



**Valerie K. Collins**  
**Senior Vice President, Corporate Controller**

Val Collins was named Senior Vice President and Corporate Controller for Darden Restaurants in December 2006. A member of Darden's Operating Team, Val is responsible for managing Darden's financial operations, including financial reporting, corporate accounting and analysis, operations information accounting, and purchasing analysis.



Darden is the world's largest full-service restaurant operating company with annual sales of \$7.5 billion. The company owns and operates 1,900 Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, The Capital Grille, Bahama Breeze and Seasons 52 restaurants in North America, employs approximately 180,000 people and serves more than 400 million meals annually. In 2011, Darden became the first full-service restaurant company ever to be named to the FORTUNE "100 Best Companies to Work For" list.

Val joined Darden in 1985 as Manager of Accounting Systems for Red Lobster. She subsequently held the positions of Manager of Payroll, Director of Operations Accounting, Director of Systems Development and Director of Financial Planning and Analysis for Olive Garden. In 1994, she was promoted to Vice President, Finance and Controller for Olive Garden and to Senior Vice President in 1996. She established effective new financial control systems that helped improve overall quality and performance, significantly reduced food waste and helped deliver 15 consecutive quarters of same-restaurant sales increases.

In 1998, Val was appointed to Senior Vice President, Finance and Controller for Red Lobster. She spearheaded the Restaurant Communications Task Force which used technology to streamline and improve communication to restaurant managers and frontline employees. In 2002, Val was named Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, a position she held until being appointed to her current role in 2006.

Prior to joining Darden, Val was a Senior Consultant with Arthur Andersen & Co. Val serves on the board of directors for the American Red Cross, Central Florida Chapter. She also serves as an executive sponsor of the Darden Family Network. Val received a bachelor's degree in Industrial Management from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Central Florida.