About GMA’s Science and Education Foundation

The GMA Science and Education Foundation (SEF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that engages in high impact research, educational and training programs of significance to the food industry. Established in 2007 by the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the SEF conducts applied processing and packaging research projects both independently and in collaboration with scientists from industry, academia, and government institutions. In addition, the SEF supports food safety education curriculum for schools and a comprehensive set of training and capacity building for the industry in the United States and overseas. Through the foundation, the global food industry is able to leverage state-of-the-art technologies and processes with the technical expertise provided by GMA scientists to achieve timely results and solutions.

Support the Science and Education Foundation

GMA SEF’s ability to provide industry and social advancement through research, education and training is due to its strong relationship with the CPG industry and its stakeholders. SEF projects are funded primarily by industry, government contracts, grants, and contributions from outside groups such as foundations or other institutions.

Over 80% of surveyed GMA members, manufacturers, government regulators, public interest groups and educators and 93% of interviewees, responded affirmatively that there is a need for programs like SEF. Its ability to advance the food, beverage, and the CPG industry to create positive social impact is unique and important to the industry.

*Independent study by Orr Associates, Inc.
The Science and Education Foundation’s Mission is to:

:: Conduct research to advance food safety and technology

Recent research projects include:
- Food allergen thresholds modeling
- Intentional adulteration vulnerability assessment tool
- Salmonella Surrogate
- Salmonella Inactivation

:: Promote food safety and food science in education

The Hands-On Classroom initiative is to educate middle school children on key food safety concepts while meeting common core standard of state mandated curriculum.

The Hands-On one week curriculum covers math, science, social studies and language arts subject areas. Its lesson plans include: student labs, interactive discussions and engaging activities at each grade level. Participation in Hands-On is free to schools thanks to a grant by the USDA and a donation from the GMA SEF. For more information on this program, visit www.handsonclassrooms.org.

:: Facilitate training modules required to launch careers in food processing

The Science and Education Foundation, in close collaboration with GMA subject matter experts and scientists, offers a comprehensive suite of training programs which serve as a catalyst for individuals to build their knowledge and skills towards becoming recognized food safety professionals.

Better Process Control Schools: Annually, the GMA SEF offers BPCS food safety training for quality assurance supervisors, academia personnel, government auditors and inspectors. Training is provided in conjunction with FDA-approved universities, both online and in person, throughout the United States as well as internationally. This training supports processors of low-acid and acidified low-acid canned foods which must operate with a certified supervisor on hand at all times during processing.

Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Points (HACCP) Training: The GMA SEF provides convenient HACCP training for busy professionals by offering numerous online courses as well as domestic and international onsite training for organizations. The foundation also offers HACCP Train the Trainer workshops in order to prepare and qualify candidates for accreditations as International HACCP Alliance Lead Instructors.

Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance Training: Through GMA’s leadership on the Food Safety Modernization Act and its relationship with the foremost experts on this subject matter, in 2015 the GMA SEF will serve as a key provider of Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance training programs.

Certified Competency in Food Safety (CCFS): Available in 2015, the CCFS course prepares candidates to sit for the National Environmental Health Association’s CCFS credential exam. The content will provide an in depth look at all of the factors that influence Food Safety, covering, GMPs, sanitation, process controls, and more.

For more information or to get involved with the Science and Education Foundation go to: www.gmaonline.org/resources/science-education-foundation