



A celebration of female professionals

Tribute offers insight into careers of 30 honorees

The Shelby Report of the Midwest presents its 17th annual tribute to Women of Influence in the food industry. This year's slate of honorees – 30 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 Shelby 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 in their careers.

We found their responses refreshing and inspirational, and hope you will as well. Join us as we celebrate the 2022 Women of Influence.





Monica Abarca
Post Consumer Brands

Senior Account Manager
Years with the company: Eight
I was born and raised in Southern California. A daughter of immigrant parents, who taught me the

importance of education, hard work and family. I married my husband, Alejandro “Al” Abarca, 15 years ago. He is the one that grounds me. He is always there to support me in whatever I choose to pursue. We have a very energetic 9-year-old boy.
At Post Consumer Brands, I enjoy developing partnerships with my customers to achieve success. I am thankful that my company supports me being the ambassador for all the industry events in California. This has allowed me to be part of the board for the Illuminators and Food Industry

Managers' Club of Los Angeles.
My success is not only due to my family but also to the great mentors I have had along the way. Diana Godfrey taught me to always find a solution to my problem. Debbie Staab showed me the importance of understanding financials. Jason Edevold and Lori Brown encouraged me to get involved in our industry. My motto is, “Never stop learning, you will learn something new every day.”



Michelle Aloï
Daymon Worldwide

Senior Director Global Sourcing, Product Development and Innovation-Japan
Years with the company: 16
Currently, my team and I are supporting a key retailer in Japan to expand their private brand

assortment including new categories and products for the Japanese market.
The most rewarding part of my job is having the opportunity to work with internal and external resources across the globe to create unique, customized solutions for our partner.
Navigating through the impact that the pandemic has had on the global supply chain and input costs across the industry has proved to be the most challenging aspect of my job.
Early in my career with Daymon, I was lucky enough to have a mentor who gave me space to develop my own path and empowered and

challenged me to think strategically and take risks.
A defining moment in my career was accepting a new role in our international division seven years ago, which was outside of my comfort zone and really forced me to grow and build new skills.
The advice I would give up-and-coming professionals is to take risks, never stop learning and challenge yourself to build diverse relationships internally and externally from your organization. I am a member of NEW.



Stacy Bowen
Associated Wholesale Grocers

VP Sales, Solutions and Services
Years with the company: 20
Our team’s mission is to provide our member retailers all the tools, products and services they need to compete favorably in their respective markets. The

teams I have responsibility for interface with member retailers’ technology platforms, marketing, advertising and pricing.
The most rewarding part of my job is working with independent retailers as they face challenges in today’s ever-evolving marketplace. With independent retailers nationwide, each one is unique in their technology platforms and needs. My team works to find custom solutions for each.
My father is the reason I got into the grocery business. He worked his whole life in grocery stores, going from a clerk to the head of the meat department. He always taught our family that “busy hands are happy hands.”

My father also taught me how to handle each customer's unique wants and needs.
The defining moment in my career was taking a risk on delving deeper into the technology side of the business when I had the opportunity to come to AWG.
I would advise up-and-coming professionals to find their passion and continue to challenge themselves every day. It’s OK to fail at something but learn from the failure and quickly push forward. I am a member of Women Grocers of America.



Lauren Cook
Woods Supermarkets Inc.

Director of Human Resources
Years with the company: Five
I grew up in southwest Missouri, raised on a small farm I still live near today. Coming from a home where my mother was an educator and my father was a dairy farmer, I understood the value of both hard work and education from

a young age.
After receiving an MBA in 2016, I stumbled into HR in my early 20s and have been progressing in my career ever since. In my current role, I oversee people operations at Woods Supermarkets, which has about 800 employees.
The most challenging and rewarding things in my position are the same – keeping up with the ever-evolving workforce. HR professionals, especially in the grocery or retail industry, must be open to innovations and adaptations.
A mentor of mine is my grandmother, who is retired after many years as a successful HR professional. She loves to talk HR with me and (especially

during the pandemic) has helped to keep me grounded in the challenges I have faced as a professional.
A defining moment in my career was in 2017 right before I came to Woods Supermarkets. This was a big year for me personally as I learned so much about my own capabilities. I would advise any upcoming professionals to advocate for a workplace culture they would want to be in daily. Hire smart people, then move over and watch what happens. Lastly, don't let anyone tell you that you need to pay your dues before you can do big things. Go and do.



**WAY TO GO,
TERESA!**

**Congratulations on
being named one of
The Shelby’s Report’s
2022 Women of Influence.**
From your Johnsonville Family





Congratulations to all of the 2022 Women of Influence in the Food Industry!

