

The NFI Future Leaders Class of 2020



Ed Anthes-Washburn

Executive Director, New Bedford Port Authority



In 2010, Ed Washburn joined the Port of New Bedford, MA the nation's highest-grossing commercial fishing port. In 2015, he became the Executive Director. The Port of New Bedford is home to 350 homeported fishing vessels and over 150 fishing vessels that call on the port and is an international processing hub.

Ed received his BS from Cornell University and MS from UMass-Boston. He lives in New Bedford with his wife, Pamela and two children.

*"Critics build nothing."
- Robert Moses*



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Richard Barry

President, Pier Fish Company, Inc.



Richard has been with Pier fish since 2011.

Richard received his bachelor's degree in business from The Catholic University of America, where he was a member of the football team. Richard lives in South Boston, Mass. He enjoys golfing with his friends and fishing offshore any chance he gets.

"The quality of your life is the quality of your relationships."

– Tony Robbins



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Justin Basile

National Account Manager, Hofseth North America



Justin Basile has been with Hofseth North America since 2018. Prior to working with Hofseth, he was an Account Coordinator for US Foods.

Justin received his Associates degree from Truman College Chicago. He is an avid traveler who enjoys exploring new cities and landscapes all over the US and abroad.

"Before I do anything I ask myself, 'Would an idiot do that?' and if the answer is yes, I do not do that thing."

– Dwight Schrute



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Alex Brown

Sales Representative, Raw Seafoods, Inc.



Alex Brown has worked for Raw Seafoods for the past 3 years. Prior to working at Raw Seafoods he worked on fishing boats, seafood retail counters and wholesalers.

Alex received his bachelor degree from Coastal Carolina University. He and his wife Kelsey are expecting their first baby boy this Spring. Alex enjoys fishing, surfing, snowboarding and spending as much time in the outdoors as possible.

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!
Live the life you've imagined."*

-Henry David Thoreau



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Mel Carrasquillo

National Sales, ULTCO



Mel Carrasquillo has had the pleasure of serving as National Sales for ULTCO since 2017. Prior to joining ULTCO, Mel was Regional Brands Manager for Santa Monica Seafood. She also introduced the Skuna Bay Brand to the US Market as their Western Regional Manager and was Program Director for the Aquarium of the Pacific's Seafood for the Future Program.

Mel's favorite thing about the seafood industry is the endless pursuit of knowledge which has allowed her to travel to some of the most beautiful places on the planet. She is grateful that it has given her the opportunity to represent farmers, fishermen & companies demonstrating true leadership & innovation in growing the sustainable seafood space. She lives in San Clemente, California with her fiancé Brett. She enjoys hosting dinner parties, camping off the grid, traveling & dining out.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change "

- Charles Darwin



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Elizabeth Collins

Senior Marketing Manager, Rich Products Corporation



Elizabeth Collins is the Senior Marketing Manager for Rich Products, and she currently oversees the Consumer Brands Division's Private Branded business. Prior to joining the Rich's Marketing team in 2013, Elizabeth was employed by King & Prince Seafood in Brunswick, Georgia.

Elizabeth, her husband Calvin, and their daughter Quinn reside on St. Simons Island, GA. She earned her M.B.A. degree with a concentration in Marketing in 2015 from Brenau University and a B.B.A, Finance degree in 2009 from The University of Georgia, Terry School of Business.

*"You cannot always control what goes on outside.
But you can always control what goes on inside."
- Wayne Dyer*



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Chris Cumming

Senior Sales Manager, Pacifico Aquaculture



Chris is a true believer in sustainability within seafood aquaculture and understands the importance of educating customers and partners. With 15+ years of industry experience, Chris has worked in various sectors of the industry including food service, retail, wholesale and manufacturing.

Chris currently lives in Colorado with his wife and two dogs. They love the outdoors and enjoy activities like camping and golf.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you – Matt 7:12



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Liz Cuozzo

Seafood Market Reporter, Event Coordinator, Urner Barry



Liz Cuozzo has been with Urner Barry since 2017. Prior to joining Urner Barry, Liz worked in the finance and security industry in New York and Chicago.

Liz received her bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland. She enjoys spending time at the beach, playing paddle tennis and live music.

"Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations."
- Unknown



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Daniel Drazba

Sales, National Coverage, Eastern Fish Co LLC



Daniel Drazba has been with EFCo since 2015. Prior to joining EFCo, he was classically trained under a Master French Chef in Charleston, SC to later become an Executive Chef in Miami, FL.

Daniel Studied Biology at Loyola University in New Orleans before taking interest as a Chef. He and his dog, Chill, have driven across country twice. Daniel enjoys travelling and giving cooking classes to friends and family.

