

91st AFS Southeastern Regional Conference
March 19 – 22, 2024
Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort
Birmingham, AL
Conference Agenda



The 2024 Southeastern Regional Conference, hosted by the AFS Birmingham Chapter, is set for March 19 – 22. This year's program theme is "*Bridging the Gap*" and the technical sessions will focus on topics related to foundry process and management technologies that are established and developing. Along with eight guest speakers from various sectors of the metalcasting industry, we'll hear from four experts from outside the foundry business on matters that are critical to the industry. Among the confirmed speakers are:

Dr. Sam Jones, CSP – Dr. Jones is a renowned professional speaker, consultant, and coach on the art of change to influence performance and growth of individuals and companies. He recently spent a day in an operating foundry for the first time to gain a sense of what foundry personnel deal with on a day-to-day basis, in order to apply some real-world perspective to his keynote presentation. Under close foundry supervision Dr. Jones participated in a variety of routine foundry operational tasks. From that day's experiences, he has produced an address he refers to as "***Bridge the Gap with Momentum Mindset™***". In this keynote, Dr. Jones will address the critical theme of bridging the gap between traditional foundry practices and the promising state of modern technology and workforce dynamics and how these elements can move the foundry industry forward. Drawing from his extensive experience in leadership and business development, Dr. Jones will provide insights into how foundries can embrace innovation while respecting and learning from traditional methods.

Key Learning Takeaways – Attendees will learn:

- How the Momentum Mindset™ can be applied to merge traditional foundry practices and modern innovations.
- Strategies for leveraging the strengths of both seasoned experts and new talent, ensuring knowledge transfer, mutual respect, and collaborative innovation.
- Insights into how the foundry industry can adopt and integrate cutting-edge technologies while maintaining the integrity of proven traditional methods.
- Practical leadership approaches for guiding the foundry industry through change, focusing on building a culture of learning and adaptability.

To see some excerpts of Dr. Jones in his usual environment, go to www.transformnowinc.com. If you would like to help sponsor Dr. Sam's appearance at the conference, you can do so at the SER regional website link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/91st-southeastern-regional-conference-tickets-790190179097>



On the increasingly critical topics of malware and cyberhacking, we'll hear from **Charles Crampton, CEO of Akzium Computers**, a technology company specializing into data protection and high visibility solutions for business. Charles will share some horror stories about his work with companies rebuilding computer systems after being hacked. We will also have **Michael Roskind from the US Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity Division** speak to us on a macro-level about cyber-threats and defending against them.

On the new technology front, we'll hear from **Glen "Fritz" Carlson, President and CEO of Acme Mfg.** from Michigan speaking about robotics in foundry processes. Acme Mfg. is a leading machine tool builder and robotic system integrator for material removal with over 39 years of industry experience.

David Rittmeyer, Director of Business Development for Matthews Additive Technologies will share his 10+ years of experience with installing and developing the use of multiple 3D sand printers at Matthews. For anyone looking at expanding or getting started in 3D printing, this promises to be a valuable presentation.

For a wide-ranging discussion on issues, concerns, and opportunities that are creating the "Gap" and could help to "*Bridge the Gap*", there will be an industry/education panel moderated by **Peter Reich, Co-Owner, Laempe/Reich**. Peter will be leading the conversation with panel participants **Jon Pollard, VP of Operations for Tyler Union and M&H Valve, Jeff Sorenson,**

Facilities Manager of Lee Brass, Tom Oliver, Director of Commercial Operations for ASK Chemicals, and Dr. Alan Druschitz, Associate Professor and Eminent Scholar, Dep't of Materials Science and Engineering as well as FEF Key Professor at Virginia Tech.

We are soliciting questions from conference attendees on subjects that you would be interested in hearing the perspective from the panel participants. If you have something in mind, send it in email message with the subject line "Panel Topic" to joe.fuqua.pwi@gmail.com and jim@lmfco.com.



This is shaping up to be an outstanding speaker roster and conference program. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

Conference, golf outing, and hotel registration links are here:

Hotel Reservation: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1685384899341&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Conference Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/91st-southeastern-regional-conference-tickets-790190179097>

Golf Registration: <https://southeastern-regional-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>