We are proud of our women in leadership who have made significant contributions to our associates, stores, and communities.

All of us at Albertsons Companies are proud of you!



Becca Lind



Nancy Klenow



Michelle Khinder



Maria Romero



Kelsey Slough



Amber Radcliffe



Rosita Szatkowska



Tami Davis



Libby Couch-Askew

Peapod Digital Labs

Category Development Manager

Years with the company: Three

Libby leads the Peapod Digital Labs paper private label category. Prior to that, she worked for over 13 years in the CPG industry for companies such as

Hormel Foods, Campbells Soup and Kimberly-Clark.

Libby takes pride in being able to create an item in her mind and see it through to fruition on the shelf. Her current passion product involves sustainability – designing a plate made of leaves.

The defining moment of her career was going from CPG sales manager to a retailer. Most people that switch between the industries start in retail and switch to CPG. Once she took the role, she realized that both roles were centered on sales. The only difference is what she was selling, programs versus items.

Her advice to others: Believe in yourself and be true to yourself. Sometime we can be our own worst critic. We sometimes dismiss others' encouragement and being willing to take those risks is what truly drives a career trajectory.

She is involved with NEXT UP Carolinas Chapter, Rowan Help Ministries, PDL's Black Inclusion Network and its Spirituality Inclusion Network.



Jen Danby

St. Pierre Groupe

International Marketing Director

Years with the company: 20 months

I lead the development of the St. Pierre bakery brand and go-to-market strategy for the U.S.

St. Pierre is a fantastic brand to lead. We are in the super premium bakery space and get to have a lot of fun in bringing our

brand to life to educate shoppers and grow brand awareness of our super high quality brioche products.

Based out of the U.K., my core objective at St. Pierre is to develop and expand the \$100 million brand – the No. 1 brioche in the U.S. – while overseeing my creative marketing team, which does a fantastic job in connecting with both trade and consumers through advertising, PR, digital media and shopper marketing.

Having worked in the food industry for most of my professional career, I have during the last decade developed and grown a number of new brands in international markets.

A defining part of my career was when I got the opportunity to spend three years based in San Francisco as part of a successful international expansion story and bringing a U.K. egg brand to the U.S. marketplace. As CMO of that company, I led the development of the free-range egg brand in the U.S., successfully creating a brand-new, higher animal welfare segment of eggs and grew it into a multi-million-dollar brand.

My advice to up-and-coming marketeers is to go above and beyond to make yourself indispensable and say 'yes' and grab opportunities when you get chance. You never know where they may take you.



Heather DeLuca

Associated Wholesale Grocers Inc.

VP, Meat and Seafood

Years with the company: One

I have over 15 years of experience across meat merchandising from both a retailer and manufacturer lens. In my current role as VP of meat and seafood

at Associated Wholesale Grocers Inc., I lead sales, category management,

procurement and strategy supplying more than 3,200 supermarket locations. My passion is people, insights and driving profitable, strategic market share growth.

The most rewarding part of my role is the team. I am lucky to work with such a talented group and have the opportunity to mentor their development. The most challenging part of my position is that every day brings something new (which also means my job is never boring). From supply issues, reduced labor, transportation hurdles and fluctuating commodity markets we have to be flexible, willing to take some risks, highly informed and quick to respond.

During my career at Safeway Corp. in roles from analyst to meat director, I had mentors who invested in me and provided challenging opportunities. The retail world is comprised of a wonderful group of individuals. I would not be where I am today without the team, peers, family and friends that supported me, and I am grateful.

I am proud to lead with respect, empathy and grace. Relationships matter and people will remember how you made them feel. It is OK to make mistakes; don't dwell on them, learn and move on.



Joelle Dove

Daymon Worldwide

Director Business Development

Years with the company: 10

Joelle is an excellent representative of a noble leader who invests time and energy training and developing her direct team of associates. She

mentors others within the company to achieve their career aspirations.

She collaborates with the entire Daymon enterprise to deliver exceptional services to retailers and the Private Brand supplier community. She leads her team to bring best in class category insights to her retail partner, helping them maximize their private brand assortment and better their return on space at shelf.

Joelle created and led her team through a new PO management process that increased transportation transparency and increased scheduling accountability, which reduced late fees and increased in stock rates minimizing pandemic shortage effects at shelf. Joelle's colleagues and working partners know her for her positive and determined attitude. Joelle

utilizes a strategic roadmap to remain aligned with her retail partner's goals and help them achieve their financial targets for their private brand programs. She brings a unique operational and executive perspective to strategic planning, process and private brand development.

In her spare time, Joelle helps recent college graduates design and tailor their resumes for job applications and coaches interviewing skills. Joelle has recently been a contributing writer, sharing her perspective on various topics, including omni-channel inventory management and private brand holiday assortment planning.

