

Errol Schweizer

Over 25 years of Grocery Industry Leadership

Austin, TX and Collegeville, PA

[Errol Schweizer LLC.com](http://ErrolSchweizerLLC.com)



I was raised in The Bronx, New York, and have over 25 years of retail, food service and supply chain experience. I am among the most influential grocery merchants of my generation, having developed hundreds of companies and dozens of new categories throughout my various roles, from mainstreaming organic and plant-based foods to establishing Non-GMO, gluten free, natural Kosher, Halal and hemp foods as top retail trends.

I led Grocery merchandising at Whole Foods from 2009 until 2016, doubling sales to over \$5 Billion annually on top of a 350 basis point margin gain. Bevet/NOSH has recognized me as one of their top 50 food industry notables and Supermarket News has selected me as one of their Top 25 Retail Game Changers. I also received the Hemp Industry Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

I have experience in all areas of merchandising, category management and product development, including supply chain and wholesale channels, food safety, packaging, ingredient sourcing, pricing strategy, promotions and omnichannel/E-commerce. I am currently active as a Board member, co-founder and advisor for over a dozen high growth companies while continuing to be a vocal advocate for a more fair and just food system.

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Career Highlights

- Retail trend leader on merchandising, product innovation and pricing strategy
- Leadership experience includes Whole Foods, Patagonia and Annie's
- Board Member, Advisor and Co-Founder of over 25 enterprises
- Expertise in category management, retail operations, supply chain, product development, and corporate governance

Recent Experience

March 2016- Present

Owner, Errol Schweizer LLC

- Co-Founder, Advisor and Boards of Directors for over two dozen enterprises
- Project NOSH/Bevnet 2023 Food Industry Top 50

Boards of Directors:

2018- 2023

Farmer Direct Organic Foods

- Organic, fully traceable, bean, grain and hempseed brand

2017- Present

Nutztzo, Inc.

- Women-owned, specialty nut butters

2020- 2021

MedMen Enterprises, Inc.

- Publicly traded cannabis retailer turnaround and fundraising

2016- Present

Non GMO Project

- Consumer facing certification and testing regimen for GMO ingredients

2022- 2023

Smallhold

- Organic specialty mushroom producer

2018- 2023

Hawthorne Foods

- Organic, regionally sourced fermented foods

2015- 2023

Austin Travis County Food Policy Board

- Regional food system planning

2016- 2019

Fairway Market Holdings

- New York City specialty retailer turnaround and Chapter 11 process

2017- 2019

Byrne Dairy

- Family owned dairy processor and convenience store chain

2014- 2017

Farmshare Austin

- Organic food access and farmer training-focused non-profit

Co-Founder:

2016- 2019

Good Catch Foods

- Plant-based seafood analogues with over 15,000 store placements

- Led procurement, product innovation and merchandising in Texas and Colorado

2002-2004 Grocery Buyer and Team Leader, Whole Foods, Florida

Awards and Recognition:

- 2023 Bevnet/NOSH Food Industry Top 50 Notables
- 2019 Hemp Industry Association, Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2016 Supermarket News, Gamechanger and Retailer of The Year
- 2014 Whole Foods Market, Global All Star, Best Global Program
- 2011 Whole Foods Market, Global All Star
- 2008 Whole Foods Market, Global All Star
- 2007 Whole Foods Market, Regional All Star

Selected Public Speaking Engagements:

- 2023 National Cooperative Grocers Keynote
- 2023 Consumer Cooperative Management Keynote
- 2023 Supply Side West
- 2012, 2022 Yale University
- 2013 Hemp Industry Association
- 2014 Portland State University
- 2015 USDA Coexistence Conference
- 2016-2017 National Cooperative Grocers Panels
- 2016-2018 BevNet/NOSH
- 2016-2023 Natural Products Expos Panels
- 2017 Texas Organic Growers
- 2019-2022 Rice University
- 2019-2021 University of Texas-Austin, LBJ School
- 2019-2021 Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
- 2020 Organic and Non GMO Forum
- 2021 Stanford University

Additional Employment Experience

- 1995-1998 Binghamton University Natural Foods Co-op
- 1994-1997 Sodexo/Marriott Food Service Clerk and Cook

Education

- 1998 Binghamton University, B.S. Biology, Dean's List
- 1996 SUNY Health Science Center, Biology Fellowship
- 1995 NYS EMT-D
- 1993 Bronx High School of Science, Regents Diploma

Selected Writings, 2019-2024:

The Checkout Grocery Update: Newsletter

[Why Your Groceries Are So Expensive](#) Forbes

[Why Now Is The Time To Reinvent Processed Foods](#) Forbes

[Why Eggs Cost What They Do](#) FoodPrint

[Why A Kroger Albertsons Merger Is A Bad Idea](#) Forbes

[Five Ways to Reboot Food Retail](#) Food+Tech Connect

[Where Do Grocery Prices Come From?](#) Forbes

[Why Food Price Inflation Is Not Inevitable](#) Forbes

[The Supply Chain Crisis](#) Forbes

[Re-thinking Food Processing](#) Forbes

[Understanding Cultured Meat](#) Forbes

[Food Insecurity In the Grocery Industry](#) Forbes

[Why Your Groceries Got So Damn Expensive](#) Forbes

[Why Store Brands Are Having Their Moment](#) Forbes

[How Windfall Profits Caused Inflation](#) Forbes

[What Consumers Should Ask About Precision Fermentation](#) Forbes

[Why Grocery Retailers May Eliminate Cashiers](#) Forbes

[Why We Need A Public Food Sector](#) The Checkout

Selected Press Appearances, 2009-2024:

[Interview With Thin Ink](#)

[Interview With Real Organic Project](#)

[Interview With Green Queen](#)

[NOSH Top 50 2023](#)

[Why The Kroger Albertsons Merger is Bad News](#) The U.S. Sun

[Can microbes feed the world?](#) BBC

[Why Do American Grocery Stores Still Have an Ethnic Aisle?](#) The New York Times

[Disruptors: Errol Schweizer](#) Supermarket News

[On The Amazon Whole Foods Merger](#) Organic Insider

[GMO Divide Continues Despite USDA “Workshop on Coexistence”](#) Manufacturing.net

[The non-GMO industry is growing fast. Where does it go from here?](#) FoodDive

[Major US Grocer to Require Labelling of GMO Foods](#)

[A Muslim Entrepreneur Follows a Kosher Model to Mainstream Success](#) NY Times

[How To Get Your Product Into Whole Foods](#) Immigrant Business

[Kosher options expand at Whole Foods](#) Courier Post

[This is What Your Salad Bar Would Look Like Without Bees \(And Other Pollinators\)](#) HuffPost

[Are We Heading for an Almond Shortage?](#) Self

[Whole Foods and Xerces Society Work to Help Pollinators at Risk](#) Modern Farmer

[Kombucha cha-ching: A probiotic tea fizzes up strong growth](#) CNBC

[Organic Food Companies Collaborate to Increase Grain Supply](#) Civil Eats

[What Is Biodynamic and Why Do The Products Taste So Good](#) Living Maxwell

[Whole Foods Steps Up Kosher Game to Thwart Inroads by Costco](#) Kosher Today

References available upon request