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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AME Announces Keynote Speakers for 2017 International Conference

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. – June 5, 2017 – The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) is pleased to reveal the keynote speakers who will present at the AME 2017 International Conference, taking place Oct. 9-13 in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference offers attendees the opportunity to gain 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 2017 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 #AMEBoston.

Each of the following keynote speakers will offer a unique take on the conference theme, “Get Engaged.”

Paul Akers is the founder and president of FastCap, an international product development company specializing in woodworking tools and hardware for the professional builder. Akers has thousands of followers on his weekly broadcast, “The American Innovator,” where he teaches about the power of innovation and lean thinking.

Daniel Gilbert is the Edgar Pierce Professor of Psychology at Harvard University. He has won numerous awards for his research and teaching, including the American Psychological Association’s Distinguished Scientific Award. His 2007 book, “Stumbling on Happiness,” spent six months on the New York Times bestseller list.

Wilbert (Wil) James is the president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. He leads Toyota’s largest automotive manufacturing plant in the world, which produces the Camry, America’s best-selling car; the Avalon; and the ES 350, the only U.S.-produced Lexus. Additionally, James champions quality initiatives for Toyota’s 14 North American manufacturing plants.

Max Major is a world-renowned mentalist. His performances, which combine magic, mentalism and hypnosis, are featured at corporate events across the country. In addition to his studies as a magician, Major relies heavily on his skills at reading body language, which he has honed over the course of 2,000 live shows.

David Marquet is a former submarine commander and author of “Turn the Ship Around! A True Story of Turning Followers into Leaders,” which Fortune magazine named the #1 must-read business book of the year, and USA Today listed it as one of the top 12 business books of all time.

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Margarette Purvis leads Food Bank for New York City, one of the country's most robust food banks, which has served 1 billion pounds of food directly to New Yorkers in need. She leads and oversees the strategic vision for all of Food Bank's operations, philanthropy and programming, including the organization's citywide food distribution system and member network of over 1,000 charities and schools.

John Shook is the chairman and CEO of the Lean Enterprise Institute and is recognized as a true sensei who shares his knowledge and insights within the lean community and with those who have not yet made the lean leap.

Raye Wentworth is the plant manager at New Balance. She is responsible for managing the Skowhegan manufacturing facility which employs approximately 300 associates and produces over 700 thousand pairs of shoes per year.

Benjamin Zander is the conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and a guest conductor around the world. With London's famed Philharmonia Orchestra, he is recording the complete cycle of Mahler symphonies, which have received extraordinary critical acclaim.

To interview an AME expert or to request a press pass for the AME 2017 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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