2022 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE



Libby Couch-Askew

Transforming business and work culture



Carina Machain

Leading business and workplace wellness



Jennifer Merriman

Driving record-breaking results in Sourcing

CONGRATULATIONS

2022

TO
OUR

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY



DIANNE GALANG



JOELLE DOVE



KIM HOFFMAN



MICHELLE ALOI



LINDSEY LOMBARD

Daymon



Sarah Dudan
Peapod Digital Labs

Human Resources Business Partner
Years with the company: Three
In my role at Peapod Digital Labs, the e-commerce engine of Ahold Delhaize USA, I've

had the opportunity and honor of building a strong foundation for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in our workplace culture.
By influencing our leaders to invest financial resources, time and people to this important area of work, the company has been able to establish and take action on key DEI goals. These goals will continue to make PDL an inclusive place to work, positively impact the employee experience and ultimately help us create better products and services for the diverse consumers that shop with the great local brands of Ahold Delhaize USA.

We have made great strides in increasing the representation of women and BIPOC employees in the STEM field. As a human resource business partner, increasing diverse representation is an area of great passion for me. I believe I have a responsibility to use my role in HR to give underrepresented groups access to opportunities they may not have otherwise had, thereby giving those individuals access to key decision-makers who determine hiring and promotions. Additionally, I take pride in fostering diverse talent through the mentoring relationships I have, developing and advocating for others.



Kindl Furtak
T.A. Solberg Co. Inc.

Director of Marketing and Communication
Years with the company: 14
It is really rewarding to work in this fast-paced, ever-changing industry. I wear many hats, which keeps things fun and challenges me to keep learning. Plus, I get to work with a team of really smart people focused on building for the

future through sound, strategic thinking and innovation.
I have crossed paths with a lot of very talented people and many of them have influenced me, but one really special mentor early in my career left a huge impression. She set the bar high and brought others along with her as she strived for excellence. She spent time with me, teaching me and offering constructive feedback. She always stood up for what was right, no matter what. She was great with people and would recognize them for their individual talents. She understood the importance of work-life balance and led by example. She made it fun to go to work and she earned immense respect from her team because of the person she was and the values she

exemplified each day.
One defining moment of my career was when I made the transition from working at a marketing agency to taking on my role with T.A. Solberg Co. It has allowed me to take a deep dive into this industry and to influence many areas of the business.
Most of the truly effective leaders I have met were good listeners and took the time to ask questions before diving in. My advice to those starting out would be to be a sponge. Take in as much as you can so you can learn how you can make the biggest impact.



Dianne Galang
Daymon Worldwide

VP of New Business Development
Years with the company: 17
I am responsible for growing our customer base and providing value-added services to retailers across

North America. I manage a couple of our newer retailer account teams, which have gone from zero business 18 months ago to self-standing business units and expanding rapidly. Daymon is quickly growing beyond what the industry knows us for, so it is an exciting time to be in this role.
Over the past two years, the most challenging portion of the job has been making virtual connections and building those relationships to a place they can trust you enough to partner. As most people, I had to get creative in gaining introductions and connections. On the flip side, the most rewarding

piece is seeing those relationships I have nurtured turn into actual growing businesses.
I am co-chair of our Women's ERG, where we work hard to provide members resources to tackle the tough topics of all facets of gender equality. It is so rewarding to see the feedback and impact it makes on associates' careers. I also am on the board for Women Impacting Store Brand Excellence and serve as the programming officer for NextUp (formerly NEW) Virtual Region.



Kim Hoffman
Daymon Worldwide

Director of Retail Insights and Solutions
Years with the company: 13
I am fortunate to lead a highly skilled and collaborative analytics team where every day we push each other to think differently and build insights

and solutions that drive private brand forward. Working across our great company with associates who are passionate about private brand, value collaboration and represent our noble, profitable and fun mantra equates to the best job ever.
The most rewarding part of the job is the people. We are a spirited group, inspiring each other to push beyond what we think we know.
The most challenging part of the job is also rewarding – it's changing the perception of private brand. If you've never tried a private brand product, you will. It's just a matter of time.

I have had many guiding lights in my life and my career. Some offered me wisdom, while others offered me opportunity. I always listened and learned from every single one.
My defining moment was when I learned about this new analytics team being formed. I then spent the next six months contacting the director every two weeks about the job, until he hired me.
Without passion there is no drive. Without drive there is no purpose. Life is too short to live a single day unhappy. Choose wisely.





Congratulations, Peggy Krebs!

