of increasing scope and impact, including team leader for Ahold Delhaize; senior manager, customer development for Simple Meals across U.S. grocery and Walmart; and customer sales lead for Aldi, Lidl and Save A Lot.

She has collaborated to bring innovation to life, including launching Swanson broth pouches and multiple Prego and Pace sauce innovations and driving quality improvements and supply chain efficiencies. Her drive

has fueled exceptional results: overdelivering net sales against the annual operating plan by millions, underspending authorized trade budgets and achieving one of the company's highest annual operating plan attainment percentages.

Gaston previously spent three years at The Kraft Heinz Company in roles such as customer category manager, natural, specialty and Aldi; and customer sales lead, further bolstering her expertise as a results-driven, customer-centric leader.



Angelena Goot

Tops Markets

Store Manager

Angelena "Angel" Goot manages the Tops Markets location in Mayville, New York, which experiences an uptick in business during the summer due to the opening of Chautauqua Lake. An up-and-coming manager, she leads by example and has created an environment that motivates employees to drive

sales.

Goot has capitalized on sales and profits during the 10-12 week summer period, with the biggest week being the Fourth of July, where the store sees a 75 percent increase in sales from a normal week.

In order to manage this seasonal business successfully, Goot ramps up staffing, strategically merchandises the store with limited space, communicates and properly plans to capitalize on the opportunity for incremental sales. She is dedicated, driven, focused on results, a great motivator, sincere, a good trainer and demonstrates exemplary leadership skills.

Goot recognizes her team members for their accomplishments. She is an advocate for the community and rallies her team in support of the Tops philanthropic mission to eradicate hunger and improve the lives of children and families in the communities in which it operates.

With Goot's leadership and the efforts of her store team and the local community in Mayville, they raised more than \$15,000 last year to support local food banks, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network.



Grace Gruber

JOH

Director, Mid-Atlantic Division

In her time with JOH, Grace Gruber has played an important role in the continued growth and success of the region through her strategic insight, leadership and deep industry knowledge.

Gruber has been instrumental in developing and implementing processes that have strengthened collaboration and improved efficiency across the Mid-Atlantic team. Clients, customers and teammates value her thoughtful approach, strong communication and commitment to delivering results.

Gruber represents the region and JOH with professionalism and creativity, bringing forward ideas that help drive success for clients and customers alike. She combines strategic thinking with strong follow-through

and a genuine passion for exceeding expectations.

Gruber is a valued member of the JOH team, appreciated for the leadership, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm she brings to the organization each day.

Gruber lives in Central Pennsylvania with her husband, Matt, and their two children. When not working, she enjoys traveling, attending concerts and spending time with family and friends on the beach, ski slopes or wherever life takes them.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL 2026 WOMEN OF
INFLUENCE IN THE FOOD
INDUSTRY WINNERS.**

**FROM YOUR FRIENDS
AT T&J PRODUCE**





Patrice Coudray-Rubin

Congratulations to Patrice Coudray-Rubin on being honored as a *Women of Influence in the Food Industry* award recipient. Patrice's career-long dedication to innovation, scientific excellence, and people-centered leadership has made a lasting impact on the beverage industry and the teams she leads.

Congratulations to Becca Morgan on being named a *Women of Influence in the Food Industry* award winner. This recognition celebrates Becca's exceptional leadership, sustained impact, and meaningful contributions that continue to strengthen both Niagara and the broader food industry.



Becca Morgan





Kathy Guertin

Big Y Foods

*Senior Manager of Supply Chain,
Vendor Relations and Inventory Management*

Kathy Guertin is a true Woman of Influence whose leadership has left a lasting mark on Big Y Foods and

the food industry. With 34 years of service, she is respected as a mentor, communicator and people-centered leader who elevates those around her.

Throughout her career – as a customer service manager, store director, sales and merchandising mentor and current role – she has combined operational excellence with a genuine commitment to developing others.

Guertin is an inaugural member of Women L.E.A.D., Big Y’s first employee resource group, created from her passion to empower women. Through training, development, networking and inspiration, this group has helped countless women advance their careers. She continues to serve as a

board member, providing guidance and mentorship that sustains its impact.

Guertin’s influence extends beyond work. For more than 30 years, she has given to a local Toy Fund in honor of a special-needs boy she once cared for while working in a pediatric unit at a local nursing home. Her compassion extends into her personal life as well, where she spends her weekends caring for a special-needs child for a friend.

Guertin exemplifies what it means to be a Woman of Influence – one who lifts others up, creates lasting impact and leads with both strength and heart.



Juliana Havrilko

Giant Food

Category Manager

Juliana “Jules” Havrilko has done a tremendous job driving sales and market share in her role, while contributing to the non-perishables bottom line. In a retail landscape defined by shifting customer expectations and increased competitive pressure, she demonstrates the ability to turn complexity into

opportunity.

Havrilko elevated her category through a mix of data-driven decisions, innovative merchandising strategies and deep understanding of customer behavior. Her work has delivered significant sales growth, improved profitability and strengthened vendor partnerships, while continuing to deliver value to customers.

Havrilko recently partnered with one of her largest vendors, building aggressive plans, collaborating with the field teams and identifying promotional gaps and execution in under-spaced sub-categories that were over-indexing elsewhere in the market and across the U.S. As a result, she

helped grow the brand and category, delivering a positive ROI for Giant Food and the vendor.

In addition, Havrilko continues to be a people leader and a “go-to” resource for her peers. She sets a clear vision while giving her team the autonomy to contribute ideas, all while getting their buy-in to achieve success.

Havrilko’s leadership extends beyond her team. She’s created partnerships with vendors, supply chain, marketing and store operations, ensuring that all voices are heard during special projects, while still obsessing over customers.



Emmy Hume

Wakefern Food Corp.

Senior Manager

Emmy Hume leads with a strong focus on performance, team development and operational excellence. She approaches leadership as a coach and

mentor, raising her team to overcome challenging hurdles.

Hume is grounded, driven and a humble, results-oriented leader. She has built her career in produce, developing deep expertise in her field.

As a wife and mother, Hume exemplifies what it means to successfully balance family and a career. She is a steady and trusted pillar of strength for her team.

Recognized by Wakefern as a high-potential leader, Hume was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of

Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact.

Hume represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Michelle Kalicky

JOH

Business Manager, Specialty and Natural Division

Michelle Kalicky joined JOH with a strong retail background developed through her time with a leading Northeast grocery retailer and a nationally

recognized natural and specialty foods retailer, bringing valuable perspective and industry insight to the team.

Kalicky’s well-rounded skill set has enabled her to play a critical role in supporting and growing several key client partnerships. Through her passion for the industry, deep understanding of the retail landscape and exceptional organizational abilities, she has helped strengthen internal processes while delivering results for customers and clients.

Her thoughtful and creative approach to problem-solving, combined

with outstanding follow-through, sets a high standard for execution. She continues to build strong, trusted relationships across the industry, reflecting her professionalism and commitment to excellence.

JOH is grateful for the dedication and leadership Kalicky brings to the organization each day. She lives in Scarborough, Maine, with her husband, Matt. When not working, she enjoys hiking with her dog, Oreo, gardening and taking advantage of the state’s outdoor activities.



Congratulations!

*We admire and appreciate your passion,
dedication and determination.*

Thank you for all you do!



Shan Case
SVP Sales, Club Channel



Stacey Schultz
SVP, Marketing



Staci Smith
VP, Risk Management



We're proud to celebrate Schraad's Women of Influence and all of the 2026 honorees.



NELLIE CARLSON
Senior Director of Retail Strategy



KACY SPRINGER
Creative Development Project Manager



CASEY MARTIN
Senior Client & Customer Support Analyst



EMILEE ALBRIGHT
Category Insights Manager



LISA LAM
Retail & Data Systems Specialist



NICKI ZUBER
Business Development Manager

Congratulations!



Claire Ko

FreshDirect

Chief People Officer

In her role at FreshDirect, Claire Ko has focused her leadership on a fundamental belief: organizational performance improves when people are empowered to connect their personal definition of success with the work they do.

Ko introduced two initiatives: Engagement for Success and

ClaireConnect. EFS is a performance engagement framework designed to unlock employee motivation by connecting individual purpose with organizational goals. Together, employees and managers define long-term success, identify the skills and experiences required to reach that vision and openly discuss obstacles.

Managers are tasked with supporting employees by removing barriers, providing developmental opportunities and aligning work assignments with growth goals. This approach reframes performance conversations from evaluation to partnership, allowing employees to bring greater ownership

and commitment to their roles.

ClaireConnect is a leadership initiative designed to strengthen trust and transparency across the organization. Employees across departments are invited to engage directly with Ko in open forums and one-on-one conversations. ClaireConnect has become a channel for sharing insights from across the company, enabling leadership to better understand employee experiences while reinforcing a safe and open culture.

Ko also is the co-founder of Together, a community initiative that supports farming communities in the Hudson Valley.



Caitlyn Koriakos

C.A. Fortune

Senior Director, Sales Operations

Caitlyn Koriakos has delivered transformative operational and organizational impact over the past few years. She centralized the sales support function and redefined its scope, bringing clarity, structure and measurable efficiency to the organization.

Under her leadership, sales support coverage expanded from about 13 percent of the sales organization to 100 percent, ensuring every sales team now benefits from dedicated partnership and consistent execution.

Koriakos's ability to identify opportunities for process improvement has been a hallmark of her leadership. She has designed and implemented numerous internal systems that have streamlined workflows, increased accuracy and saved significant time across teams. Notably, she played a key role in developing and executing a companywide process for managing and tracking category reviews – an initiative that improved accountability,

visibility and cross-functional coordination.

Her disciplined organization, analytical rigor and commitment to excellence have redefined expectations for operational leadership. She approaches complex challenges with composure and speed, rapidly learning new systems and guiding her team through change with confidence.

Beyond results, Koriakos's leadership fosters collaboration and continuous improvement. Her influence has not only elevated the efficiency and performance of her team but also strengthened alignment across the broader commercial organization.



Farah Lavigne

Hannaford Supermarkets

Store Manager

Farah Lavigne is a dynamic and respected leader at Hannaford whose energy, passion and commitment to people make her stand out. Leading one of the

district's highest-volume stores and more than 150 associates, she delivers strong operational results while fostering a culture rooted in the company's

values.

Lavigne's leadership influence extends well beyond her store. She serves as a coach for assistant store managers supporting district DEI initiatives, leading the Talent Development and Staffing Committee and mentoring emerging leaders. Her willingness to invest in others while balancing the demands of a high-volume operation reflects her leadership discipline and deep commitment to building the next generation of talent.

Courage and integrity define Lavigne's leadership style. She shares feedback, fosters collaboration and challenges district leaders to excel as

new programs and initiatives are introduced. Her track record of delivering strong results gives weight to her voice, and peers value her thoughtful insight and candor.

Lavigne's care for people is evident in the way she champions her team. She takes time to connect with associates, support new leaders and create an inclusive environment where people feel confident bringing their full selves to work. Through collaboration, humor, professionalism and her dedication, Lavigne exemplifies leadership that drives both results and a strong Hannaford culture.



Maura Levis

Acosta Group

VP, Northeast Region

Maura Levis led the Northeast region to a strong finish in 2025, exceeding budget and prior-year performance through disciplined expense management, successful new business acquisition and

continued growth with clients.

The region closed the year up 5 percent in revenue and 11 percent in EBITDA, while also delivering \$1.9 million in unbudgeted new business, exclusive of additional incremental 2026 opportunities already secured.

To support this growth, the Northeast onboarded more than 25 new associates in November and December 2025, with over 95 percent completing onboarding within a five-week period – demonstrating strong operational execution and leadership readiness across the region.

Levis executed multiple strategic talent moves to strengthen

organizational capability and better support clients. To reinforce culture and operational excellence, the region implemented quarterly "Be Brilliant at the Basics" sessions and expanded Client in Market Days across additional geographies.

