

Our Panelists – March 24, 2012



Chris Reagan

Chris Reagan is an entrepreneur, civic leader, husband and father of two daughters. Chris established Get Ahead Pro Speakers Bureau in 1995. Get Ahead Pro has been secured by corporations, associations and organizations to help produce successful and strategic meetings, events and training programs worldwide for over a decade.

Chris has written for New England Corporate Events, Banker and Tradesman, Meetings and many other newsletters and publications. He is one of the Past Presidents of Meeting Professionals International's New England Chapter and he has served on the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Brain Injury Association. Chris has also served on local civic organizations charged with protecting our precious natural resources. Chris Co-Chaired the Wings of Hope Air Show 2000 and assisted the NH Brain Injury Association and the NH National Guard once again in 2007. The one-day event in 2000 attracted over 140,000 attendees and the two day event in 2007 had over 250,000 attendees. In his spare time he plays classic blues, rock and a little jazz with his band the Relics. Chris has climbed Baxter Peak, Mt Katahdin and the Knife's Edge five times and walked on fire twice.

He is an award winning past member of NSA New England, receiving the 1996 – 1997 Partner Achievement Award.



Marie Caci, CMP, CPCE, CSEP

Since 1997, Marie has been bringing organization and return-on-investment to meetings, functions, and events, no matter what the industry. Her creative approach and bottom-line fiscal sense, combined with an impeccable sense of timing and customer-first attitude has made her a first choice with all of her corporate clients.

As a meetings industry leader, Marie's generosity in sharing her knowledge and experience has earned her respect among her peers as someone who delivers quality, integrity, and trust as a generous expert who gives back to the industry she loves. Meeting Professionals International, the premier industry membership organization, has relied on her insight as a member and volunteer leader since 2009, and she has served in several leadership roles in the New England Chapter. Additionally, she has been a member of ISES since 2008, and stepped up to serve three times on the ISES Board of Directors.

Others have taken notice, and recently, Marie appeared in several industry publications including *The Special Event Magazine* (2011 and 2010) and the 2009 *BizBash National Venue Guide*. In 2011, Marie also realized one of her dreams: sharing her passion for the meetings and events industry and inspiring future industry colleagues as an Adjunct Professor of Conference, Meeting and Event Planning at Bay State College.

In her personal time, she enjoys taking advantage of her knowledge and passion for travel by exploring new territory... and has already had the opportunity to visit all 50 states. But Marie's idea of downtime from work involves staying active in sports as well as enjoying some relaxing moments on the beach.



Diane Darling

As a former meeting planner herself, Diane Darling knows the many moving puzzle pieces that make up a successful event. She remembers the late nights of stuffing packets, holding a chartered plane for a passport, calming down a frazzled client as the awards dinner started, and dealing with a spouse of the keynote speaker who was potentially "over-served."

Now as a speaker, she brings that experience to each event appreciating the matrix, how she can add value - and not just as a speaker. She sees herself as a strategic partner whose job is not only to speak and provide exceptional content, but to enhance the experience of all parties - attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, planners and of course the reputation of the speaker's bureau.



David Michael Rich

David Michael Rich is the Senior Vice-President, Strategy + Planning/Worldwide, George P. Johnson Experience Marketing, Advertising Age's #1 ranked event marketing agency and one of their "Top 50 Marketing Agencies in the World." As the founder and leader of the experience and event marketing industry's first and foremost strategy practice driving brand building and demand generation results for some of the top companies in the world -- and as one of the foremost change agents molding the intersection of business objectives, marketing, and face-to-face and virtual brand events and experiences -- David is frequently cited as a visionary who

is both reshaping the use and the next practices of this emerging discipline.

David is the creator of several innovations that have set the pace for the industry, including the practice model in use today at GPJ and now widely imitated but not duplicated in event and experience marketing agencies around the world. He is the author of the Strategic Experience Mapping process, frequently cited in industry publications such as Event Marketer magazine and by GPJ client and Cisco CEO John Chambers as setting the new industry standard.