



THE Griffin Report

of the Northeast

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CRAIG BANNON

Chex Finer Foods

Title: Marketing Manager

Years with company: Two and a half

Education, professional associations, volunteer group affiliations:

B.S. in business management, Endicott College

Who are your mentors and how have

they assisted you in your career development?

My father...he taught me the simple life principles that birth success: compassion, persistence, honesty.

What makes your job exciting?

The food industry is ever-changing. At Chex, our goal is to be an industry leader rather than reacting to a changing marketplace. Always planning something new and exciting.

Advice for upcoming professionals:

Be humble, work hard and don't be afraid to fail. You are your own brand. Build success.

Hobbies:

Coaching, fitness, attending sporting events, spending time with my wife Kristen and puppy Brady. 🐾



JEREMY ISENBERG

Chex Finer Foods

Title: President

Years with company: 13

Education, professional associations, volunteer group affiliations:

Board member, Young Presidents Organization (YPO) New England Chapter
Board member, Rhode Island Food Dealers Association (RIFDA)

Board member, The Wheeler School, Providence, R.I.

Mentors and how have they assisted you in your career development?

My Father. He has taught me the core values passed down from his parents, of honesty, integ-

ity, and building partnerships. I think of all of the sacrifices they made to start our business every day. My Dad gave me the opportunity to "run with it," make mistakes, and learn from them.

What are you most proud of in your career achievements to date?

Winning inaugural Whole Foods Market North Atlantic Supplier Partner of the Year. It was a validation of our partnership-based business model.

What is the most challenging part of your job and how are you dealing with it?

Being overcommitted – it is a love/hate relationship. I love getting involved, but I have a hard time remembering my boundaries.

What makes your job exciting?

I love what I do. To quote Robert Mondavi:

"When your passion is your work, it is no longer work anymore." What I love most is building relationships and brands with our customers and vendors.

Advice for upcoming professionals:

Stay humble and grounded. Try things that seem outside of your comfort zone – that is where life begins.

Hobbies:

The Pursuit of great food – from clam shacks to fine dining. Spending time with my wife, three kids (Sophie, Caleb, and Lily) and our puppy. Supporting and volunteering with local charities in our community. 🐾



MICHAEL ISENBERG

Chex Finer Foods

Title: Vice President

Years with company: 10 and a half

Education, professional associations, volunteer group affiliations:

University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan Business School

Board member, Southside Community Land Trust

Board member, Specialty Food Association Distributor Council

Who are your mentors and how have they assisted you in your career development?

My mentors have been my brother, my dad and Paul Karofsky, a family business advisor. Working in family businesses is rewarding and complex.

My mentors have challenged me and helped me succeed as the business grows. Through working with them I have learned more about our industry, business opportunities and family differences/values.

What are you most proud of in your career achievements to date?

The accomplishments I am most proud are expanding the breadth and depth of our company's service and capabilities, planning and managing our company's advisory board, taking our trade show and holiday programs to the next level, and creating our annual business review process.

What is the most challenging part of your job and how are you dealing with it?

The most challenging part of my job is 1) balancing the new developments and overall company priorities and 2) the changing landscape of retail and wholesale distribution.

What makes your job exciting?

It is exciting and rewarding to see our customers succeed, the Chex family grow, product mix expand and trends come to fruition.

Advice for upcoming professionals:

Stay true to who you are and continue to develop the strengths of your style. Believe in and care about the people you work with. Be disciplined about organizing yourself.

Hobbies:

Travel, gardening, biking and being with my family. 🐾