The team also launched its first East Client Summit, bringing together clients from the Northeast and Southeast to deepen engagement, share insights and strengthen partnerships.

The United Family is proud to congratulate five outstanding team members who were recognized by *The Shelby Report* as Women of Influence in the food industry.

Their dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence make a meaningful impact on our company and the communities we serve across Texas and New Mexico.

We are honored to celebrate their achievements!



The United Family™



THE
Campbell's
COMPANY

CELEBRATING THE
**2026 Women of Influence
Award Winners**



Rachel Bower

Vice President, Category Leadership
& Category Strategy,
Meals & Beverages



Melissa Bucklaw

Vice President,
Sales Execution & Planning



Angie Smith

Head of Commerce
Marketing, Snacks



Sydney Gaston

Customer Vice President,
National Grocery, Meals & Beverages



Kristen Wilson

Customer Vice President,
West Regionals, Snacks



Laura Viola Maccarone

Rizbee Studios

Owner and CEO

Laura Viola Maccarone is deserving of the Women of Influence award not only for her leadership of

Rizbee Studios but for the impact she has made in her community. She is the kind of business leader who understands that success is not only measured by growth but by how much others are lifted along the way.

Maccarone has shown commitment to supporting women in business by encouraging their growth, sharing her knowledge and creating opportunities for others to succeed. Her generosity, mentorship and willingness to give back have made her a source of inspiration and support for many women

working to build their own paths. She leads with strength and compassion, proving that true influence comes from empowering others.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Maccarone's dedication to community and her belief in helping others grow set her apart. She demonstrates that leadership is about service, connection and investing in the success of those around her. Her ability to build people up while building her business reflects the very spirit of this award.



Sabrina Malloy

Golden Cannoli Shells Co.

Sales Support

Sabrina Malloy is being recognized for her leadership, vision and impact as a third-generation leader at Golden Cannoli. Carrying forward a family legacy is no small responsibility, yet she has embraced that role with

professionalism, energy and a clear commitment to excellence.

As part of the next generation of leadership, Malloy represents the strength of tradition paired with a forward-looking mindset. She understands the value of preserving the quality, reputation and relationships that have made Golden Cannoli a respected name, while also helping position the company for continued growth and success in a changing industry. That balance of honoring the past while building for the future is one of the qualities that makes her outstanding.

Malloy's influence extends beyond her title. She reflects the values that

define strong leadership: dedication, integrity, resilience and the ability to inspire confidence in those around her. She is helping shape the future of a multi-generational business while setting an example for other women in the industry through her work ethic and leadership.

The Women of Influence Award celebrates leaders who make a difference in their companies and communities. Malloy embodies those qualities. Her contributions to Golden Cannoli, her commitment to upholding a family-built legacy and her role in driving the business forward make her deserving of the honor.



Elsie Martinez

Stop & Shop

Human Resource Business Partner

Elsie Martinez is a strong human resources business partner leader within District 325 who has gained the respect of the team. She is involved in long-term planning for people development, succession planning and career advancement for exempt associates and union staff.

Martinez is able to find success through these programs by coaching and working with a team of store management associates who provide updates on progress and possible cross-training opportunities. She has a strong HR acumen while also being versed in operations expertise, and this combination guides her direction of the District 325 team.

Martinez is a solid resource for all associates, and she mentors several newly promoted store managers. She is a confident voice in human resource matters and manages all situations effectively.

Martinez is a leader in the Region 4 HR team, taking on extra assignments and helping support the team however she can. She has done

an excellent job of staffing her district, which has the highest volume in the region.

Martinez works to ensure there is proper exempt staffing, as well as a strategic broadband initiative. She is member of several Associate Resource Groups, including the ABLE, Veterans, Health and Wellness and is the co-activations chair of the Women's ARG.

She also is an advocate for Making Strides against Breast Cancer, participating in multiple events throughout the year. In addition, she has donated her time to food banks and soup kitchens.



Beth McGough

Giant Eagle

Senior Director - Deli

Beth McGough exemplifies the highest standard of partnership and leadership. Her responsiveness, engagement and commitment to collaboration elevate outcomes for Giant Eagle and vendors. She approaches every initiative with clarity and purpose, ensuring that cross-functional teams are aligned and empowered to deliver best-in-class solutions that offer mutual benefit.

McGough's leadership style is inclusive and inspiring. She creates an environment where open dialogue is encouraged, perspective is valued and teams feel supported in working toward shared objectives. She anticipates challenges, identifies opportunities and provides the strategic and operational guidance needed to move complex initiatives forward.

Beyond her day-to-day contributions, McGough embodies a mindset of continuous improvement. She seeks ways to strengthen processes, enhance team efficiency and remove barriers to success. Her ability to balance strategic vision with practical execution makes her an indispensable partner and a catalyst for results.

McGough is equally committed to advancing women within the industry. She is a member of United Way's Women United (Southwestern

Pennsylvania Chapter) and contributes to Giant Eagle's Women's Business Resource Group, supporting programs that foster inclusion and leadership development. She also mentors emerging female talent, offering guidance and advocacy that helps strengthen the next generation of leaders.

Focused on continuous improvement, McGough seeks out opportunities to enhance processes, strengthen efficiency and remove barriers to success. Her blend of strategic vision and practical execution makes her a trusted partner and a catalyst for results.

McGough's dedication, professionalism and impact extend beyond her role. She sets a standard of excellence that strengthens Giant Eagle's collective success and serves as a model for what exceptional partnership looks like. For these reasons, she is deserving of this recognition.

The Women Moving the Industry Forward

Congratulations to C.A. Fortune's Women of Influence who are recognized for leadership, impact, and raising the bar across our business and beyond.



Darla Deiro
Director,
Conventional
Sales

Alex Hickey
VP, Natural
Strategic
Partnerships

Caitlyn Koriakos
Sr. Director,
Sales Ops

Barb McGlothlin
VP,
E-Commerce

Nicole Teeters
SVP, Strategy,
SRW | C.A.

Nery Vazquez
SVP,
DTH | C.A.

Kate Weidner
Chief Creative
Officer,
SRW | C.A.

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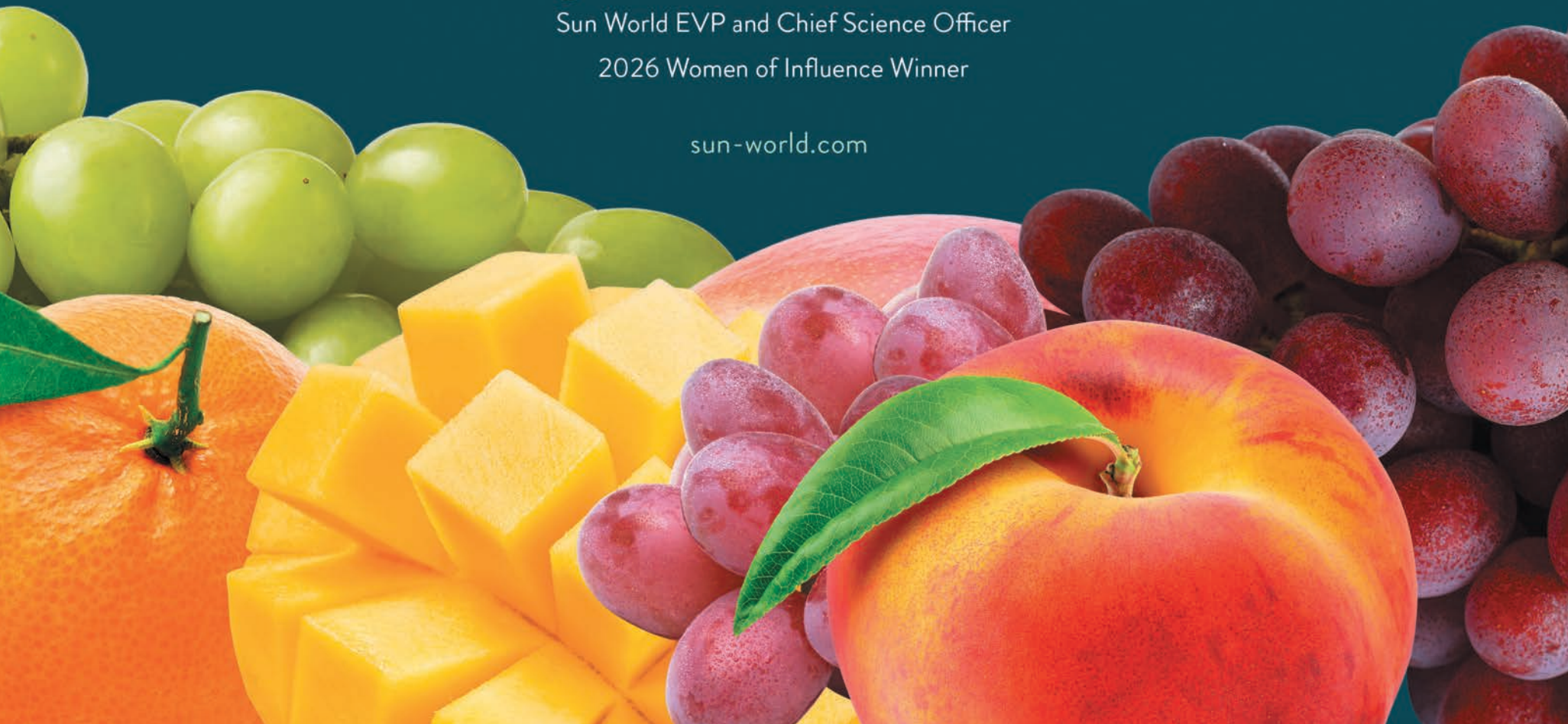


Congratulations Jennifer Petersen

Sun World EVP and Chief Science Officer

2026 Women of Influence Winner

sun-world.com





Rachel McLaughlin

Ahold Delhaize USA

PB Category Manager – Snacking

Rachel McLaughlin has been in her current role for several years. During this time, she has been able to lead all five Ahold Delhaize USA brands through multiple private brand strategy recommendations and has been working with

suppliers/sourcing to get them implemented.

McLaughlin also has spearheaded improving the processes to bring these products to life at store level by pulling key stakeholders together and challenging how/where efficiencies can be gained. This allows the company to improve and have more visibility to where products are in the pipeline.

McLaughlin is a strong leader to whom the team looks as a subject matter expert. She is always willing to help with her knowledge and a smile, which makes her a great asset and well deserving of being a Woman of Influence.



Justine Meader

Hannaford Supermarkets

Store Manager

Justine Meader has distinguished herself as a rising leader at Hannaford, demonstrating a clear vision for excellence and the determination to deliver results.

While early in her tenure as a store manager, she has earned the respect of associates, peers and leaders through her strong communication, operational

focus and genuine care for people.

Meader leads with transparency and purpose, recognizing stellar performance while holding her team accountable to Hannaford's high standards. Her leadership was evident during her transition to the high-volume store on Whitten Road in Augusta, Maine, where she has guided her new team while also supporting her former store through the leadership transition.

Associates note her presence on the sales floor and her willingness to engage with challenges, demonstrating the hands-on leadership that drives strong store performance.

Communication is one of Meader's strengths. She provides clear expectations, thoughtful feedback and professional insight while maintaining a sense of humor that helps build trust and connection with her team.

Meader prioritizes the associate experience, believing that engaged teams deliver the best results. She recognizes associates, creates moments of appreciation and fosters a positive culture. Through her dedication, resilience and people-first leadership, she is making an impact on Hannaford's business, culture and communities.



Chrissy Michaud

Associated Grocers of New England

Marketing Manager

Chrissy Michaud is a dynamic and forward-thinking leader whose passion, creativity and commitment to excellence make her a deserving nominee for the Women of Influence award. Her career progression to her current role – from graphic artist to marketing media specialist and lead

marketing media specialist – reflects her talent and dedication to continuous growth.

Michaud has played a pivotal role in expanding Associated Grocers of New England's digital marketing and social media presence. Through her strategic vision and innovative approach, she has helped elevate the company's digital footprint, driving engagement and strengthening connections with customers and retailers.

Michaud's ability to stay ahead of trends and translate them into impactful campaigns has positioned AG for continued success in an increasingly digital marketplace.

In addition to her digital leadership, Michaud has been involved in advancing Retail Media Network initiatives. As both a participant and internal leader, she has helped shape and execute strategies that enhance value for partners and support the evolving needs of the business.

Michaud is known for her positive, energetic and people-first leadership style. She is driven, passionate and invested in the success of her team and the broader organization. Her enthusiasm for digital marketing within the grocery industry is contagious, inspiring those around her to think creatively and push boundaries.



Jessica Mosner

Mosner Family Brands

EVP of Strategic Sales

Mosner Family Brands is a third-generation, family-owned protein manufacturer headquartered in the Bronx, New York. In her leadership role, Jessica Mosner has been instrumental in transforming the

company from a regional specialty meat processor into a modern, multi-protein manufacturing platform serving retail, foodservice and institutional customers across the United States.

Working alongside her siblings in the company's third generation of leadership, Mosner helped guide a pivotal expansion that included the acquisition of Great American Foods and the development of new value-added protein capabilities, enabling Mosner Family Brands to scale nationally and meet the evolving needs of the food industry.

Mosner is respected for her strategic insight, collaborative leadership

style and deep understanding of customer needs. Her approach focuses on listening to partners and identifying underserved opportunities in the market, allowing the company to incubate innovative product programs and bring them to scale through its growing manufacturing capabilities.

Beyond business growth, Mosner is committed to preserving the craftsmanship and integrity of the protein industry while modernizing operations for the future. Through her leadership, Mosner Family Brands continues a legacy that began in 1957 while positioning itself for long-term innovation, sustainability and customer partnerships.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STOP & SHOP'S 2026 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE!



Brandy Coccia
Store Manager



Elsie Martinez
Human Resources
Business Partner



Erin Baez
Director of Operations
Support



Joelle Smith
Manager Distribution
Services



Rachel Razzano
Human Resources
Business Partner



Glucia Afonso
Store Manager





Cathy Williams Owen

Dri Mark Products

President/CFO

Cathy Williams Owen plays a key role in helping customers protect their registers and their bottom line.

With a clear focus on loss prevention, she helps lead a company known for practical, reliable counterfeit detection solutions.

Owen brings a results-driven mindset to everything she does, balancing smart financial leadership with continued investment in innovation, manufacturing and customer relationships.

Under her leadership, Dri Mark has expanded its lineup of

loss-prevention solutions, strengthened its U.S.-based manufacturing operations and built lasting partnerships with cash handlers, wholesalers and distributors.

Owen's hands-on, people-first approach helps ensure that Dri Mark's solutions don't just meet industry requirements – they solve real-world challenges customers face every day.



Sae Pansare

DoorDash

Lead Product Manager

Sae Pansare is a results-driven leader shaping the future of food across CPG, grocery retail and digital marketplaces. With a foundation in food engineering, she brings deep expertise across product innovation, commercialization and

food commerce technology.

At Kraft Heinz, she commercialized five new food products, contributing more than \$15 million in annual revenue and advancing natural ingredient reformulations that improved consumer transparency.

At Amazon Grocery, Pansare led digital shopping innovations that expanded grocery assortment by 30 percent and unlocked an estimated \$400 million in business value. She also drove operational improvements in grocery pickup that reduced wait times, increased customer satisfaction by 400 basis points and saved \$6 million in costs.

At DoorDash, Pansare leads the 0-to-1 enterprise meal solutions product, building a \$300 million business from scratch.

Beyond corporate impact, Pansare is a recognized industry contributor. She served as a judge for the Institute of Food Technologists' startup pitch competition and judged national hackathons at Harvard, Stanford and Princeton universities. She reviews academic journal submissions and USDA grant proposals and is a published thought leader on food retail innovation.



Deborah Pasternack

C.A. Ferolie

Senior Director of Category Management

Deborah Pasternack is a strategic and influential leader whose work has elevated C.A. Ferolie's insights and customer facing capabilities. In her current role, she oversees the delivery of best-in-class category and consumer intelligence that strengthens internal planning and enhances client partnerships.

Pasternack led the development of a suite of Power BI powered tools that eliminated thousands of hours of manual slide building and data compilation, enabling teams to focus on clearer storytelling and sharper recommendations.

Her enhancements to KPI tracking and enterprise score carding improved organizational clarity, strengthened visibility into performance drivers and brought greater consistency to reporting.

Pasternack excels at translating broad business needs into practical, scalable solutions. She sets purposeful expectations, ensures alignment and

brings discipline to every initiative.

Her leadership emphasizes transparency, collaboration and empowerment. She champions her team's work and fosters an environment where contributions are valued. Her vision for a streamlined space-to-sales platform reshaped how the company prepares for customer engagements, resulting in more cohesive, insight-driven presentations.

With her tools now embedded across core workflows and a leadership approach that strengthens both people and processes, 2026 is the ideal year to recognize Pasternack's lasting impact and contributions.



Rachel Razzano

Stop & Shop

Human Resource Business Partner

Rachel Razzano is a driven and inspiring human resources business partner who stepped into one of the most complex districts in New York City and made a quick impact.

Through strong leadership, she delivered the best associate engagement results in the region, improving scores by four points. This reflects her results-oriented mindset and her ability to build trust across a diverse population.

Razzano connects with associates at every level and demonstrates company values through integrity, compassion and accountability. She shares her expertise to support others' success and has become a trusted mentor, offering guidance, encouragement and perspective.

Razzano champions the business and its people, advocating for associates by partnering with leaders to ensure their voices are heard.

She fosters an environment where people feel valued, supported and empowered. Her commitment extends beyond operations, reflecting a deep dedication to service, teamwork and community.

