



## **Meeting Professionals International Announces 2013 RISE Award Recipients** *Exceptional Leaders Recognized for Influence in Building Community*

DALLAS, April 25, 2013 — Meeting Professionals International (MPI) is proud to announce the winners of the 2013 Recognizing Industry Success and Excellence (RISE) Awards. Four recipients have been selected this year for exceptional achievements in leadership and community initiatives. The award winners will be honored at the annual RISE Awards presentation and luncheon on July 22, 2013, during MPI's World Education Congress (WEC) in Las Vegas.

The RISE Awards include annual awards in three categories: individual achievement, community achievement and organizational achievement. Recipients are recognized for innovation, global transferability, impact and influence within the meeting and event industry.

"The RISE Awards are confirmation that by working together, sharing our time and talent, we can achieve success as individuals and grow as a community. These recipients have influenced others by following their passions and are an inspiration to us all," said Barbara J. Cummins, CMP, CMM, chair of the RISE Awards Judging Panel.

The **RISE Award for Young Professional Achievement** will be presented to Maria Meschi of Indianapolis for her contributions to the MPI Indiana Chapter. Meschi's leadership as director of marketing/public relations and director of Emerging Leaders has led to improved communications and networking for local members. She recently created the Emerging Leaders program to engage students, young professionals and transitioning professionals in career and leadership development.

The **RISE Award for Meeting Industry Leadership** will be presented to speaker and author, Scott Friedman, CSP. Based in Golden, Colo., Friedman has led several initiatives to bring the global speaking and meetings community closer together including founding the Global Speakers Summit and Meetings Industry Council of Colorado, and co-founding the International Association of Speakers Bureaus and National Speakers Association Council. His mission is to bring about positive change through collaboration with community connectors. Friedman is also the founder of "Together We Can Change The World," an organization which brings speakers together with communities in Southeast Asia to fundraise, promote education and build sustainability in orphanages.

The **RISE Award for Member of the Year** will be presented to Miguel Neves of the United Kingdom for his volunteer leadership and influential work on communications, marketing and social media initiatives for the MPI United Kingdom and Ireland Chapter. Currently serving as the vice president of finance, Neves also assists with the development of student-focused initiatives such as the chapter's Young Achievers Award and Vanessa Cotton Memorial Scholarship. Neves has volunteered with MPI since 2008. He has worked on technology and social media educational events and has been a speaker at numerous industry events throughout Europe and North America. In addition, he serves on MPI's International Knowledge Advisory Council.

The **RISE Award for Community Achievement in Knowledge and Ideas** will be presented to the eight MPI Canada chapters for the annual planning and hosting of National Meetings Industry Day (NMID). Celebrated for 16 years, NMID draws in more than 1,000 attendees across the participating cities of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax. The primary goal of this annual day is to raise awareness of the meeting industry within the country and communicate the value of the industry to the broader business community. The program's success has been recognized by Canada Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The RISE Award presentation will take place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center on July 22, 2013, during MPI's WEC event. WEC is the largest educational gathering of meeting and event professionals in the world. For more information, please visit [www.mpiweb.org/wec](http://www.mpiweb.org/wec).

### **About MPI**

Meeting Professionals International (MPI) is the largest and most vibrant global meeting and event industry association. The organization helps its members thrive by building human connections through knowledge and ideas, relationships, and marketplaces. MPI membership is comprised of more than 21,000 members belonging to 71 chapters and clubs worldwide. For additional information, visit [www.mpiweb.org](http://www.mpiweb.org).

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