"Why are we faced with problems? So we can figure out the solutions."
– Tony Robinson



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Allison Flores

Food Scientist, R&D, Tampa Maid Food



Allison Flores has been with Tampa Maid Foods since 2017. Previously, she worked at Kraft Food Ingredients as an R&D scientist specializing in cheese powders.

Allison is a Gator graduate of the University of Florida. After UF, she interned at America's Test Kitchen before returning to the lab. She loves traveling to new places, trying new foods, and doing escape rooms with her husband.

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men."

– Willy Wonka (Roald Dahl)



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Shawn Ford

Director, Operations, Fortune Fish & Gourmet, MN



Shawn Ford has been with Fortune since 2016. Prior to joining Fortune, he was with Coastal Seafoods for 13 years.

Shawn pursued degrees in computer science and mathematics at the University of Minnesota. He and his wife have one daughter. Shawn enjoys spending time in the woods and hanging out with his dog.

“We are stuck with technology when what we really want is just stuff that works”

– Douglas Adams



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Joseph Galletti

Regional Sales, Global Sourcing Manager,
Southwind Foods/Great American Seafood Imports Co.



Joseph Galletti is the 4th generation of his family involved in the seafood industry. His goal is to help create innovation in the industry so that seafood will continue to thrive as a safe and reliable source of food.

Joseph received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon. He and his Wife, Erika, have a beautiful daughter. Joseph enjoys watching movies and spending time with his family.

"The most important thing in the world is family and love."

– John Wooden



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Shannon Gilreath

VP of Marketing, Rich Products Corporation



Shannon Gilreath has been with Rich Products for over 16 years. An energetic brand marketer with a passion for building brands and supporting the development of marketing leaders. Currently responsible for driving growth across Rich's Protein categories inclusive of the SeaPak Brand in Retail and Foodservice.

Shannon graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelors of Science in Business and received her MBA from Georgia Southern University. Shannon is married to Stephen and they love spending time as a family raising two beautiful, happy children, Kathleen (6) and James (3). For fun Shannon enjoys all aspects of the island life, residing in Saint Simons Island, Georgia.

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"
– Ralph Waldo Emerson



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Greg Hanson

Chief Financial Officer, Bornstein Seafoods Inc.



Greg Hanson has been with Bornstein Seafoods since 2017. Prior to joining Bornstein Seafoods, Greg was with the public accounting firm Ernst & Young.

Greg received his bachelors degree in accounting from Western Washington University and his Masters degree in accounting from the University of Washington. He and his wife has three children; Miles (5), Cam (3) and Cara (6 months). Greg spends his free time with his family and running, recently completing his second ultra-marathon at a snail's pace.

"Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, you're right"

- Henry Ford



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Jason Harrington

Senior QA Manager, Gorton's Seafood



Jason Harrington has been with Gorton's since 2001. His team is responsible for product quality, food safety, and regulatory programs.

Jason received his bachelor's degree from Saint Michael's College. He and his wife Melissa have three children. Jason enjoys spending time with his family, coaching his children's sports teams, and playing recreational hockey.

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take".

- Wayne Gretzky



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Mitch Harrison

Business Development Manager, Chicken of the Sea



Mitch Harrison has been with COS since 2019. Prior to joining COS, he was with Southern Glazer Wine and Spirits.

Mitch has 12 years of sales and management experience in the broadline and wholesale industry. He and his wife Kristen have two children. Mitch enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family.

*"Don't count the days, make the days count."
- Muhammad Ali*



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Colton Hayden

Regional Sales Manager, Retail Sales, Trident Seafoods Corp.



Colton has been with Trident Seafoods since June 2014, and it is his first job out of School. Prior to being a sales manager, Colton worked as a Boat Accounting Intern, Customer Service Representative, and Retail Sales Coordinator at Trident.

Colton Received two bachelor degrees from Washington State University in Psychology and Criminal Justice. He is getting married August 15th, 2020, and enjoys snowboarding, playing golf, hunting and spending time with family and friends.

*"Don't give up, don't ever give up."
- Jim Valvano*



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Jessica Holmes

Sales Manager, Stavis Seafoods, LLC



Jessica Holmes has been with Stavis Seafoods since 2006. Prior to joining Stavis, Jessica was the operations manager at The Lobster Pound in Manomet, Plymouth, Ma.

Jessica fell in love with the service industry while getting her Degree from AIFL. After graduation, her career journey took her from restaurants and service to operations and sales management. In her free time, you will find Jessica being creative, exercising or riding her motorcycle. Her and her husband Bill love hiking, live music and traveling.

"Everything is Figureoutable"
– Marie Forleo



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Meaghen Kraft

Account Manager, Orca Bay Foods



Meaghen Kraft has been with Orca Bay Foods, formerly Odyssey Foods, for 10 years. Prior to joining OBF, she managed a local coffee shop.

Meaghen received her bachelor's degree in Professional & Technical Communications from the University of Montana. She grew up in Montana and moved to Seattle after graduation in 2008. She enjoys travelling, good food and exploring the PNW with her dog, Ellie.

*"Whatever you are, try to be a good one."
– William Makepeace Thackeray*



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Don Larisey

Director, Continuous Improvement, Fortune Fish & Gourmet



Don Larisey has been with Fortune Fish since 2018. Prior to joining Fortune , he was with The Chefs Warehouse and MT Food Service in Chicago.

Don received his Bachelor's and Masters (MBA) degrees from Illinois State University. Don and his wife Ashley have two children, Ava and Paddy. Don enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering on charity and development groups in his community.

"Good is the enemy of Great."
- Jim Collins



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Bernard Leger

Executive Vice President, Open Blue Global Services



Bernard co-founded Open Blue Global Services in March, 2013, developing a Sales, Marketing & full supply chain focused on North America & international markets.

With a career in seafood spanning over 25 years, Bernard led in Europe and Asia the Marketing, Sales & supply chain at Ocean Choice International. Bernard was a key senior member that led to merging FPI commercial assets in Europe & Asia. He oversaw the business development of Ocean Choice, Japan, China and Europe.

Senior level leadership positions over 12 years with Clearwater Fine Foods, with strategic new product expansions, market share & increasing seafood sales in Europe



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Alyssa McFarland

Food Safety & Regulatory Manager, Slade Gorton & Co., Inc.



Alyssa has been with Slade Gorton since 2016. Since joining Slade Gorton she has worked in the fresh purchasing and QA departments.

Alyssa received her bachelor's degree in environmental analysis & policy from Boston University in 2017 and is studying for her MBA from Fitchburg State University. Alyssa enjoys skiing, hiking, reading and spending time with friends & family.

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Zach Owens

Category Manager, King & Prince Seafood



Zach has been with King & Prince Seafood since 2015. Prior to joining K&P, he worked as an account manager at Answer Carolina, Inc.

Zach received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. He and his wife reside in St. Simons, GA with their 2 dogs and cat. Zach enjoys playing golf, traveling, gardening, and South Carolina Gamecock sports.

"Follow your passion. Stay true to yourself. Never follow someone else's path. Unless, you're in the woods, and you're lost, and you see a path. By all means, you should follow that."

– Ellen DeGeneres



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Romina Pederzoli

Purchasing Analyst Seafood Specialist, Quirch Foods



Romina Pederzoli has been with Quirch Foods since 2017. She started as a Process Engineer and 2 years later she became a seafood buyer. Prior to Quirch Foods, she worked for Walmart.

Romina received her Industrial Engineer bachelor's degree from University of Miami. She is currently doing her MS in Clinical Nutrition. Romina enjoys being active, eating healthy, dancing, and spending time with her family.

*"Let the food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food."
- Hippocrates*



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Chris Sandagato

Southeast Regional Sales Manager, Verlasso Salmon



Chris has been with Verlasso Salmon for nearly a year and a half, focusing his time and efforts building awareness and growth around sustainable aquaculture. His young career in the seafood industry began with Fortune Fish & Gourmet nearly 9 years ago.

Chris received an Associates Degree from the Culinary Institute of America in 2011. He is married to his lovely wife Sara, currently residing in Charlotte, North Carolina. His passions outside of seafood involve golf, cooking and craft beer.

"It's not about perfection; it's about the joy of striving"

– Thomas Keller



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Clinton Scharen

Assistant Corporate Controller, Trident Seafoods



Clinton Scharen has been with Trident Seafoods since 2014. Prior to joining Trident, he worked in public accounting focusing on closely held manufacturing businesses.

Clinton received his bachelor's degree from Linfield College. He and his wife live in Seattle, Washington with their dog. Clinton enjoys being active and spending time with his family.

"Your limitation – it's only your imagination"



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Ron Viola

Sales Manager, Lineage Logistics



Ron is part of the rapidly expanding Lineage Logistics organization that acquired Preferred Freezer Services in June of 2019, en route to becoming the largest temperature controlled logistics company in the world. Ron has 8 years working in cold storage and more than 15 years working in the logistics industry.

Ron received his bachelor's degree from Siena College and went on to earn an MBA through the Jack Welch Management Institute at Strayer University. Ron and his wife Sene have two children. Favorite hobbies include baseball, yoga and coaching his children.

"A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work. He is the purpose of it. He is not an outsider in our business. He is part of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him. He is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so."

- Mahatma Gandhi



Future Leaders Class of 2020

Andrew Wilson

After Sales Manager, Baader North America



Andrew Wilson joined the Baader family shortly after high school. For the past 18+ years he has gained vast knowledge about seafood processing equipment and customer relations.

Andrew has lived in Washington state since 1995 after growing up in southern California. He has 2 children and loves spending time with them and his girlfriend, Margot. He loves geology, cooking, and backpacking.

*"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."
– Mark Twain*



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