



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Rosen Students Gain Hands-On Experience at WEC Orlando**

Graduating Seniors To Assist With Event Planning, Execution

June 30, 2011 – Dallas, TX – In an effort to provide real-life experience to college students, Meeting Professionals International ([MPI](#)) is collaborating with Rosen College of Hospitality Management at University of Central Florida to plan two events at World Education Congress ([WEC](#)) 2011. The group of graduating seniors is meeting a requirement for graduation in working with the MPI Events team on the CMM/CMP Breakfast.

“I believe that the students assisting with the MPI CMM/CMP breakfast will benefit greatly from their experience, said A’Rion Raymond, adjunct instructor and program advisor at Rosen College. “Our students will get a first-hand look into how MPI plans and executes their events, taking their classroom education and apply it to a real-life event with a very well-known organization. As a college, we will benefit from this event because it will open the door for future partnerships.”

Committed to being a strong corporate citizen, MPI embraced the opportunity to partner with Rosen College, its administrators and the graduating students to enhance their professional development.

“The students at Rosen have demonstrated incredible work ethic,” said Bridget Sypolt, MPI director of events. “It is a benefit to MPI to work so closely with up-and-coming professionals, and strengthens our network for future members who will shape the industry.”

Event planning for the breakfast has included logistics, budgeting, contracts, food and beverage, registration management and on-site coordination. Many of these skills are handled by those who have begun their careers, giving the group an advantage as they seek employment in the recovering meetings and events job market.

“Working under Professor Raymond’s guidance alongside the MPI team, I have experienced the level of dedication and commitment involved in producing an extraordinary event,” said Kimbrelly O’Neil, a Rosen student involved in planning WEC. “I am grateful for the hands-on opportunity in planning such an important event. This real life experience has given me the opportunity to learn industry trends from well-respected professionals, which I may have otherwise not had the opportunity to do before graduation.”

In addition to partnering with Rosen College to provide event planning experience, MPI is working through MPI Foundation to provide three four-year scholarships through Rosen Hotels to incoming freshman. The [annual scholarships](#) are another benefit for students in search of opportunities through MPI.



MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

**Media Contact:**  
Veleisa Patton  
vpatton@mpiweb.org  
+1.972.702.3098

On site at WEC, students and professionals just entering the industry will have an additional opportunity to learn at the free Core Skills workshop. The workshop is scheduled on Saturday, July 23 and teaches the building blocks like basics of budgeting, contract negotiation and other instruction in a group setting before WEC officially begins on Sunday. Not only will attendees learn core skills in a single day, allowing them to spend time building these skills during WEC, but they can network with others in their experience level. The Core Skills workshop is Saturday, July 23, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in S330E at the Orange County Convention Center.

[Registration](#) for WEC 2011 is open to all professionals online, and the latest information on [professional development](#), networking & events and [business](#) is all available at [mpiweb.org/wec](http://mpiweb.org/wec).

-ends-

**About MPI:** Meeting Professionals International (MPI), the meeting and event industry's largest and most vibrant global community, helps our members thrive by providing human connections to knowledge and ideas, relationships, and marketplaces. MPI membership is comprised of more than 23,000 members belonging to 71 chapters and clubs worldwide. For additional information, visit [mpiweb.org](http://mpiweb.org).