



Progressive Grocer Awards Six Food Lion Leaders 2017 “Top Women in Grocery” Winners

November 10, 2017 at 2:21 PM EST

Public Company Information:
OTCQX: ADRNY

CHICAGO--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--*Progressive Grocer* magazine presented six Food Lion leaders with its prestigious 2017 Top Women in Grocery Award during a formal ceremony Thursday, Nov. 9 at a special cocktail dinner celebration at the Westin O'Hare in Chicago, Ill.

Progressive Grocer's Top Women in Grocery recognizes grocery retail leaders who demonstrate excellence in leadership daily throughout the industry, their stores and the communities where they proudly live and work. The awards, which are one of the most prestigious in the grocery industry, honor leaders in various categories. The Food Lion “Rising Star” category winners include:

- **Christy Phillips-Brown, Director of External Communications and Community Relations**

Christy Phillips-Brown oversees public relations, media relations, executive communications, crisis communications and community relations. During her tenure, she has transformed public relations at the company to drive more proactive public relations efforts, such as leveraging brand journalism tools and effective storytelling, which have positively positioned Food Lion in the grocery industry. Additionally, she led the development of Food Lion Feeds, the company's award-winning hunger-relief platform. The initiative works solve the hunger problem so no one has to make tough choices when it comes to feeding their families.

- **Heather Siak, Manager, Business Process Change for Food Lion**

Heather, who has been with Food Lion for 15 years, is the first point of contact for all business areas to initiate change in our more than 1,000 retail stores. Heather partners across all departments within the company to ensure retail processes are easy and have the operational support they need.

- **Tiffany Whitlock, Front End Implementation and Training Lead/Project Manager for Food Lion**

Tiffany Whitlock, who has been with Food Lion for more than 19 years, is the first point of contact for Food Lion's front end strategy implementation work. She is responsible for ensuring store leadership teams are well trained and develops a high-performing, diverse team of specialists that move between multiple markets as Food Lion makes significant investments across its operating area.

The “Store Manager” category winners include:

- **Leslie Johnson, Food Lion Store Manager, Durham, N.C.**

Leslie Johnson is the store manager of the Food Lion location on 5279 Roxboro Road in Durham, N.C. Johnson oversees 40 associates. She has nearly seven years of experience with Food Lion. She had an outstanding year in regards to financial performance, a direct reflection of her impact on the team she leads at her store. Food Lion recognized Johnson earlier this year for her outstanding store performance, awarding her with a regional Store Manager of the Year award.

- **Nerissa Johnson, Food Lion Store Manager, Columbia, N.C.**

Nerissa Johnson is the store manager of the Food Lion location on 625 US Highway 64 E. in Columbia, N.C. Johnson oversees more than 40 associates. She has nearly 27 years of experience with Food Lion and has done many extraordinary things over the past year leading her associates and making sure her customers are a first priority.

- **Wendy Thompson, Food Lion Store Manager, Lumberton, N.C.**

Wendy Thompson is the store manager of the Food Lion location on 2710 Roberts Ave. in Lumberton, N.C. She oversees 40 associates. She has 22 years of experience working with Food Lion. Thompson is a true leader, which has been evident as she has led her store and associates to increased sales, responded quickly to community challenges such as Hurricane Matthew, and contributed heavily to enhancing the overall well-being of her customers and associates. Food Lion recognized Thompson earlier this year for her outstanding store performance awarding her with its overall Store Manager of the Year award.

About Food Lion

Food Lion, based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, has more than 1,000 stores in 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states and employs more than 63,000 associates. By leveraging its longstanding heritage of low prices and convenient locations, Food Lion is working to own the easiest full shop

grocery experience in the Southeast, anchored by a strong commitment to affordability, freshness and the communities it serves. Through Food Lion Feeds, the company has committed to provide 500 million meals to individuals and families in need by the end of 2020. Food Lion is a company of Delhaize America, a U.S. division of Zaandam-based Royal Ahold Delhaize Group. For more information, visit www.foodlion.com.



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