Featured Speaker Presentations

Tuesday, February 4, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Making the Tough Call: Decisive Leadership, 0.1 CEU
Michael Roberto, Bryant University

Leaders in the kitchen and bath industry frequently face tough decisions such as the allocation of scarce resources, meeting short deadlines, and in the day-to-day management of employees and resources. How can you become more effective at making the tough call? In this session, Michael Roberto will lead you through three common challenges that frequently prevent leaders from making the right choice in tough situations. First, dodge the common mental traps and biases that cause many of us to make poor choices. Second, avoid groupthink: be wary of just conforming to the majority view or conventional wisdom in your company and your industry. Finally, build the commitment and buy-in among your team members so that you can execute your plans successfully. Michael Roberto is a preeminent authority on strategic decision-making, senior management teams and neutralizing hidden threats to your organization. Professor Roberto has studied how interpersonal dynamics can cause catastrophic organizational failures (such as the Columbia Space Shuttle accident and the 1996 Mount Everest tragedy) and how to structure decision-making processes for success. Michael is the Trustee Professor of Management at Bryant University.

His book, Know What You Don’t Know, helps business leaders find and prevent problems before they happen, offering practical techniques for recognizing hidden signs of trouble and for defusing potential threats. Watch this short video to learn more about this featured speaker session.

Wednesday, February 5, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
State of the Industry: Emerging World Markets in the Kitchen and Bath Industry, 0.1 CEU
Francisco “Paco” Martinez-Cosentino, The Cosentino Group

In this State of the Industry Address, Francisco “Paco” Martinez-Cosentino, President of the Cosentino Group, will provide a worldwide perspective on today’s kitchen and bath industry and changing global economies. He is a leading entrepreneur in the kitchen & bath and architectural industries. Through extensive research and development under Paco’s leadership, the Cosentino Group released Silestone to the market and made it one of the most sought-after surfacing products in the world. Paco continues to drive the Cosentino Group’s 2,000+ employees worldwide, while also developing new and revolutionary surfacing products designed to target various market segments. In this presentation, he will focus on how to best position a company, product or service, and discuss strategies for success in a highly competitive global marketplace.

Thursday, February 6, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
NKBA 30 Under 30 Recipients Overview – KBIS 2014, 0.1 CEU

Join this lively session as the NKBA’s exclusive 30 Under 30 present their research on critical issues facing the kitchen and bath industry. Come prepared with questions regarding any issues that you face in your business, and gain a new generational perspective from this presentation.

The purpose of the 30 Under 30 program is to engage and recognize young people who are the voice of the next generation of kitchen and bath professionals. The program also strives to help these individuals immerse themselves in new opportunities for growth and development in support of the industry.