



**Scott Friedman & Associates**

Humor, Inspiration, Celebration

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MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Meeting Professionals International Announces 2013 RISE Award Recipients** Exceptional Leaders Recognized for Influence in Building Community

Meeting Professionals International has announced Scott Friedman, CSP as a winner of the Meeting Professionals International (MPI) 2013 Recognizing Industry Success and Excellence (RISE) Award. “This award honors those rare individuals who by visionary hard work and creative insight have positively changed the global meetings and events industry community (MPI).” Scott’s passion for the industry, global connectivity and philanthropy is evident through his innovative contributions and achievements.

#### **MPI Announcement for Scott Friedman**

The RISE Award for Meeting Industry Leadership will be presented to speaker and author, Scott Friedman, CSP. Based in Golden, Colo., Friedman has led several initiatives to bring the global speaking and meetings community closer together including founding the Global Speakers Summit and Meetings Industry Council of Colorado, and co-founding the International Association of Speakers Bureaus and National Speakers Association Council. His mission is to bring about positive change through collaboration with community connectors. Friedman is also the founder of “Together We Can Change The World,” an organization which brings speakers together with communities in Southeast Asia to fundraise, promote education and build sustainability in orphanages.

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## **MPI Excerpt from Press Release**

[http://www.mpiweb.org/Libraries/Press/RiseAwardreleaseFINAL\\_042513.pdf](http://www.mpiweb.org/Libraries/Press/RiseAwardreleaseFINAL_042513.pdf)

The RISE Awards include annual awards in three categories: individual achievement, community achievement and organizational achievement. Recipients are recognized for innovation, global transferability, impact and influence within the meeting and event industry. “The RISE Awards are confirmation that by working together, sharing our time and talent, we can achieve success as individuals and grow as a community. These recipients have influenced others by following their passions and are an inspiration to us all,” said Barbara J. Cummins, CMP, CMM, chair of the RISE Awards Judging Panel.

The RISE Award presentation will take place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center on July 22, 2013, during MPI’s WEC event. WEC is the largest educational gathering of meeting and event professionals in the world.

## **About MPI**

Meeting Professionals International (MPI) is the largest and most vibrant global meeting and event industry association. The organization helps its members thrive by building human connections through knowledge and ideas, relationships, and marketplaces. MPI membership is comprised of more than 21,000 members belonging to 71 chapters and clubs worldwide. For additional information, visit [www.mpiweb.org](http://www.mpiweb.org).

## **About Scott Friedman, CSP**

Scott Friedman, Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) and former President of the National Speakers Association (NSA), is an internationally sought after speaker and author. As a motivational humorist, Scott inspires and entertains with fun-filled, interactive and content-rich programs. He speaks on a variety of topics over 80 times a year. His main area of expertise is employee innovation, celebration and customer experience. Over the course of his 28-year career, Scott has spoken in all 50 states and over 25 countries, bringing humor, wisdom, and a “Celebration Mindset” to over 2000 organizations.

Apart from speaking, Scott enjoys spending his time giving back through philanthropic activities. Scott is a founder of Together We Can Change The World (TWCCTW.org), an organization creating sustainability in children’s homes throughout SE Asia. TWCCTW provides educational opportunities to orphans through sponsorships and hands on experience leading to greater confidence, competence and character. The organization has just built its’ first orphanage in Thailand and is in the process of building a second in Cambodia! Scott organizes global speaking tours to create awareness, raise money and celebrate with the kids in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Cambodia. In fact, as this press release goes out, Scott is leading the 2013 tour.