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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AME ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FOR 2016 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill., - May 17, 2016 - The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) is pleased to reveal the keynote speakers that will present at the AME 2016 International Conference, taking place Oct. 24-28 in Dallas, Texas. The conference offers attendees the prospect of gaining new insights on best-in-class industry practices, as well as the opportunity to learn directly from world-renowned lean leaders and thinkers.

Those interested in attending the AME 2016 International Conference can register online. Complete details about the conference and further registration information can be found on the [conference website](#). Follow news about the conference on Twitter using hashtag #AMEDallas.

Each keynote presentation offers a unique take on the conference theme, "Purpose-driven excellence." The AME 2016 International Conference keynote speakers include:

Mary Andringa is the chair of the board at Vermeer Corporation. She is one of 18 private sector members of President Obama's Export Council, where she represents manufacturing on important trade matters. Andringa is also a member of the B20, the private sector's channel into the G20.

Colonel Arthur Athens is the director of the U.S. Naval Academy's Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership and a member of the academy's senior leadership team. He also was a White House Fellow, executive director of nonprofit organization OCF and the Naval Academy's first distinguished professor of leadership.

Dale Crownover is the CEO of Texas Nameplate Company, Inc. (TNC). Crownover's visionary leadership for TNC has resulted in the company receiving numerous awards, including Texas Business of the Year and the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in Small Business. He also has been inducted into the AME Hall of Fame.

Tom Hance and Ron Harper are both leaders utilizing people-centric leadership. Hance is the president of Lincoln Industries with 20 years of leadership experience and expertise in a variety of industries. Harper is the president of Cogent Power Inc., and has 25 years of experience in manufacturing, mostly in senior leadership positions.

Jeffrey Liker is a professor of industrial and operations engineering at the University of Michigan and president of Liker Lean Advisors. His articles and books have won 12 Shingo Research Awards. In 2012, Liker was inducted into the AME Hall of Fame.

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Josh Linkner has been the founder and CEO of four tech companies. He is also the founding partner of Detroit Venture Partners, investing in and mentoring over 100 startups. Linkner has been twice named the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and is a President Barack Obama Champion of Change award recipient.

Karen Martin is a leading authority on lean management and business performance improvement and is the author of the Shingo Prize winning book, "The Outstanding Organization."

Kaplan Mobray is a dynamic business speaker, entrepreneur, professional musician and best-selling author of, "The 10Ks of Personal Branding." Mobray has received worldwide acclaim and numerous awards for his leadership and branding insights.

Emmitt Smith is the CEO of EJSmith Enterprises. Prior to this role, Smith enjoyed a distinguished professional football career in the NFL and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2010.

To interview an AME expert or to request a press pass for the AME 2016 International Conference, contact Jodi Talley at 224-232-5980 ext. 234 or email jtalley@ame.org.

About the Association for Manufacturing Excellence

The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) is the premier not-for-profit organization dedicated to the journey of continuous improvement and enterprise excellence. AME's membership is composed of a trusted network of volunteers who are committed to leveraging the practitioner-to-practitioner and company-to-company shared-learning experience. Through engaging workshops, plant tours, webinars, summits and industry-leading conferences, AME members are continually discovering and implementing new continuous improvement strategies and best practices. AME offers its members a multitude of valuable resources to help them stay abreast of current industry developments and improve the skills, competitiveness and overall success of their organizations. Join AME in leading the "Renaissance of Manufacturing in North America." For more information, visit www.ame.org or email info@ame.org

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