Your leadership inspires us, and your commitment to excellence fuels our ambition to be Trusted to Always Deliver for our retail partners and their customers up and down the East Coast.



Peggy Krebs
VP, ADvantage Program,
ADUSA Procurement



17th Annual
Women of Influence
in the food industry
THE SHELBY REPORT

Congratulations

Women of Influence



Justyne Uribe

Director of Procurement



Molly Sullivan

Director of Human Resources

*You inspire us every day;
We applaud your leadership, commitment and accomplishments.
#certcoproud*

From Your Family At

CERTCO INC.



Janice L. Honigberg
Sun Belle Inc.

President and owner
Years with the company:35

I am the founder, owner and president of Sun Belle Inc., an importer and distributor of fresh produce specializing in berries. I founded Sun Belle Inc. in January 1986.

The defining moment of my career was the decision to start my own business to represent growers and tackle the inefficiencies in distribution of imported fresh produce, including logistics and information flow.

I enjoy introducing new products and packs to market, providing good returns to growers, being a reliable partner to our customers and helping them build their markets through supplying excellent quality product and building a national organization.

Distributing and marketing fresh produce in and of itself is a constant challenge. My advice is to work with determination and dedication, don't skirt the details, stay curious and never be complacent.

My father was a multi-lingual world traveler who started an export company at about the age I started mine and built it with passion and great ability. My mother is a concert pianist who has worked with unparalleled discipline and dedication.

I am a member of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council, board member and promotions committee; a life trustee of Merit School of Music, Chicago; board member, Pilgrim Chamber Players, Highland Park, Illinois; and governing member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.



Peggy Krebs
ADUSA Procurement

VP of ADvantage Program
Years with the company: One

I lead vendor collaboration with over 200 participating suppliers in the grocery industry. I love my job because I get to work cross-functionally with

an incredible team of people who come from diverse backgrounds and career paths.

I also get to collaborate with the supplier community that I was once a part of, working together to push through the daunting industry supply crisis with the goal to come out stronger on the other side.

I was fortunate to get to report to a female VP of supply chain over 12 years ago, before I even dreamed it was possible for me to aspire to a leadership position at that level. She challenged me to believe in my own potential and to drive for results while always maintaining compassion and

humor along the way.

My defining moment was one year ago when I made the decision to move into my first role in a retail organization after spending 30 years in manufacturing companies. While it was scary to push out of my comfort zone, it was the best thing I could have done because of how much I've learned, how my perspective on the business has expanded and how happy I am.

My advice to everyone is to take a chance on yourself, don't be afraid to try something new and do what makes you happy. You are the captain of your own ship, so enjoy the ride.



Lindsey Lombard
Daymon Worldwide

Marketing Director
Years with the company: 16

I am responsible for strategic thought leadership and supporting my staff in all things related to

marketing, item development, analytics and insights. My career has been dedicated to helping retailers create world-class private brand programs. Over the last two decades as an industry, we have come so far toward treating private brands as the true CPG brands that they have become.

Working with Daymon is a crucial element to creating a private brand program that cannot be rivaled and one that is customized to the individual retailer's aspirations. This position is rewarding and satisfies my entrepreneurial spirit. I started with the company in its management

development program, which gave me exposure to all the areas of running a successful private brand business – category management principles, item development, importing, promotional planning, consumer insights, etc.

This program created a strong foundation for me to explore my skill set and career goals. I have since worked for five best-in-class retailers and learned from amazing industry professionals.



Carina Machain
Peapod Digital Labs

Data and Analytics Business Integration Manager

With a background in commercial strategy, operations and people leadership, Carina has spent the majority of her career in the grocery industry working in complex and fast-paced environments

while leading high-visibility, cross-functional projects. Carina loves helping people find solutions for complex issues using both data and creativity. Known for her optimistic attitude and big-picture thinking, Carina serves as an “in-house consultant,” building relationships across the business to answer key questions leveraging D&A's data, capabilities, and insights and empowering everyone to make better data driven decisions.

Carina has benefited from many mentors throughout her career, but credits Natalie Dupill, Marc Stolzman and Simon Lee at PDL for helping her navigate the ever-changing world and demands of retail.

Her advice to up-and-coming professionals is to take time to learn what type of work gives you a sense of accomplishment. She uses herself as an example. Originally going to school to be a high school math teacher, Carina found her curiosity, passion for learning and drive to solve complex problems took her down a much different career path. While different than what she planned, she has found her experiences incredibly rewarding and fulfilling.





SmartMarket[®]
FOR BUSINESS

CONGRATULATIONS

SARAH MAY

VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES, SMART.MARKET, INC

ON BEING NAMED A 2022
WOMAN OF INFLUENCE



Anna Mancini

Associated Wholesale Grocers Inc.

