Mark S. Wetterau graduated from Westminster College in 1980 with a degree in Business Administration. While at Westminster, Wetterau was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Wetterau began his twenty-five year career in the food service industry in 1980 with Wetterau Incorporated, a $6 billion, St. Louis-based food distribution and retailing corporation founded by his great-grandfather. Over a 13-year period, Wetterau learned the business inside and out, from the bottom up, before assuming the office of President.

In 1987, Wetterau was elected to the board of directors of Wetterau Inc. and was appointed President of Shop ‘n Save. In 1988, he was appointed Chairman and CEO of Shop ‘n Save Warehouse Foods, Inc which consisted of 13 corporate stores and 6 licensed stores. In a two-year period, Wetterau and his team grew the company from 19 stores with annual sales of $220 million to over 32 stores with $650 million in sales.

Wetterau was named President of Wetterau Inc.’s corporate retail and industries group in 1990. In this role, he was responsible for all of Wetterau’s corporate retail divisions, as well as the industry groups, which included its insurance company, construction company, non-foods companies, and its frozen dough bakery operations. The following year, he was promoted to the position of President and COO of Wetterau Inc.

In 1992, Wetterau and his brother, Conrad, assisted in the transition of the $1.1 billion merger between Wetterau Inc. and Super Valu Stores, Inc. When the merger was complete, they joined forces to found a new business enterprise, Wetterau Associates, LLC, which was dedicated to the acquisition and management of distribution, retail and manufacturing-based businesses. In 1993, the brothers purchased Quality Beverage, a Taunton, Massachusetts-based Anheuser-Busch distributor and within a two year period were recognized and awarded as the “Wholesaler of the Year”. Wetterau served as Chairman and CEO of Quality Beverage for five years.

In 1998, Wetterau Associates acquired Golden State Foods (GSF), one of the world’s largest diversified suppliers to the Quick Service industry and the largest full-line service provider to McDonald’s. With the acquisition, Wetterau was appointed Chairman and CEO of the company and in six years, he and his team grew the company from $1.4 billion in annual sales to the current $2.2 billion. Golden State Foods conducts business on four continents and in 60 countries worldwide.

In 2002 Wetterau and his management team established a national non-profit organization, the GSF Foundation for kids. This nonprofit organization partners with local charities nominated by GSF employees, benefiting a variety of worthy organizations and individuals throughout the country, including the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Since it’s founding, the Foundation has raised more than $2 million for those in need.

Wetterau has served on various community boards including Easter Seals, Boys and Girls Club, the Arthritis Foundation, the St. Louis Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the St. Louis Children’s Hospital, the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association, the Missouri College Fund, the Arthritis Foundation’s Eastern Missouri Chapter Mini-Grand Prix, Food Marketing Institute, the St. Louis V.P. Fair and as a Deacon at the Ladue Chapel. Wetterau has received numerous awards and recognitions for his dedicated service. Currently, Wetterau serves on the board of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County (California) and chairs the GSF Foundation for kids.

Westminster College has been a wonderful tradition in the Wetterau family. The family legacy at Westminster includes Wetterau’s father, Ted ’51 and brother, Conrad ’78, and cousins Linza ’74, John ’76 and Matt ’81 Killion. “Westminster was a wonderful part of our family in helping us continue our education,” reflects Wetterau, “which enabled us to move forward with successful careers.”

Wetterau resides in Laguna Niguel, California with his wife, Virginia. They have three children Stephen, Elizabeth and Olivia. In addition to spending time with his family, Wetterau enjoys boating, skiing and golfing with his friends and business associates.

“My Westminster experience provided the opportunity to interact in both academic and social environments. This training gave me the foundation to be able to effectively meet many of life’s business and social challenges, and to productively influence the companies and communities that I’ve been fortunate to be a part of.”