

CFI / FMI Racial Justice, Inclusion and Diversity Initiative

October 2020

A joint initiative from The Center for Food Integrity and The Food Industry Association (FMI) to promote transparent dialogue and measurable progress regarding racial justice, inclusion and diversity in the U.S. food system.

Our Facilitator



A'Yanna Wester, PhD, is principal consultant and CEO of Winning Within & Associates, LLC. She has over 20 years of experience in workplace culture consulting that includes: organizational development, workplace climate assessment, change management, employee engagement, diversity and inclusion and leadership coaching.

She is a sought-after keynote speaker, facilitator and professional certified coach known for her ability to authentically connect with clients and empower them to action that breeds results.

Advisory Board



Dana Bolden serves as the Chief Communications Officer for Corteva Agriscience™ where he leads the employee, executive and functional communications, external communications and media relations, regional communications, corporate brand and advertising, platform communications and digital and social communications. Dana joined Corteva from The Coca-Cola Company where he held various leadership roles for most his career. He brings extensive experience in designing and implementing training programs for all levels of leadership.



Candace Cronney, PhD, is director of Purdue University's Center for Animal Welfare Science and professor of animal behavior and well-being in the departments of Comparative Pathobiology and Animal Sciences. She has a PhD in animal sciences from The Pennsylvania State University. Following postdoctoral training at the University of Maryland, College Park, she went on to serve as Assistant Director of Conservation Education at the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and has held faculty appointments at Oregon State University and The Ohio State University before joining Purdue University. She currently serves as scientific advisor on animal welfare to numerous groups, including the American Humane Association, Tyson Foods, Fairlife, Bob Evans Farms, Kent Pet Group, and Wayne Farms.



Brian George, President and CEO of Alex Lee, a fourth-generation family owned food distributor and retailer that employs nearly 14,000 and owns both Winston-Salem-based Lowes Foods, the company's 74-store retail chain, and MDI, its Hickory wholesale food distributor that supplies more than 600 grocery stores globally. Brian also serves on the FMI board of directors.



Jacqueline Howard is vice president of food supply chain sourcing, The Starbucks Coffee Company. Prior to joining Starbucks, she spent nearly two decades in supply chain management with McDonald's. With 30 years of corporate experience, Jacquie brings superb domestic and global leadership skills. She has led teams of professionals accountable for building a competitive, quality, food-safe supply chain.



Russell T. Lund, III (Tres) serves as chairman, president and chief executive officer of Lund Food Holdings Inc., which operates the Lunds & Byerlys grocery stores in the Minneapolis/St. Paul market. Tres serves on the Boards of the Food Marketing Institute(FMI), the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA), the AgriBeef Company (Boise, Idaho), the Minnesota Business Partnership and MPSC, Inc. (Hudson, Wisconsin).



Terrez Marriott Thompson serves as Vice President, Global Supplier Diversity and Inclusion for The Coca-Cola Company. She leads the organization's efforts to maximize procurement opportunities with diverse businesses as suppliers, contractors, and subcontractors of competitively- priced goods and services. As an associate of The Coca-Cola Company for more than 30 years, Thompson has held numerous roles of increasing responsibility ranging from Operations to Finance. She assumed her current leadership position in 2012.



Melissa Melshenker Ackerman, President of Produce Alliance (PA), leads a national produce company specializing in consulting and purchasing of produce from field to fork. As a leading service industry expert, PA prides itself on being an integral part of the entire process from when the crops are planted until reaching their customer's plates. Melissa also sits on the Board of Directors for United Fresh Produce Association. In 2018, Melissa's leadership was recognized as she was a winner of *Produce Business'* 40 under Forty Best and Brightest. In 2019, Melissa was nominated for consideration as one of Crain's Chicago Business Forty Under Forty.



Elizabeth Sanders, County Director and Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, Davidson County, Tennessee. Elizabeth is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin where she earned her master's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences. Elizabeth gained extensive leadership experience during her undergraduate career by serving in leadership positions in Collegiate 4-H Club, American Association of University Women, Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, and Student Government Association.