VP of Merchandising

Years with the company: 10

I joined Associated Wholesale Grocers in 2011 as VP of merchandising for VMC, a subsidiary. I lead the merchandising and procurement team managing programs in natural, organic and specialty food, hispanic, dollar, health and

wellness, and general merchandise and seasonal. I transitioned to a role on the sales team as VP of sales for VMC in 2019, working with our customers across AWG trade area in nine divisions and 30 states.

As a business leader, I always put others' needs before my own. I do my best to be in tune with other people's needs both professionally and personally, and I am always looking for ways to better support them or enable their capabilities.

I enjoy developing people on the team and treat everyone as an individual. I assume positive intent with everyone I work with, and I believe that everyone has value to offer to the business.

Despite many challenges with the supply chain and distribution, our team delivered outstanding year-over-year sales results (105 percent of her goal) for the company. As a part of an independent grocery wholesaler, our team has a member-centric approach, and we understand that our success can only be accomplished through AWG's members' success.

I love all things retail, merchandising and product-based. I take keen interest in understanding assortments, product trends and consumer behavior, looking for opportunities on behalf of our member retailers so they can compete favorably in their markets.



Sarah May

SmartMarket

VP of Sales

Years with the company: Five

Strategizing with business owners to help grow their business, helping others within our organization and being passionate about the success of our

company has led me to my current role. In this position, I lead our sales team in the launch of a new product that is preparing to scale through key partnerships. I also help our national sales team implement new ideas through our executive management team, and partner with my colleague and mentor, Joe Moody, to help independent grocers identify who their shoppers are and how to engage with them.

The most rewarding aspect of my career is that I get to help people, whether it be a person on my team that is struggling, or an independent grocery store that is competing with a big chain moving in next door. The

most challenging thing about my job is the lack of time; there aren't enough hours in the day. We all would love to have a clone button.

When I run into challenges on a day-to-day basis, I call on Joe, a partner in the grocery industry but also a wonderful mentor. Management, client strategies and personnel, he always has words of wisdom to share.

Approximately 18 months ago, it seemed as if everything clicked. It was a very defining moment in my career and it was the acquiring of confidence. My advice to up-and-coming professionals is to not doubt yourself, know how valuable you are and your potential, but stay humble.



Jennifer L. Merriman

Peapod Digital Labs

Director - Fresh Sourcing

Years with the company: 22 years with affiliate companies across ADUSA

I am accountable for leading the PDL Fresh Sourcing team, which involves partnering with the great local brands of ADUSA to leverage size and scale and drive value to

fuel the future of our fresh categories.

I find the amazing people I'm fortunate enough to connect with and learn from every day to be incredibly rewarding. I am energized by the collaborative relationships, dynamic and energetic culture and fast-paced environment of my role.

The most challenging part of my job is the relentless pursuit to anticipate the ever-changing needs of our great local brands and ensure we are positioned to exceed their expectations as a trusted thought partner.

Being offered the opportunity to lead an area of the business entirely outside of my core background/experience was a defining moment in my

career. This helped me to refine and strengthen my leadership approach and encourage others to explore opportunities outside of their comfort zone.

My advice to up-and-coming professionals is to have the courage to take risks. Be comfortable with being uncomfortable. Also, create a professional support network with key people who you can consult with and who care enough to be honest with you about development and growth opportunities, even when the message may not be easy to hear. I am a member of Network of Executive Women, Rowan County Helping Ministries and Food Lion Feeds.



Emily Most

Storewise

Head of Finance and Operations

Years with the company: One

I served in leadership roles across finance and operations early in my career. I started an appraisal management company and oversaw the staff while continuously developing and implementing technology enhancements,

process flows and operational efficiency.

My ability to assimilate large data sets and implement change-management helped propel one of the companies to the Inc. 5000 list.

I excelled in volleyball, basketball and gymnastics while growing up, finishing my athletic career with two years of college volleyball. I live in the Kansas City area with my husband, two sets of twins and dog.

The most rewarding part of my job is being with a company that stays true to its core values. It's easy to get behind Storewise and work hard because I see how our software serves an important American industry, and the benefits it delivers to our growing customer base.

The challenge: We move quickly and I've become more keen and better at prioritizing my work, including delegation and communicating effectively with our CEO.

As for a mentor who helped guide me along the way, my dad laid the foundation. I grew up listening to NPR and Dave Ramsey with him. He owned three physical therapy practices and would openly discuss operations/financials when I was young. He continues to give his very best to support me in my goals.



Character. Compassion. Commitment.

