A MESSAGE FROM THE APPLIED SOLUTIONS CHAIRS

Welcome to the 2015 Institute of Industrial Engineers Annual Conference!

We are transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to better serve our IE profession. Whether you are a first time attendee or a conference veteran, I am excited to announce several changes this year intended to make your conference experience even more valuable.

The first big change is the integration of selected Applied Solutions sessions (AS) and Industrial and Systems Engineering Research Sessions (ISERC). Based on feedback from previous conferences, many attendees don’t even realize there are two types of sessions.

This year, five topic areas will contain talks from both AS and ISERC speakers:

- Engineering management
- Operations research
- Process industries
- Supply chain and logistics
- Work systems

These “Joint” sessions are a pilot program for 2015, designed to encourage more awareness and interaction among attendees that historically have focused exclusively on either ISERC or AS sessions. Eight session rooms have been allocated for the pilot and each room will have a theme corresponding to one of the above topics. Talks in these rooms will range from 17 to 75 minutes, so be sure to check the schedule carefully.

The second big change is that AS talks are no longer organized by track. Instead, speakers selected an industry and up to three topics that apply to their talk:

- The primary topic is always an industrial engineering area of study
- The secondary and tertiary topics are either an area of study, an affinity group (i.e., Young Professionals), or a soft skill category (i.e., leadership)

This new process helps keep the main focus of the conference on industrial engineering and should make finding a talk of interest to you easier than ever—especially if you are using this year’s IIE conference app.

Lastly, you’ll notice a bar code on your badge this year and volunteers throughout the conference that may be asking to scan that code. This is part of an effort to better understand value at the annual conference by measuring the most important conference commodity: where you choose to spend your time. In the spirit of continuous improvement, 2016 planning committees will use this information to improve next year’s conference experience at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California.

Your participation in this year’s conference represents a tremendous investment in yourself and your profession…We hope that you’ll find the conference informative, of high value and fun.

I ask that you stay engaged, network/reach out and help us shape a brighter future for the IE community at large.

Warmly;

Majid Abab- 2015 IIE Applied Solutions Chair – Nashville