



Thursday ~ 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

Sinclair Systems International announced today that it has pledged \$50,000 to the PMA Foundation for Industry Talent (PMA FIT) to be paid over the next five years. This funding will go towards programs designed to broaden awareness regarding the rewards and opportunities of careers in produce. Programs will include internships, co-ops, job shadowing, visiting industry professors, job and resume bank, career resource center, event scholarships and more. Future programs will be developed that showcase career paths for those in the industry and work to retain the industry's current people and prepare them for future leadership positions.

PMA FIT is supported by donations from the produce industry and other affiliated businesses that fortify or benefit from the fresh fruit and vegetable industry. The Foundation launched a 22-month campaign, Our Industry...Our People, in June 2007 to build a quasi-endowment of \$5-6 million. Its mission is to attract, develop and retain talent for the produce value chain by creating services that attract talent from a broad base of sources, building a smarter supply chain by developing competent, skilled people prepared to lead the industry, and providing assistance to produce companies to create strong corporate cultures and business practices that encourage employee engagement.

“At Sinclair, we believe in investing in the future. That future also includes having plentiful talent to help grow and lead the produce industry,” said Bill Hallier, President and CEO.

“We are honored to be associated with organizations of Sinclair's caliber,” said Cindy Seel, Executive Director of the PMA Foundation for Industry Talent. “Gifts such as this go far in making a difference to the future of the produce industry's talent pool.”

