VALVE INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP FORUM
CONNECT. LEAD. INSPIRE.

FEBRUARY 27-28, 2020
The Ritz-Carlton  I  New Orleans, Louisiana
Welcome to VMA’s 2020 Leadership Forum! The event is designed so that you gain valuable insights and executive-level analysis on trends, management strategies, manufacturing innovations, politics and economics affecting the valve industry. This year, we’ve also added some new activities to help you meet new faces in the industry and network with those you already know. There is also new technology to make your experience better - from a mobile app, polling the audience throughout the event, and an online evaluation survey. Finally, please also be open with your discussions, questions and feedback throughout the event!

View the Mobile App
Presentations, schedule, speaker bios and more!
On your phone or tablet, go to: http://my.yapp.us/VMALDR20 or scan the QR code.
Once installed, choose the green ‘Yapp’ app on your phone to view.

Program
All activities take place in the French Quarter Room, third level, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, February 27

9:00 – 9:15am
Welcome and Introductions

9:15 – 10:45am
Keynote Speaker – Jason Young
Lead Smart - High Performance Leadership
Jason Young teaches that great leaders develop, motivate and empower people to achieve extraordinary results by providing vision, example and support from a bottom up perspective. Truly smart leaders know that is more than a mere statement of fact, but rather a personal and professional challenge to be lived out every day. You’ll learn how to handle change and how effective disagreement management can enhance team productivity.

Jason Young currently owns a consulting practice that focuses on corporate training and development services specializing in culture, leadership, customer service and team building. Prior to that, he was a key driver in creating and developing Southwest Airline’s innovative customer service training programs that, which have become renowned in the business world today.

10:45 – 11:15am
Networking Break

11:15am – 12:15pm
Congressional and Legal Issues from Tariffs to Marijuana: Impacts on the Valve Industry
Eric McClafferty, Kelley, Drye and Warren
Hear an update on tariffs and trade, infrastructure, climate and the legalization of marijuana. From management to safety, gain valuable insights on the issues and implications you need to know.

12:15pm
Lunch
Crescent View, twelfth level

1:30 – 3:00pm
Business Planning with Optimism
Taylor St. Germain, ITR Economics
The last two years have been interesting times for the valve industry. Over that time period, were your profits up and if so, how much of that was attributable to current events? Additionally, with a Presidential election in just 9 months, what is the likely impact of it, if any, on the near-term economy and your business. ITR will take a deep dive to determine attendees, best course of action as they consider their 3-, 5- and 7-year planning needs and talk about best practices to prepare for the challenges and opportunities that will face us in the 2020’s.

Welcome

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Pre-Forum Meetings

Wednesday, February 26

11:00am - 1:00pm
VRC Board Meeting
Uptown Room

1:00 - 5:00 pm
VMA Board Meeting
Algiers Room

CONNECT. LEAD. INSPIRE.
3:00 – 3:30pm
Networking Break

3:30 – 4:30pm
Capturing Value in Smart Factories
**Lindsey Berckman and Michael Schlotterbeck, Deloitte**
While manufacturers face an expanding array of new capabilities to manage production, understanding how to best leverage them to derive value is not easy. This session provides a framework to help you make sense of how a smart factory may – or may not – be beneficial in ways that drive growth.

4:30 – 4:45pm
Day One Wrap Up

5:00 – 6:00pm
Reception
*Crescent View, twelfth level*

6:30pm
Networking Dinners on Your Own
Want to meet some new people? Stop by the registration desk to sign up small group dinners.

Friday, February 28

8:00 – 8:30am
Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30am
A Local Political View on National Politics
**Eric LaFleur, Louisiana State Senator**
The coming year in politics is sure to have some surprises. Hear Louisiana State Senator Eric LaFleur’s take on the current state of politics in the US, from his local vantage point on key issues in LA and nationally and how they affect local politics.

9:30 – 10:15am
Succession Planning and Knowledge Transfer Panel
**Kevin Kemerer, Precision Pump and Valve Service**
**Greg Johnson, United Valve**
**Kelly Lovell, United Valve**
**Kim Beise, Dowco**
Here are some best – and not so best – practices around how to ensure your company is planning for the future when current leaders at all levels move on from the company or their position.

10:15 – 10:30am
Networking Break

10:30 – 11:15am
Trends in Employee Benefits to Recruit and Retain A Strong Workforce
**Tracie Brown, MetLife Specialty Markets**
How do you attract, keep and engage a loyal and happy workforce? What are the expectations of generations just now entering the workforce? Are there key areas manufacturing companies should look at when designing an employee benefits program? Research conducted recently by MetLife helps shed light on answers to these questions.

11:15 – 12:00pm
Concluding Remarks

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**SPECIAL THANKS** to our 2020 program committee members:
**Kim Beise, Dowco**
**Kent Fowler, Emerson/ASCO**
**Stephane Meunier, Emerson/ASCO**
**Jim Walther, Kitz Corporation**
I want to thank you and all the presenters for your time and effort in putting on the Valve 101 class for our group. The class was well received by everyone who attended. Thanks again to everyone for a job well done!!"

—Terry Blackard, ExxonMobil BR Valve Specialist retired

If you have more than 25 people at your plant or facility who need an overview of the basics, call on the Valve Ed team!

Our presenters will put together a one- or two-day program for your company—at or near your facility—based on VMA’s popular Valves, Actuators & Controls 101 course.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CUSTOM TRAINING?
- Valve, actuator and control end users
- AEC/EPC personnel
- VMA/VRC members
- Government agencies

Limited slots are available. Schedule your event now!