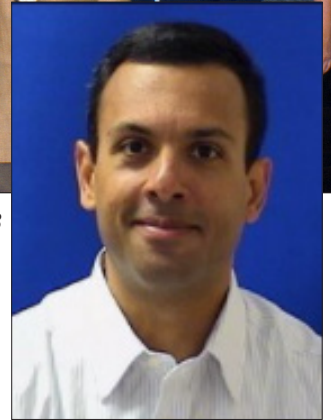


# Alumni Spotlight: Miguel Marcano 2008



*Miguel Marcano and the MAB Class of 2008*



**Miguel Marcano earned his Master of Agribusiness in 2008. He has been at Kroger for more than 14 years and is currently in Enterprise Sourcing - Director of Commodities, Ingredients and Private Brands.**

**MAB:** Tell me a little about your background, education and work experience.

**Marcano:** I have spent the last 27 years in the food industry in Latin America (LATAM) and the U.S., directly involved in sourcing, finance and merchandising. Prior to the MAB program at K-State, I graduated from Universidad Metropolitana in Caracas, Venezuela, with a Bachelor's degree in Management and an MBA in Finance.

**MAB:** What differences/similarities are there between LATAM and the U.S.?

**Marcano:** Each one is unique and I personally like the diversity of cultures, challenges and opportunities both markets bring on a personal and professional life. Perhaps one important difference is the fast pace of U.S. business driven by consumer expectations and competition.

**MAB:** Describe your current job and responsibilities.

**Marcano:** As a Sourcing Director for Kroger, my team is involved in Kroger's private label for departments like Grocery, Natural Foods, HBC, GM and Apparel.

**MAB:** What are the current issues Kroger is facing in the industry?

**Marcano:** The company is part of a fast-paced industry, while consumers demand quick changes and seamless interaction. The need to be relevant, competitive and top of mind, is the goal of many in this industry.

**MAB:** What impact had COVID had on the grocery industry? Problems/opportunities?

**Marcano:** The pandemic shifted consumer behaviors with more people cooking at home and some categories seeing

pantry loading due to changes with supply across the network. The grocery retail industry continues to focus on in-stock, making sure we continue to provide a solution to our customers' expectations.

**MAB:** Why did you decide to pursue the MAB program?

**Marcano:** The MAB gave me the flexibility while living overseas, but also included campus interaction with faculty and other students.

**MAB:** Tell us about your thesis, "Developing a Procurement Support Tool for a Laundry Soap Bar Manufacturing Facility in Venezuela."

**Marcano:** My topic was focused on solving a manufacturing plant inventory challenge, by properly aligning sourcing with currency, commodities, supply chain and best country sourcing.

**MAB:** How have you benefited from the MAB program?

**Marcano:** It helped me expand my global network through my classmates. I can always contact them and exchange points of view.

**MAB:** What advice do you have for individuals regarding the thesis process?

**Marcano:** First, choose a potential topic in your immediate field/work you are passionate about; and second, start working now; the support and input of your committee is crucial in properly aligning your thoughts and ideas.

**MAB:** Why would you recommend the program to others?

**Marcano:** It is a great way to stay connected to the food and agribusiness industry, and develop a diverse network of faculty members and students from multiple areas, backgrounds and regions.