Razzano also partners with her team to support local initiatives across her district, including the annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, where she helps coordinate event setup and staffing.

In addition, she is a passionate supporter of the company's school food pantry program – helping with setup and openings – that provides resources to students and families in need.

**CELEBRATING OUR 2026
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE
WINNERS** !!!





Darla Rieg

The Giant Co.

Director of Commercial Planning

Darla Rieg is an exceptional leader whose results-oriented performance, strategic mindset

and collaborative approach make her deserving of Women of Influence recognition. This year marked an important transition for The Giant Co. as it focused on building momentum for future success, and she led a critical pricing project with accountability and collaboration.

In addition to the pricing project, Rieg represented merchandising on a brand-wide promotional initiative, driving parameters and change as areas

of period planning were redefined. Her collaboration with strategic vendor partners brought important application enhancements to the merchandising teams.

Rieg also was a part of a team that implemented tools that improved promotional efficiency and bottom-line results, including bringing fresh online in the brand's merchandising promotion application.



Monica Rolon

C.A. Ferolie

Regional Sales Development Manager

Monica Rolon is an organized and strategic leader whose influence spans the Eastern Small Format Confection Division. Supporting more than 40 business managers across a \$22 million business, she plays a central

role in maintaining alignment between C.A. Ferolie and several of its most important vendor partners.

Through disciplined planning, clear communication and strong command of vendor priorities, Rolon helps drive consistent execution and contributed to the division achieving 100 percent of assigned sales targets across multiple major confection partners.

Her ability to simplify complex information and translate it into practical guidance enables business managers to operate with clarity and confidence, strengthening individual and team performance.

Rolon is regarded as a steady, trusted resource who elevates those around her. She goes above expectations to ensure teams have the information and support they need. Her professionalism and reliability earn high praise from peers and partners.

Rolon's involvement with NCA and NACS provides industry perspective, helping her connect trends back to day-to-day execution. After years of behind-the-scenes contributions that have strengthened vendor relationships, operational consistency and overall sales performance, 2026 is the ideal moment to recognize Rolon's steady leadership and lasting impact.



Sydney Ruggieri

Wakefern Food Corp.

Project Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Sydney Ruggieri leads with a strong focus on achieving ambitious goals. She is an approachable,

humble and intelligent leader who is people-centered and supportive of those around her.

Ruggieri challenges her teams to reach high standards while providing the trust, consistency and support needed to succeed. Known for her likeability, she inspires others to elevate their performance and strive for their best.

With a strong focus on results and team development, Ruggieri creates

an environment where employees and teams can thrive.

Recognized by her organization as a high-potential leader, she was selected to attend the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California, an investment in her continued growth and future leadership impact. She represents a rising leader who is expanding her influence and helping shape the future of the food industry.



Jordan Schenck

Flashfood

CEO

Since taking the helm at Flashfood in May 2025, Jordan Schenck has led the company through a period of significant growth and impact, strengthening its role as a technology partner to grocers while helping families access more affordable food.

Flashfood's app-based marketplace connects shoppers with discounted surplus groceries at nearby retailers, reducing food waste while improving food affordability. Under Schenck's leadership, Flashfood helped divert more than 32 million pounds of food from landfills in 2025, equivalent to more than 26 million affordable meals.

The platform also facilitated the sale of 1.6 million produce boxes, expanding access to fresh food while helping retailers recover value from inventory that would otherwise go unsold.

Schenck also has driven strategic expansion across North America. Flashfood now operates in 33 U.S. states, all 10 Canadian provinces and

more than 2,000 grocery locations.

During her tenure, the company launched a pilot with Kroger's Mid-Atlantic Division at 16 Richmond, Virginia-area stores, marking Flashfood's entry into the Southeast and a milestone partnership with one of the country's largest grocers.

As one of the few female CEOs in grocery technology, Schenck is helping shape a new category addressing two of the industry's most urgent challenges: food waste and grocery affordability.



CONGRATULATIONS
to our 2026 Woman of Influence!



Monica Rolon
Regional Sales
Development Manager



Deb Pasternack
Senior Director,
Category Management Lead



Amy Bergeron
Sales Development Manager



Sarah Sheaffer
Sales Development Manager



Jennifer Falzon
HR Manager



Teri-Anne Colurciello
Senior Director of
Business Intelligence



Stacey Schultz

Utz Brands

SVP of Brand Marketing

Stacey Schultz is responsible for portfolio brand health and strategic growth across Utz Brands' total portfolio, inclusive of flagship brands Utz, On The Border, Boulder Canyon and Zapp's.

Since joining the company in 2020 with the acquisition of Truco Enterprises, where she served as SVP of marketing and innovation, Schultz has expanded her roles and responsibilities. She has built capabilities within her team along with actions to address brand performance.

Schultz is a driver of change, developing and leading the marketing planning process, organizational contingency planning and marketing budget creation and management. She is a critical contributor to the organization and continues to push for advancements and growth.



Sarah Sheaffer

C.A. Ferolie

Sales Development Manager

In her first year at C.A. Ferolie, Sarah Sheaffer has had a strong impact, managing a diverse \$15 million portfolio with confidence, skill and strong commercial instincts. She leads planning and execution with the company's largest

customer in the region, balancing complexity while driving results.

Sheaffer onboarded multiple new clients, revitalizing market plans and generating a 4 percent increase despite market challenges. She also delivered a 425 percent sales increase through a major initiative, demonstrating her ability to identify growth opportunities and execute with precision.

Sheaffer is admired for her collaborative style and willingness to share best practices, elevating the performance of those around her. She brings valuable perspectives from her experience working with agencies and

customers, helping teams strengthen execution and sharpen strategy.

Sheaffer stays attuned to emerging trends by monitoring social media-driven insights, identifying opportunities that support customers and brands. Her ability to perform at such a high level while balancing the demands of family life speaks to her resilience, discipline and commitment.

With early achievements that have already reshaped business outcomes, 2026 is the perfect year to recognize Sheaffer as a rising leader with tremendous potential.



Joelle Smith

Stop & Shop

Manager – Distribution Services

Joelle Smith is a hands-on leader who builds results through relationships, clear expectations and accountability. She believes leadership is earned through trust and integrity. Her approach delivered measurable impact, including a 23 percent reduction in warehouse shrink through defined

expectations, targeted training and stronger operational visibility.

By reinforcing these standards and coaching, Smith created a culture where accountability was understood and embraced. These efforts also contributed to a 10 percent reduction in operating costs, underscoring her belief that engaged, supported teams drive performance.

Smith tackles challenges with a solution-focused mindset and values open and honest communication. She encourages collaboration and feedback, recognizing that those closest to the work offer the most practical improvements.

During a major system outage, Smith stayed calm, listened to her team

and guided them through the disruption, turning a difficult moment into an example of resilience and shared problem-solving.

Developing others is Smith's greatest passion. She mentors intentionally, ensuring her team has clarity, support and room to grow. In 2025, 10 associates earned promotions, reflecting her commitment to developing leaders and building a high-performing, supportive culture.

Smith volunteers monthly with Plymouth Helping Hands for Animals, supports the Freetown Food Bank and serves on the board of directors for Carver Youth Baseball.



Stevie Smith

Giant Food

Human Resources Business Partner, Support Office

Stevie Smith is an inspiring, results-driven leader whose impact reaches beyond her role. She is committed to developing talent, investing considerable time in identifying associates' strengths and creating clear, actionable plans for their growth and career advancement. Her leadership is rooted in

empathy; Smith embraces all perspectives and creates a space where every voice feels valued.

A natural coach, Smith empowers others through thoughtful feedback and steady mentorship, helping people realize their potential. She connects daily work to the organization's broader mission, inspiring teams with a strong sense of purpose.

Known for her agility, Smith anticipates and navigates change with a growth mindset, seeing evolving circumstances as opportunities for innovation rather than obstacles. She also excels at fostering collaboration.

Smith builds trust, promotes shared ownership and breaks down silos to unify teams around common goals. Her openness is a hallmark of her leadership. She shares her perspectives while encouraging others to contribute theirs. When faced with uncertainty or tough decisions, she leads with courage, clarity and action.

Smith's influence extends into her civic and philanthropic commitments, where she supports causes that strengthen communities. She embodies the qualities of a true Woman of Influence – principled leadership, dedication to others and a drive to create lasting impact.

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Angie Smith
The Campbell's Company

Head of Omni-Commerce Marketing – Snacks
Angie Smith is a transformative leader who has driven best-in-class omni-commerce growth with Campbell's largest retail customer. She has delivered

double-digit e-commerce and omni-business gains, with snacks' online market share surpassing in-store share across all categories, reflecting the strength of her holistic, customer-focused process from strategic vision through disciplined execution. Smith's customer alignment and commercial leadership have earned Campbell's three Walmart awards, and she also has received Campbell's highest sales honor, the Merit Award. She is recognized for her ability to translate insight into action, strengthening partnerships while accelerating

performance across platforms. Before joining Campbell's in 2021, Smith led Kimberly Clark's omnichannel customer marketing strategy, securing Huggies brand exclusivity within the Walmart Baby Registry and managing a \$20 million Walmart Connect Retail Media investment. Her prior experience at Unilever and in agency leadership roles further sharpened her ability to integrate brands, customers and media into cohesive growth strategies.



Staci Smith
Utz Brands

VP of Risk Management
Staci Smith leads the Utz Brands' enterprise risk management function with expertise and a depth of knowledge that is rare in the industry. Joining Utz in July 2023, Smith brought nearly a decade of risk management experience

from The Hershey Company, where she served as senior specialist of risk and insurance and risk manager, developing a mastery of the field that she now applies daily on behalf of Utz and its associates. Smith holds Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter and Associate in Risk Management designations, which are among the most respected credentials in her profession. Her responsibilities at Utz extend well beyond risk management. She also oversees the company's internal audit program, bringing the same rigor, thoroughness and diligence to that work as she does to every challenge placed before her.

What distinguishes Smith, however, is not only her deep functional expertise but the way she shows up for her colleagues. She is a true team player in every sense, always willing to go above and beyond, work cross-functionally and do whatever is required to strengthen the teams and people around her. Smith's combination of technical excellence, work ethic and collaborative spirit makes her an invaluable asset to Utz Brands and an exemplary model of leadership.



Meaghan Tetreault
Big Y Foods

Senior Manager – Employee Relations & Field Services
Meaghan Tetreault personifies leadership while combining it with mentorship, setting a powerful example for others in the industry. She executes her human resources role with professionalism and precision, ensuring that all

interactions are executed with preparedness. She has the ability to engage all participants, challenging appropriately and where necessary. Tetreault is responsible for driving succession planning across Big Y Foods. She has transformed this work into something meaningful and engaging, ensuring the process remains fresh, forward-thinking and aligned with the future needs of the organization. Through close partnership with the operations executive team, Tetreault has helped cultivate a strong pipeline of emerging leaders who will continue

to guide the company's success. In addition, she oversees employee relations efforts that support more than 10,000 employees. She provides thoughtful guidance and steady leadership while mentoring a team of HR professionals dedicated to supporting the mission and vision of the organization. Tetreault's ability to balance strategic leadership with genuine care for people is what sets her apart. She leads with integrity, humility and a commitment to developing others. She plays a vital role in the continued success of the organization and is respected for her contributions.



Brittany Vogel
Hannaford Supermarkets

Store Manager
Brittany Vogel exemplifies the kind of leadership that strengthens people and performance. She has built a culture where associates thrive, customers feel cared for and operational excellence is delivered every day.

