

PHOTOS ATTACHED: Ryan Avery; John F. Register; SPE Thermoforming Division Logo

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For Immediate Release

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT SPE THERMOFORMING CONFERENCE® TO ADDRESS COMMUNICATING WITH MILLENNIALS AND PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

CAROL STREAM, IL, U.S.A., April 11, 2017: The keynote speakers for the 26th annual Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Conference® will address communication with the coming generation and tactics for managing change, it was announced today by SPE's Thermoforming Division. The Conference will take place *September 11-13, 2017 in Orlando, FL*, at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld Hotel.

There will be two keynote speakers:

● **Ryan Avery: *Motivating Millennials™: How to Recognize, Recruit and Retain the Next Generation of Leaders.*** [Tuesday, Sept. 12]. By 2020, more than 50% of consumers and employees will have been born during the Millennial generation. Mr. Avery will discuss communication skills for keeping Millennials motivated, engaged and excited about a company and its products.

Himself a Millennial, Ryan Avery will focus on strategies, secrets and insights from world leaders that make it possible to effectively communicate with the coming generation while strategically planning ahead.

Mr. Avery is an internationally-recognized speaker who shows leaders how to use the power of storytelling to increase their confidence, expand their influence, and motivate people to take action. At age 25, he became the youngest World Champion of Public Speaking in the history of the award, competing against more than 30,000 people from 116 countries to claim the title. He is the co-founder of AveryToday, Inc., and managing partner at How to Be a Speaker, LLC.

● **John F. Register: *Citius – Altius – Fortius! Business Lessons from Olympic and Paralympic Medalists.*** [Wednesday, Sept. 13]. Every two years during the summer or winter Olympic Games, millions of people around the world are glued to their televisions or mobile devices to watch the performances of the world's greatest Olympian and Paralympian athletes.

Each athlete prepares for one magical moment in time: Often the journey has been years in the making and been filled with challenges and successes. But spectators rarely get a glimpse into their personal journeys. What was it like? What did they learn along the way that might be applicable to winning medals in the world of business? Most athletes who qualify for an

Olympic team and earn the right to compete never win an Olympic medal. What makes the heart of an Olympic or Paralympic Champion?

Mr. Register's presentation will look behind the scenes of the journey to the Olympic and Paralympic podium, exploring what makes athletes tick, and delivering tactics to prepare business organizations for gold medal success.

John Register won the Paralympic silver medal just six years after having his left leg amputated. A world-class athlete who qualified for two Olympic Trials, and a prospect for Army Officer School, Mr. Register had been on the success career path. The injury temporarily halted his career until he found his "new normal." He qualified for two Paralympic Games and in 2000 won the Paralympic Long Jump Silver Medal in Sydney, Australia, while setting the American record in the process.

Mr. Register is now a change-management expert in strategic communication, and was appointed by then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as one of eight members to advise her on disability foreign policy. He founded the United States Olympic Committee Paralympic Military Sport Program, which shows wounded, ill, and injured veterans how to use sport as a tool for their rehabilitation.

"Ryan and John have distinctly different stories to tell, and both speakers will address some of the most pressing issues facing professionals and organizations today," said Juliet Goff, 2017 SPE Thermoforming Conference Co-Chair. "Conference attendees will leave these presentations with new leadership skills and tools to affect change in their businesses."

More information is available at <http://thermoformingdivision.com> or by contacting Lesley Kyle at 1-914-671-9524 or lesley@openmindworks.com.

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THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, based in Bethel, CT. The Thermoforming Division's mission is to facilitate the advancement of thermoforming technologies through education, application, promotion and research. The Division hosts an annual educational conference and publishes an award-winning technical journal, *SPE Thermoforming Quarterly*®. The Division has also funded over \$275K in equipment grants and tens of thousands of dollars in undergraduate scholarships since it was first formed. For more information, please visit <http://thermoformingdivision.com>.