Tami Bronkema always puts people first, which is why she is a trusted advisor and mentor to so many of the employees at Trans-Ocean Products. As our long-time Human Resource Manager, Tami has played an integral role in helping the company grow into the seafood industry leader we are today.

Thank you, Tami, for your guidance through these challenging times and for leading the Trans-Ocean team to great success.

Congratulations!



Bellingham, WA 98225 • www.trans-ocean.com



Sarah Nesci
Cheesewich Factory

VP
Years with the company: 15

The Cheesewich Factory is a family-owned and -operated business. The most rewarding part of my job is working with my father and brother every day. My father invented the Cheesewich 16 years ago. We've been making them for

the past six years. I love manufacturing a great tasting grab-and-go product that everyone loves to eat.
The most challenging part of my job is balancing it all. With being involved in every department – from our SQF program, sales, customer service, trade shows to accounting – prioritizing my time and making sure everything gets done is important. Any missed call gets a phone call back and every email gets answered.
My father is my greatest mentor – the old school way. Answer a phone when it rings. He's the first one here in the morning and last one to leave. His key words every day are to treat people how you want to be treated and

attitudes are contagious...is your's worth catching?
A defining moment for me is when our company made the first million Cheesewich sandwiches, I knew we were onto something. Then it grew to three million, then five million and now last year we made 10 million Cheesewich sold all throughout the country.
My best advice to give to up-and-coming professionals is to work your butt off every day. There's always someone else out there more hungry, who's willing to put in the work.



Teresa Oium-Zube
Johnsonville

Group Director, Operations
Years with the company: 22

For the last 25 years, I've held various operations leadership positions in the meat processing industry.

Since 2000, I've been an operations leader at Johnsonville. During that time, I've served as plant coordinator (plant manager) at two manufacturing facilities and launched a new business unit called sustainable swine resources. In my current role, I lead strategy and operations of four harvest and processing plants.
It's difficult to pick just one defining moment, but an accomplishment I am especially proud of is leading the launch of Johnsonville's SSR division, which created a new revenue stream, monetizing the approximately 38

percent of porcine materials that are not used in sausage production. SSR creates business opportunities in industries such as medical, life sciences and pet food and enrichment. In addition, it reduces waste in our business and is an important part of our sustainability efforts.
I breed and show Belgian Draft Horses and French Bulldogs. I also sit on multiple boards supporting the horse industry.



Molly Sullivan
Certco Inc.

Director of Human Resources
Years with the company: Two

I oversee HR initiatives, from recruiting and onboarding, to payroll, benefits, labor relations and employee engagement. It is very rewarding working with my staff to support our new and existing employees. Watching

employees grow within the company, being able to resolve issues and knowing that what we do impacts their lives proves the value of HR.
During the pandemic, recruiting and retention have become difficult for everyone. Ensuring we are continuing to evaluate our hiring needs and focusing on retaining employees have been major focuses for us.
At the start of my human resources career, I had a mentor that included me in every aspect of HR as part of her guidance and mentorship. The experiences and knowledge she provided me has allowed me to advance to where I am today. It is one of my goals to provide that same kind of mentorship to my staff.

A defining moment in my career is when I stepped out from under my mentor and relocated for a HR manager position. I went from back-office HR to dealing with the day-to-day people aspects of HR. It was different than what I was used to. This was a learning opportunity for me and helped me become a more well-rounded HR professional.
My advice to up-and-coming professionals is to venture outside your comfort zone. Don't be afraid of what you don't know. Embrace new opportunities.



Andrea Teal
Teal's Management Group

General Manager
Years with the company: 23

As general manager, I oversee the day-to-day operations of our 11 grocery stores and two liquor stores. In a family business, you touch every area. Despite having a plan, you never know what your day will bring.

This year we will celebrate our 80th anniversary, which is very exciting. I am honored to have the privilege of leading us into our 80th year and advancing the core values established by my great-grandparents. I enjoy working with my family, our managers and associates, who are committed to the communities and customers we serve.
The most challenging part of my job is time management. There is always something that needs to be done or addressed in the grocery industry, so prioritizing those needs along with the needs of our customers and associates can be challenging. I also have three children under age 5 and twins due in September, so the challenge has gotten bigger.

My most defining moment came when I moved into my current role, and the leadership of our company officially transitioned to the fourth generation. My grandpa told me that “the livelihood of the family business was now in my hands.” Nothing like a little pressure.
I have been fortunate to be surrounded by a great group of experienced family members and peers that I have been able to learn from and lean on for advice.
As far as giving advice, it would be to think and process before you react to tough situations. Your reaction can set the tone moving forward. I am a member of the MGA Board of Directors.



Donna Tweeten
Hy-Vee Inc.

