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Conference and Meeting Management Certificate Program

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Professional and Personal Development

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CMMC Instructor Biographies

Timothy Barrett, Certified Meeting Professional (CMP), is the catering sales manager for the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center where he created special events for a wide variety of clients. Previously, he worked as a sales manager for Atlanta Arrangements, one of the city's most successful destinations management companies. Tim is a frequent contributor for numerous industry publications, is active in several meeting planning associations, and is a 2005 graduate of this program.

Connie Bergeron, Certified Meeting Professional (CMP), is President of Site Selections Solutions Inc., an on-property hotel and global sales company for groups and meetings. She has 22 years of experience with Sheraton hotels and eight years with an Atlanta-based meeting planning company sourcing and negotiating contracts for client conferences worldwide. She is a Platinum member of Meeting Professionals International (MPI).

Joan Eisenstodt, is Chief Strategist of Eisenstodt Associates, LLC in Washington, D.C. She has over 35 years of experience in meeting and conference planning. In 2009, she received the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award Educator; has been named one of the Meeting News magazine's "25 Most Influential People" in the meeting industry, and in 2004 was inducted into the Convention Industry Council's Hall of Leaders. Joan has been a member of the CMMC program Advisory Board and has been an instructor for the program since 1999.

Kevin M. Gaffney, currently serves as Group Show Director for the Meditrade trade shows, events owned and managed by Nielsen Business Media. Prior to joining Nielsen Business media, Gaffney was an Account Executive for the Kellen Company, an Atlanta, GA-based firm specializing in association management. Kevin earned a bachelor's of science degree in Hospitality Administration for Georgia State University and has also earned the designation of Certified Exposition Manager (CEM) for the International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE). He serves on the Industry Advisory Board for the Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality at Georgia State University.

James M. Goldberg, is a principal in the Washington, DC law firm of Goldberg and Associates, PLLC where his practice focuses on representing trade associations, professional societies and independent meeting and event planners. A charter member of the Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys, he annually reviews or negotiates more than 150 contracts for hotel and convention center space, as well as for other services provided to the meetings and event industry. He is the author of "The Meeting Planner's Legal Handbook", which is required or recommended reading for courses related to meeting planning in a number of colleges and universities.



The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education

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CMMC Instructor Biographies - continued:

Paige Havens, Paige Havens is a marketing strategist with more than 20 years experience developing, managing and implementing comprehensive marketing, business development and community relations programs. She offers a diverse range of experience in both public and private sectors and across multiple industry lines. Paige launched her career in the hospitality and tourism industry and through the years has planned meetings, special events and community initiatives on local, regional, national and international levels. Paige currently works with a select group of clients on marketing and communications strategy as an independent consultant and actively serves on a multitude of boards and advisory councils.

Lee J. Howard, is President of Lee J. Howard Entertainment, an award-winning special events entertainment production and consulting company. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Jazz Studies, Composition, and Performance from Marlboro College, and began his career in entertainment as a composer, pianist, recording artist, and bandleader. In 1997, Lee J. established his company, which has produced talent for over 5,000 corporate and social special events across the U.S. and Canada. He was President of the Atlanta Chapter of ISES (International Special Events Society) during the Atlanta Olympics, and is currently in the Chair of the Roswell Cultural Arts Board as well as a member of IACEP (International Association of Corporate Entertainment Producers). From teaching and consulting to producing and providing leadership, Lee J's commitment in all his entertainment-related activities is to create experiences that open hearts and build relationships.

Adriel Jones, Certified Meeting Professional (CMP), is an Event Planner for Georgia State University where he coordinates training events for the State of Georgia government organizations. He has over 15 years of experience in event/conference planning and 22 years of experience in training and development in social services. Adriel holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. The Illinois Council on Training awarded him the Excellence in Training Award. He is a 2002 graduate of the CMMC program and earned his CMP in 2004.

Gregg S. Lauer, Certified Meeting Professional (CMP), is Director of Global Events at Manhattan Associates, a leading supply chain software company headquartered in Atlanta. Past planning positions include Dun & Bradstreet Software and Per-Se Technologies. Gregg also has an extensive hotel background with several years in Convention Services. He most recently was Director of Catering and Convention Services for over eight years at The Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta.

Kathy Brooks Rhodes, President of Health Professional Association Management, is a 20-plus year veteran of the hospitality industry. Since 1997, Kathy has devoted her time to an association management company. HPAM manages associations and currently produces over 150 meetings per year, including trade shows.

Sharon L. Seay, Certified Meeting Professional (CMP), is a consultant and event planner in metro Atlanta. She has over two decades of solid and progressive experience in all facets of hospitality and association management. Ms. Seay is the immediate past executive director for the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association. She has worked for the Days Inn Corporation of America, Omni Hotel at the CNN Center, and was an adjunct professor at Morris Brown College in the university's hospitality management program. Sharon is a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), membership chairperson for the Hospitality Industry Professionals (HIP) and is a past member and vice-president of the board of directors for the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners.

