Join the key event for career development in the Meetings and Events Industry
The Future Leaders Forum has been developed to encourage YOU to start a successful career in the meetings and events industry. The joint initiative by IMEX, MPI and MCI has taken place globally since 2003 and we’ll be celebrating our 150th edition at IMEX America!

Gain a deeper understanding of the meetings industry and take the next step in your career: Connect and network – Be Inspired – Get Industry Insights – Showcase your creativity

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
Optional attendance of IMEX America and all related general education and events.
Please note: we plan to organize an informal meet-up for Forum participants in a café or bar, close to the IMEX America venue in the afternoon/evening. The attendance is optional and would give participants the chance to connect with each other before the Forum starts.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11
CASANOVA 605, Level 1, The Venetian® | The Palazzo® Congress Center
Optional: 08:30 – 09:30 MPI Keynote “Prosperity Ahead – or Not” – Speaker: Todd Buchholz

09:30 – 10:00 Registration with coffee and tea
10:00 – 11:00 Welcome to the IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum at IMEX America 2017
In this introduction, you will get to know the organizers behind the Forum and get prepared for the day! Learn how to make the most of the Forum, the Future Leaders community and how to explore your dream career. Also mingle and get to know some of the participants from other universities and colleges in the US, Canada and Mexico.

11:00 – 12:00 Purposeful planning – how to take meetings and your career to the next level?
Amanda Cecil, Associate Professor and Chair, Indiana University
This year’s theme for IMEX America is Purposeful Meetings – how to plan with deeper meaning, innovation, and insight in mind. This means shifting away from focusing on the perfect execution of logistics and moving toward creating memorable moments that engage, inspire, and create long lasting positive outcomes for meeting professionals today. Amanda will discuss recent research results and introduce current best practice examples.

The second part of this session will focus on your next steps after graduation. We will discuss different options and how to use this holistic approach for your future career.

12:00 – 12:10 Short break
12:10 – 12:30 #Hashtag Challenge
Jessie States, Manager of Professional Development, Meeting Professionals International

12:30 – 02:00 Lunch break
Creating a Culture of Innovation
Sam McNeill, General Manager – UK and Europe, SongDivision

In this engaging and interactive SongDivision keynote, Creative Director Sam McNeill explores how music and the song-writing process can help to create a culture of innovation, increasing happiness and productivity of project groups. You will learn about the common misconceptions of innovation and communication and take away some simple ways to create and collaborate when working in a team.

Short break

Blazing your Career Trail
Agnes Canonica, Global Account Director, Corporate Meetings and Events, MCI USA

Are you looking to build your career in the meetings industry and being recognized early on as an industry subject matter expert with an intact reputation? In this session, we will look into building your personal brand as well as building on authenticity and likeability. Be ready to create an actionable plan.

Energi
Aoife Delaney, Director of Marketing & Sales, DMC Network, LLC

We’ve all been there: it’s mid-afternoon, we’ve just had a big lunch and we’re thinking only a power nap or double-strength coffee will get us through the rest of the day. Well, there is a healthier and more energizing way – wake your body up at Aoife Delaney’s yoga energizer session. You don’t have to be a yoga expert to participate as Aoife, our resident expert, will talk you through an invigorating session to get the body moving, the blood flowing and the mind focussed.

Future Leaders Forum Connect!
Suzanne Mulligan, Strategic Communications & Industry Relations Manager, IMEX Group

Networking is an integral part of business, connecting with your peers and engaging with others makes you a better employee and is a great way to make you employable! In this session, we will find out what connects us and put the learnings into practice directly.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT RECEPTION
Location: Marco Polo 705, Level 1, The Venetian® | The Palazzo® Congress Center
Sponsored by The Venetian® | The Palazzo® Las Vegas

An enjoyable evening to be had by all including drinks and snacks, networking with other Future Leaders, and the opportunity to get to know and seek advice from various departments of The Venetian® | The Palazzo® Las Vegas.

During the first hour, you have the option to attend either the Sustainability Tour or the Art and Architecture Tour, both led by teams from The Venetian® | The Palazzo®:

Sustainability Tour:
Participants will explore an exciting and interactive sustainability journey of The Venetian® | The Palazzo®, making their way through areas focussed on sustainable design and construction; energy and water conservation and more.

