



June 26, 2017

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**MPI Recaps World Education Congress 2017**

Following are stats from MPI's 2017 World Education Congress (WEC), which concluded June 22nd in Las Vegas.

- More than 2,500 registered attendees including 142 virtual attendees – which is on par with WEC 2013 also held in Las Vegas.
- Approximately 55 percent of the registered attendees were planners.
- Nearly 70 percent in attendance were MPI members.
- In terms of the MPI Exchange Program, which consists of hosted buyer planners and suppliers and Exchange Room (formerly MarketSquare) participants, we had 248 planners and 163 suppliers.
- Delivered more than 70 total education sessions and most qualified for clock hours.
- The MPI Foundation raised more than \$340,000 with The Big Deal, Rendezvous and the Not-So-Silent Auction compared to \$300,000 raised from these events during WEC 2016.
- MPI also raised another \$218,000+ with the President's Dinner, compared to \$145,000+ raised last year; funds raised from the event will support the MPI Academy in its efforts to provide more education to our global community. During President's Dinner, MPI honored its volunteer leadership, including the international board, Immediate Past-Board Chair Fiona Pelham, the MPI Foundation's Global Board of Trustees, and chapter presidents. Also, the MPI Industry Leader Award was awarded to Ray Bloom, CMM, chairman and founder of the IMEX Group, for his contributions to the industry.
- Issued the following news announcements:
  - [MPI Announces New Advanced-Level Educational Offerings](#)
  - [MPI Announces 2017 RISE Awards Recipients](#)
- The MPI Chair Award was presented to Michael Dominguez, Senior Vice President and Chief Sales Officer of MGM Resorts International. Following is an excerpt from MPI Chair Brian Stevens's speech during the RISE Awards Luncheon:

"Part of my job as this year's chair is to select a recipient of the MPI Chair Award. We look for someone who has demonstrated exceptional service to MPI. When I considered who had not yet been recognized, this year's choice became obvious. This person has more than 30 years in the hospitality business, and has been active with MPI since 1992. He spent five years on the leadership team for the Southern California Chapter, first as Vice President of Finance, then Education, then Membership, and then finally as president of the chapter. Along the way, he served on the Marketplace Advisory Council, the Industry Business Roundtable, and the MPI Foundation. He then spent five years on our international board of directors. He participated in the Audit Finance Committee and the Board Development Committee, and finally became chair of the IBOD in 2013. He's currently one of the most sought-after speakers in our industry. In just the past five years, he has spoken at over 100 MPI chapter events. He's been recognized as Chapter Leader of the Year by Southern California, and he was the inaugural recipient of MPI's Industry Leadership Award in 2015. I am a bottom line guy, and he got MGM to invest over \$2 million in the last 4 years to support MPI. He has presented at several ConferenceDirect events, and always receives the highest ratings of any speaker. A consummate professional, dedicated volunteer, and devoted family man. Ladies and gentlemen, I present the Chairman's Award to our good friend, Michael Dominguez."

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