EVP, Chief of Staff, Chief Merchandising Officer
Years with the company: 16

In my role, I oversee the merchandising strategy for the company's more than 285 retail grocery

locations in eight Midwestern states, including general merchandise, health and beauty care, beauty, floral, procurement and advertising. I also serve as a vital point of contact with Hy-Vee's supplier partners and serve as a trusted advisor to our entire executive team.
The most rewarding part of my career at Hy-Vee was creating and executing the company's marketing campaigns for nearly a decade. They have not only provided great value and purpose to what we offer our customers, but have also instilled a sense of pride in our 93,000 employees.

My advice to up-and-coming professionals is to always be confident in who you are. Bring your emotion and your character to work every day with you and let that shine through in everything you do.



Justyne Uribe
Certco Inc.

Director of Procurement
Years with the company: Nine

I lead a team of 20 business professionals including category managers, category analysts,

buyers and buyer assistants. The most rewarding aspect of my job is having a voice and making a difference within my company and in the industry.
My CEO constantly challenges me and believes in my vision for the department, which is what makes me so passionate about my job.
A defining moment in my career was in 2009, after accepting the buyer role I had been vying for. I knew the position was a steppingstone for where I wanted my career to go and could not wait to learn and grow into the position. And I am far from done; I cannot wait to see what my future holds.

Advice I would give to up-and-coming professionals is to never doubt yourself and always strive to do the right thing. Integrity and honesty always prevail and help build long-standing business relationships. I am Lean Six Sigma certified.



Georgia Van Gundy
Hy-Vee Inc.

EVP, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Customer Officer
Years with the company: Three

In my role, I help further Hy-Vee's mission to become the best place to work and shop in America

by overseeing the structure and initiatives to attract, engage and develop our employees, promoting an inclusive and diverse workforce and overseeing our government relations department as well as other administrative and regulatory departments.
Since I joined Hy-Vee in 2020, the most rewarding part of my career has been meeting the people that make up Hy-Vee. We employ more than 93,000 employees across eight states who are committed to helping make our customers' lives easier, healthier and happier. Each employee brings a different perspective to the table, which has shaped us into becoming a

better employer and a better retailer.
My advice to up-and-coming professionals is to always be confident in yourself and your abilities. You must also remain true to yourself as you grow in your career and do things that are meaningful to you.
I am a board member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Unity Point Foundation, United Way of Central Iowa and America's Cultivation Corridor Board. I also serve as deputy on the Iowa Business Council and was appointed by Iowa's governor to the Iowa Board of Education and the STEM Advisory Council.



Rebecca Vukelich
Advantage Solutions

Regional Business Manager
Years with the company: 24

I have experienced all the dramatic changes we have witnessed in the food industry. I started my

career as a shareholder in a local Wisconsin food broker, served as member of the executive committee of the regional operations in the process of growing to the premiere national organization of Advantage Solutions.
I have worked with some of the best CPG companies in the industry on the development and introduction of new items and brands across the Midwest market, creating the advertising and market programs with our customers, driving sales volume and the consumption and brand loyalty of the consumers.

The greatest aspect of my career has been the relationships built within my own organization, the customers and clients we serve within Advantage Solutions. Many of the brightest and best in the industry have served me as leaders and mentors.
Among other activities, I am a member of the Network of Executive Women, Women's Interactive Network-Advantage Solutions/DEI and a board member for the Wisconsin Food Brokers Association.



Kristin Williams

Hy-Vee Inc.

EVP, Chief Health Officer

Years with the company: 29

As Hy-Vee's EVP and chief health officer, I support all teams surrounding Hy-Vee's health and wellness assets.

I began my career with Hy-Vee in 1993 at one of our retail locations. In

2013, I was selected to lead and start our first pharmacy fulfillment center, which was an early defining moment in my career. In this role, I learned about manufacturing, supply and logistics and how to build a centralized operation to best support our pharmacies and patients.

The most rewarding part of my career has been witnessing the countless ways our teams have positively influenced customers' lives, through the nourishing food we sell, all the way through to the individualized care and services we provide from our health teams.

My advice to up-and-coming professionals is to never back down from

a challenge. Always try to say "yes" before you say "no." This mentality will open up countless doors for those who work hard and put in the time and effort. Any adversity you are faced with, you are resourceful and will find a way to succeed. Never give up.

I have served on a variety of boards, local and national from Drake University's College of Pharmacy National Advisory Council Member, Iowa Healthiest State Initiative and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation.