Art and Architecture Tour:
Through a guided tour, participants will be introduced to some of the amazing Art and Architecture that The Venetian® | The Palazzo®, has to offer. Participants will learn the history, meanings and in some cases “secrets” of some of our most popular locations on property.
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**
**CASANOVA 605, Level 1, The Venetian® l The Palazzo® Congress Center**

08:45 – 09:45  **“Welcome Back” Breakfast with Lecturers**  
Sponsored by The Venetian® l The Palazzo® Las Vegas  
Poster Presentations by lecturers participating in the Faculty Engagement Program.

09:45 – 10:00  **Welcome Back to the IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum**

10:00 – 11:00  **Future Proofing Your Career: How to Stay Relevant in the Age of Automation**  
Dan Berger, CEO, Social tables

We are living in an age where robots and technology are replacing jobs left and right. Technology is here to make our lives easier and it is also rapidly changing the way the world operates. The rapid rate at which automation is occurring continues to accelerate. The big question is: How will humans keep up and add value?

Understanding the major shifts in our industry is step one in future proofing your career. This session will walk you through ways in which you can plan your careers and broaden your professional horizons with the goal of securing your role in any organization. We will cover areas for career development and untapped opportunities in our industry that can make you indispensable in the era of automation. Keep up with trends and be one step ahead of the competition.

Learner Outcomes:  
- Understand the way the technology has impacted our careers  
- Discover opportunities to advance our professional development  
- Examine strategies to manage these changes

11:00 – 02:30  **Show Floor Visit to IMEX America**

**M.T. Hickman**, Director of Travel, Exposition and Meeting Management Program, Richland College  
**George Fenich**, Professor at School of Hospitality Leadership, East Carolina University and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Convention and Event Tourism

Supported by: IAEE (International Association of Exhibitions and Events)

Discover the world of meetings and events: M.T. Hickman and George Fenich, in collaboration with IAEE, have arranged appointments with a selection of exhibitors at IMEX. In your groups, you will meet three exhibitors from different areas of the Meetings Industry and learn more about their sector, their goals for exhibiting at IMEX and how they started in the industry themselves.

After a short introduction to IMEX and the appointment system, you will gather with your group members and a seasoned industry veteran who will accompany you to your appointments on the show floor.

11:30 – 12:30  **Appointments on the Show Floor in groups**  
Pre-arranged appointments with a selection of exhibitors at IMEX. You will meet three exhibitors with your group for the following appointments:

1)  **Appointment 1 from 11:30 – 11:45**  
*Transition to next appointment*

2)  **Appointment 2 from 11:50 – 12:05**  
*Transition to next appointment*

3)  **Appointment 3 from 12:10 – 12:25**
**Show Floor visit (own time)**
You can plan the second hour on the show floor entirely to your own preferences and interests. During this hour, you can visit any exhibitors you are interested in, attend an educational session on the Inspiration Hub, catch up with the exhibitors you met earlier during the day or just familiarize yourself with the industry.

**Lunch break**
Sponsored by The Venetian® | The Palazzo® Las Vegas. Enjoy lunch with other Future Leaders and Faculty.
*Location: Marco Polo 705, Level 1, The Venetian® | The Palazzo® Congress Center*

**Roundtables – Meet the Experts**
Get first-hand industry insights, hear personal stories and ask all your burning questions.

After a short introduction to the involved experts, we will run four rotations of 20 minutes each – so you will get to meet four industry professionals of your choice and chat with them in smaller groups in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

1. Joost de Meyer, CEO and Chairman, First Incentive Travel
2. Jessie States, Manager of Professional Development, Meeting Professionals International
3. Nikki Bibbero, Meeting Architect, Kinsley
4. Amy Zelinsky, Meeting Producer, A to Z Meetings and Events
5. Robyn Davis, Trade Show Strategy Specialist, When I Need Help
6. Rolando Espinoza, Creative Director, Champagne Creative Group
7. Jeff Chase, Vice President of Sustainability, Freeman
8. Chris Wolsey, Director Group Services/Hotel Operations, The Venetian® | The Palazzo®
9. Erika Welling, Chief Experience Officer, Blendz Events
10. David Goncalves, Executive Director, STEM States Inc

*Further participating industry professionals to be announced soon*

**Round Up and Closure of the IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum**
After two exciting days at IMEX America, we will round up the Future Leaders Forum and share our best tips on how to reflect and follow up after the forum.

*The IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum at IMEX America is supported by:*