



# Symposium on Plant-Based Food and Nutrition: Innovations and Challenges

## Speaker Rafi Taherian

Retired Associate Vice President, Yale Hospitality

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Rafi Taherian is a seasoned hospitality leader with over 30 years of experience in business, corporate, and collegiate dining. He has transformed dining programs at Yale and Stanford, establishing both as models of excellence in sustainability and innovation. At Stanford, he led the first Certified Green Business dining initiative, while at Yale, he integrated food literacy and community engagement into the dining experience.

Taherian's achievements have earned him numerous accolades, including the Food Service Director of the Year, the Seton Elm-Ivy Award, and Silver and Gold Plate Awards. He has contributed to global industry events such as the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and held advisory roles in several industry associations. He holds a degree in urban planning from the University of Venice and is an alumnus of the Culinary Institute of America.



**Nov. 14th 7:30 AM-5:00 PM**  
**Nov. 15th 7:30 AM-12:00 PM**

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## Event Location

Cal Poly Pomona  
Kellogg West Conference Center & Hotel, Building 76  
3801 W Temple Ave. Pomona, CA 91768

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