



Independent Together

For Immediate Release

NJFC Explores “Emerging Technologies & Opportunities” at 2025 Trade Relations Conference

Event Highlights Include Fireside Chat with Joseph Fantozzi, COO & President of Allegiance Retail Services

Iselin, NJ (April 10, 2025) – The New Jersey Food Council (NJFC) hosted its highly anticipated annual Trade Relations Conference on April 8 at Caesars Atlantic City Hotel & Casino, bringing together a dynamic lineup of industry leaders to explore the theme “*Emerging Technologies & Emerging Opportunities.*”

A key highlight of the event was an engaging Fireside Chat featuring Joseph Fantozzi, Chief Operating Officer and President of Allegiance Retail Services. The conversation was moderated by Louis Scaduto Jr., President of Food Circus Supermarkets, and offered a compelling Q&A session covering Fantozzi’s personal and professional journey. From his early beginnings to his leadership philosophy, Fantozzi shared valuable insights into the evolving supermarket industry. He discussed the current landscape of grocery retail and projected his vision for the sector 25 years into the future. He emphasized the importance of fostering a winning culture through diversity, investing in people and technology, and actively seeking top talent to drive growth and innovation.

Fantozzi leads Allegiance Retail Services, a central New Jersey-based supermarket cooperative representing 140 stores under various banners including Foodtown and Green Way Markets. Joining Allegiance in 2016 as Vice President of Retail and Member Development, he then became Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 2022, before stepping into his current position in 2023. His distinguished career in the food industry began in finance and has evolved into a prominent leadership role focused on operational excellence and strategic growth.

In addition to the Fireside Chat, a panel of experts that included David McIntosh, Chief Connected Stores Officer at Instacart highlighted the benefits of the new Caper Cart technology and discussed seamless retail experiences online and in-store. Nawashi Williams, Vice President, Insight & Analytics at Crossmark, discussed data-driven insights and sales. And, Kenny Olson, Vice President of Growth and Product Strategy, In-Store Connect at Quad, discussed effective media within retail stores.

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“Advancing technology has impacted nearly every sector, and the food industry is no exception,” said NJFC President & CEO Linda Doherty. “Our goal for this year’s Trade Relations Conference was to provide a forward-looking perspective on how emerging technologies can better connect retailers, vendors, and shoppers. The insights and innovations shared by our expert panel were invaluable, and participants left inspired by real-world applications and success stories.”

About Allegiance Retail Services LLC

Allegiance Retail Services, LLC supports independent supermarkets (e.g., Foodtown, Freshtown, D’Agostino, Gristedes, Morton Williams, Pathmark, LaBella Marketplace, Brooklyn Harvest, Market Fresh, Big Deal Food Market, Green Way Markets, Marrazzo’s Market, and Shop n Bag) for retail success by providing them with marketing, advertising, technological and merchandising support, as well as a full line of private label products, including Foodtown, Green Way and Rancher’s Legend. For more information, please visit www.allegianceretailservices.com

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