

# ***"The Low-Down on Local Foods"***

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## ***Speaker Biographies***

### **Mary Lee Chin**

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**Mary Lee Chin MS., RD**, is a registered dietitian specializing in health communications. She is regularly consulted by local and national media on nutrition trends and significant health and food issues. Her interviews include the New York Times, USA Today, Associated Press, CNN, and television and radio affiliates nationwide. Her company, Nutrition Edge Communications consults on public relations health initiatives, and she is a corporate food consultant, working to discuss news about controversial health and nutrition issues.

Experienced in nutrition, diet and health communications, Mary Lee speaks to businesses, professional groups, and opinion leader organizations; and serves as an expert witness on food and health related issues in federal and legislative hearings. Based on this far-reaching experience, she also provides platform, communications and on-camera media training for health professionals.

She is on the Advisory Board at the Center for Human Nutrition at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC); the American Council on Nutrition and Fitness; and the Community Health & Nutrition Program at University of Northern Colorado. Mary Lee formerly held a six-year term as a national spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association.

## Robert P. King

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**Dr. Robert King** is a professor in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. He joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota in 1983 and held the E. Fred Koller Chair in Agricultural Management Information Systems from 1983 to 2004. He served as head of the Department of Applied Economics from July 2004 through June 2008. He currently directs The Food Industry Center at the University of Minnesota and is President-Elect of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

His research focuses on local food systems, on organic agriculture, and on management issues facing food retailers, farmer cooperatives, and farmers. He teaches courses on managerial economics and cooperatives. He is also active internationally, having lectured in Brazil, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland. He currently serves on the International Advisory Board of the Wageningen School of Social Sciences in the Netherlands.

## Larry Lev

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**Dr. Larry Lev** joined Oregon State University in 1984 to work on a Farming Systems project in Tanzania. He became a member of the OSU Extension Service in 1988. After a sabbatical year with CIRAD and INRA in Montpellier, France in 1996-97, Larry refocused his outreach and applied research on local food systems and values-based agricultural supply chains. Since then he has been applying the lessons learned from the French approach to food markets to the current situation in the Pacific Northwest. He also works with colleagues in the OSU Extension Service's Small Farms Program to develop and strengthen farmers' markets.

In 2009 he was featured in the documentary "Ingredients," where he discussed the benefits and costs of buying food from local producers. Larry teaches undergraduate courses in agricultural policy and agricultural marketing. Larry completed his PhD from Michigan State University in 1984. Larry has authored numerous major papers and journal articles.

## **Lindsey E. Loving**

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Lindsey Loving joined the International Food Information Council (IFIC) – a nonprofit in Washington, DC whose mission is to effectively communicate science-based information on food safety and nutrition to health professionals, journalists, and consumers – in 2007. She is Senior Director of Food Ingredient & Technology Communications, which involves responsibilities such as developing educational materials on food ingredients and modern food production and technology; speaking at health association conferences; and leading consumer research initiatives.

Lindsey is a member of the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) and the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT). Lindsey has given recent presentations at the annual meetings of the AADE; Center for Food Integrity; School Nutrition Association (SNA); and IFT. She received a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in 2000 from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA.