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Whole Foods CEO on the future of food retail

Jason Buechel, Whole Foods Market CEO, recently discussed the evolving food retail landscape and the future of work.

Buechel participated in two panels at the Milken Institute Global Conference, a premier gathering of global leaders from business, finance, government and philanthropy. This year's conference focused on the critical issues facing the world today, including climate change, economic growth and technological innovation.

During the Future of Food Retail panel Buechel highlighted Whole Foods Market's goal to have 30 stores a year in the pipeline, including new formats like Daily Shop, along with other topics such as sustainable food systems and expanding quality standards.

“We feel responsibility as a company to take a look at how we can find ways to protect our environment and support our food systems for future generations,” said Buechel. “Whole Foods started with climate-friendly agriculture; organics have been a part of the company from the beginning. We are pushing other levers like regenerative and continue to lead the number of items that we are carrying in this space and bringing the first exclusive brand of products in this area as well.”

Additionally, Buechel joined industry leaders for a conversation titled “Visions for the Future: Leaders Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce.” The panel explored critical issues facing today's workforce, including digital transformation, talent-development strategies, and adapting to the changing nature of work.

“For us our team members are the life blood, they are the secret sauce of Whole Foods Market,” said Buechel. “If we put the right focus on making sure we can develop our team members to ensure they have the skills and experiences to best serve our customers we help can create win-win outcomes. This is providing our team members in developing skills they can have for life.”