Vogel's leadership style is that of a "gardener," someone who creates the conditions for others to grow. She cultivates engagement, trust and accountability, empowering her team to deliver a shopping experience that is clean, fresh, friendly and customer focused. Under her leadership, associates feel supported and inspired, leaders are empowered and the store operates as a unified team committed to excellence. Beyond her store, Vogel is a respected leader. She serves as a Business Resource Group lead, leads district leadership meetings and steps forward to support divisional sales and service initiatives when needed. Her

willingness to take on "stretch" assignments reflects a selfless commitment to collaboration and shared success. Vogel demonstrates Hannaford's "All for Good" purpose through community involvement as co-chair of the Capital District Pride Parade, organizing a Bingo Night benefiting the American Heart Association and leading engagement initiatives strengthening connections between stores and communities. Through her humility, clarity and commitment to developing others, Vogel represents the very best of food industry leadership.



Karen Weinstein
Imperial Distributors

VP of Supply Chain
During the first five months in her current role, Karen Weinstein has become a transformative force at Imperial Distributors, bringing disciplined leadership, operational rigor and strategic clarity to a complex distribution network serving thousands of retail locations.

Weinstein's impact is defined not only by results but by how she brings people together to solve problems. She has driven cross-departmental collaboration on major improvements requiring close coordination across supply chain, sales, merchandising and operations, creating stronger organizational alignment and better customer outcomes. Her communication has elevated the company's responsiveness during critical situations, including tariff volatility and infrastructure upgrades. By anticipating risks and communicating early and clearly, she has helped the organization navigate disruption with confidence and minimal customer impact.

Through her process-driven approach, Weinstein has strengthened the structure and consistency of supply chain operations across procurement, inventory flow, logistics and distribution execution, with a strong focus on improving speed, accuracy and visibility. Weinstein combines analytical precision with solutions-oriented leadership, building momentum for long-term operational excellence. Her ability to bring structure to complexity and lead through change makes her deserving of this recognition.



Kristen Wilson
The Campbell's Company

Director of Customer Growth Planning
Kristen Wilson is an exceptional leader whose optimism, strategic vision and passion for the food industry elevate Campbell's performance and culture. With a deep appreciation for Campbell's brands, teams and customers, her enterprise mindset and strong bias for action add value. Wilson transforms strategy into results. She has spearheaded

high-impact customer summits that strengthen retail partnerships, introduced productivity and decision-making tools that hone organizational focus and modernized sales materials that empower field teams to bring strategies to life. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, she has received Campbell's highest sales honor, the Merit Award. During her eight-year tenure at Campbell's, Wilson has held influential roles, including senior manager of shopper insight and category solutions and senior customer development manager. She also spent 15 years building her sales and marketing expertise with Edgewell Personal Care, Colgate Palmolive, Reckitt Benckiser, The Nielsen Company and IRI, where she set the foundation of her reputation as a results-driven, inspirational leader.





Shelby Publishing has expanded its popular Women of Influence section from the Northeast to the other four regions of the nation. Look for the following outstanding female leaders from across the country to be featured in our May editions...

MIDWEST

Angel Anderson
Michelle Bernard
Casia Broker
Dea Calkins
Jamie Collins
Tammy Durnan
Azeb Gebrewihot
Jennifer Lambert
Kristi Magnuson Nelson
Tara McDermott
Shelly Moore
Meagan Nelson
Jessica Ringena
Jody Rudh
Carla Rydberg
Natalie Santiago
Heather Standifer
Rebekah Stewart
Anna Stoermer
Jenna Sullivan
Nicole Teeters
Lori Turner
Amy Wadstrom
Kate Weidner
Alyson Woods
Nicki Zuber

SOUTHEAST

Susan Abernathy
Ruth Bain
Lindsey Baron
Brittany Benton
Taylor Berry
Misty Bryant
Lindsay Capozziello
Jordan Carter
Shannon Clark
Jan Concannon

Anna Cook
Henley Coulter
Rhonda DeMello
Misty Deskins
Geri Downing
Meghan Edwards
Sarah Frey
Lucy Gibbons
Tracey Gregorski
Kim Gustina
Constance Hammond
Melissa Harrington
Candace Henderson
Tabitha Henry
Elizabeth Hinson
Karin Humanik
Jamila Jackson
Mary Kellmanson
Misty Kern
Claudia Keyes
Tina Kubala
Hye Suk Makley
Sarah Matejowsky
Sherry McBride
Courtney Meador
Dora Merrick
Tish Mills
Kara O'Malley
Katie Penny
Tamara Rose
Caroline Short
Shelby Silvia
Hannah Smith
Martha Taylor
Paige Vance

SOUTHWEST

Angela Ables
Emilee Albright

Liz Bleakley
Sarah Boddy
Jessica Brown
Kaela Canzoneri
Nellie Carlson
Kindle Chapman
Crystal Dominguez
Amanda Emerson
Taylor Escamilla
Sabrina Fair
Marty George
Alexandra Hickey
Amber Hook
Beth Keeton
Lisa Lam
Macaela LeClair
Casey Martin
Chesley Maschhoff
Jennifer O'Malley
Abie Rampy
Becky Schaeffer
Kacy Springer
Kayleigh Swift
Lisa Tiblow
Nery Vazquez

WEST

Catherine Gipe-Stewart
Lorena Aguilar
Kristin Alas
Lisa Ali
Shannon Beasley
Liz Casas
Laura Castro
Patrice Coudray Rubin
Darla Deiro
Gricelda Deluna
Erika Deschodt
Tammy Duff

Christy Dwyer
Britney Ekerson
Jeri Elsasser
Veronica Estrada
Martha Gabriel
Karla Gonzalez
Melissa Gonzalez
Annette Gutierrez
Carla Inama
Teresa Jimenez
Kimberly Johnson
Gretchen Johnson
Kristyn Lawson
Katherine Lunde
Carrie Mack
Barb McGlothlin
Jacqueline Michlitsch
Karol Moorman
Janet Moreno
Rebecca Morgan
Erika Mota
Kirti Mutatkar
Marnie Nemcoff
Stefanie Pandol
Nancy Paredes
Joseph Parpart
Jennifer Petersen
Kori Pierson
Carolina Pinedo
Megan Poppe
LeAnne Romesburg
Sara Rueda Cuartas
Irma Trias
Claudia Velgara
Paige Venable
Catrin Williams
Danielle Wortham