Ozlem Worpel

Tyson Foods

Director, Fresh Meats Marketing

Years with the company: Six

Ozlem Worpel brings an enthusiasm and leadership style that keeps her Tyson Foods, Fresh

Meats team members and peers growing in meaningful ways. Ozlem leads go-to-market strategies for premium brands in retail and foodservice. In her role, she oversees execution of a variety of communications disciplines, including public relations, research, brand development and sales promotions.

With an unstoppable work ethic and extensive marketing background, Ozlem's co-worker recently described her as "one of the most knowledgeable beef and pork experts I have ever met." She keenly

anticipates market trends and shepherds her teams well. Ozlem is known for her long-term relationships across the industry and several successful brand launches.

Outside of her role in Fresh Meats Marketing, Ozlem is active in the agriculture industry and her community. She is also a member of the National Pork Board domestic marketing team. She has led the meat industry to new heights and is set to make a continued difference in the decades to come.



Shelby Publishing is expanding our 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 upcoming May editions...

SOUTHEAST

Crystal Ackerman
Libby Askew
Kari Bailik
Carol Jenkins Barnett
Natasha Brinegar
Caroline Catoe
Ashley Cox
Kelly Davis
Shannon Durham
Kim Egger
Karen Fernald
Anne Gooden
Brandi Goodin
Jacqueline Hewitt
Katie Hotze
Gina Iacovone
Melissa King
Heather Link
Julie Mann
Hilary Mayclin
Sarah Montgomery
Ashley Oliver
Terri Pardue
Carrie Quigley
Jennifer Santiago
Sadrah Schadel
Gayle Shields
Melissa Shillinglaw
Jennifer Short
Caroline Skelton
Valarie Wallace
Elisa Westlund
Whitney Workman

SOUTHWEST

Kathryn Amatriain
Michelle Clark
Scharlanne Crozier
Chelsi Drosche
Tracy Frisbie
Rachel Gee

Bridget Grabowski
Kathy Grayson
Stephanie Herrington
Elisabeth Holzhauser
Suzanne Lowrance
Sandra Miller
Theresa Motter
Sara Myers
Rachael Profili
Sheri Rains
Regina Roberts
Monica Schierbaum
Nora Sessions
Jill Sumpter
Charlotte Weller
Latasha Woodard

NORTHEAST

Felis Andrade
Elaine Arnold
Jacqueline Blount
Rhonda Cain
April Carchietta
Carol Carlson
Jessica Carpenter
Erin Carter
Mia Cellucci
Paula Colatriano
Lisa Coleman
Jessica Convery
Diane Couchman
Joanna Crishock
Stacey Dauplaise
Michelle DeLucca
Chelsea Deputy
Kellie DiLoreto
Christina DiPietro
Ely Doval
Odile Ducatez
Keely Dzuiban
Nancyanne Fama
Stacy Fleishaker
Molly Fleming
Marcie Gencarelli

Alyssia Greene
Molly Greenwood
Kelli Hall
Leslie Jefferson
Dana Kelly
Courtney Kwartler
Lisa Lessard
Mitzi Lewis
Aileen Luppino
Liz Chace-Marino
Michele Martell
Jackie Mayer
Maggie McLaughlin
Brittany Menyo
Katie Merrill
Ginger Miller
Ryen Mills
April Mock
Jennifer Mohrlein
Katie Murphy
Casi Murren
Miriam Ort
Kelly Paolangeli
Brandi Petway
Karin Picard
Megan Salmon
Kristin Schillaci
Jennifer Scott
Cortlyn Slanina
Deborah Slomkowski
Johneice Smith
Stevie Smith
Yesim Smith
Cassandra Squeri
Jennafer Tamburri
Shannon Tobey
Kristy Vigil
Cynthia Volk
Jessica Yarmaloff
Erika Young

WEST

Misty Abella
Deborah Alexander

Tami Bronkema
Katrina Brooks
Rebecca Calvin
Erin Carter
Stephanie Corrales
Tami Davis
Ginny Diaz
Whitney DeMille
Molly Fleming
Sheila Fletcher
Isabel Garcia
Cait Gunderson
Katherine Hansmann
Sally Hernandez
Carolyn Hotchkiss
Carol Andrea Huang
Janica Jesson
Dawn Kelley
Michelle Khider
Nancy Klenow
Peggy Krebs
Tiffany La
Pamela Leon
Becca Lind
Mari Mani
Eureka McCrae
Lynn Melillo
Donna Mendes
Hana Meyers
Susanna Mkrtychyan
Jennifer Pelayo
Belinda Permenter
Amber Radcliffe
April Rice
Maria Romero
Ashley Shick
Kelsey Slough
Rosita Szatkowska
Kathy Talamante
Ashley Torrijos
Leticia Trinidad Tirado
Elva Vivas
Olivia Whelly