

## EVENTS

### National Ergonomics Conference & ErgoExpo

August 22 - 25, 2017

Since 1994, the National Ergonomics Conference & ErgoExpo has been the best place to learn how to build an ergonomics program or maximize an existing program — on any budget, for any industry.

[www.ergoexpo.com](http://www.ergoexpo.com)

### China International Furniture Fair - Shanghai

September 11 - 14, 2017

China's largest furniture fair shifts back to Shanghai for the 40th edition.

[www.ciff-sh.com](http://www.ciff-sh.com)

### NeoCon East

November 15 - 16, 2017

The premier design expo and conference for commercial interiors on the East Coast.

[www.neoconeast.com](http://www.neoconeast.com)

### IIDEX Canada

November 29 - 30, 2017

IIDEXCanada is Canada's National Design + Architecture Exposition & Conference. The annual show focuses on all areas of design including workplace, healthcare, hospitality, retail, residential, education, architecture, landscape architecture, lighting and sustainability, wellness and accessibility.

[www.iidexcanada.com](http://www.iidexcanada.com)

### NeoCon

June 11 - 13, 2018

North America's most important design exposition and conference for commercial interiors.

[www.neocon.com](http://www.neocon.com)

## BRIEFING

### Local Business Owner Participates in White House Small Business Event with President

A Triad small business recently received the attention of President Donald Trump and the Small Business Administration. Jennifer Cashion, President, and Randy Hollingsworth, Founder, of DARRAN Furniture in High Point, NC, participated in a Small Business Event hosted by President Trump at the White House on August 1.

Cashion says she was honored to be selected to bring the priorities and concerns of the Triad to the attention of lawmakers and leaders who substantially influence the regulations that govern small business today.

"One of the biggest take-aways was when Ivanka Trump stated, 'you are as good as your people.' At DARRAN we embody 'true to craft' as a core component of our business model each day," says Cashion. "We've held to this for 40 years, and we will continue to invest and believe in DARRAN's team and in our community."

The event, which was moderated by Senior Advisor to the President Ivanka



Trump and Administrator of the Small Business Administration Linda McMahon, invited members of congress, small business owners and entrepreneurs from across the country for a town hall forum. Discussions focused on improvements being made for job creation, tax reform and small business regulation to encourage manufacturing in the U.S.

"You are dreamers and innovators that are powering us to the future," said President Trump, noting that unemployment in the U.S. just hit a 16-year low.

In attendance were Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Senator Jim Risch of Idaho, Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa, Congressman Steve Chabot of Ohio, Congressman Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania and members of congress.

### E&I ANNOUNCES NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E&I Cooperative Services (E&I) is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors: Ron Moraski, Director of Procurement Services at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and Dr. Judy Mitchell, President of Joliet Junior College. These appointments are in response to the retirement of two current Board members, Mary Dukakis, Associate Vice President for Administration and Strategic Sourcing at Southern New Hampshire University, and Amir Dabirian, Vice President of Information Technology (IT) at California State University, Fullerton. Dabirian will remain on the



Randy Hollingsworth (left) Jennifer Cashion (right)

Board as the newly appointed Advisor to the Board for Technology. The Cooperative also announced that Barry Swanson has been appointed First Vice President to the Board.

With more than 20 years of supply chain management experience, Ron Moraski offers instrumental insight into RPI's procurement services, budget planning, strategic sourcing, systems and analytics, and stockroom administration, among other invaluable industry expertise. Ron assumed responsibility for procurement services at a key time during the department's transformation from transactional purchasing to strategic procurement. He also serves as a Confidential Title IX Student Advisor on campus, in addition to leading the Institute's annual fundraising efforts for the American Heart Association.

Dr. Judy L. Mitchell was unanimously approved as the President of Joliet Junior College in Joliet, Illinois. She previously served as the college's interim president, director of business and auxiliary services, as well as the program management specialist in Adult and Family Services. Dr. Mitchell's career is highlighted with substantial accomplishments, including successfully guiding the College's budgeting process through a state-wide fiscal crisis and helping to reduce its operating costs by over \$2 million in just four years. Under her leadership and encouragement, the College also garnered over \$5.4 million in grants to offset operational costs in 2015.

Barry Swanson currently serves as the Chief Procurement Officer at the University of Kentucky; his professional experience includes several administrative roles focused on purchasing and procurement, including positions as the Chief Procurement Officer, Director of Purchasing, and Associate Comptroller for the University of Kansas. Swanson has also served as

the District V Representative on the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP) National Board of Directors and as co-President of the NAEP Great Plains Region.

## ODDS & ENDS

**JOINED:** Chris Latham has joined Carnegie as a member of the Carnegie Sales Leadership Team. Chris will lead Carnegie's sales efforts on the East Coast. Chris has extensive experience in the textile



Latham

and wallcovering industry including 20+ years representing some of the finest mill resources around the globe. With an educational background in environmental studies, Chris's inherent interests align seamlessly with Carnegie's standing as an industry leader in sustainability. With his extensive technical knowledge around textile manufacturing, Chris will bring designers a valuable perspective regarding the technical use of materials within commercial interiors.

**JOINED:** Douglas Shantz has joined Baresque USA as North America Sales Manager. "The response to our offering in North America has been incredible - we are super excited about how the market has received Zintra and we look forward to releasing many more of our innovative materials" said Angus Blaiklock Executive Director of Baresque USA. "Douglas brings us years of experience in the A/D community and will assist us in building stronger sales and distribution networks for existing and upcoming Baresque product introductions".

**PROMOTED:** Barry Bale has been promoted by Office Environments, Inc. from Executive Vice President to President, upon the retirement of current President, Cindy Cox. Bale states, "Cindy has served this company



Bale

since its beginning and been an integral part of our Executive Team. She will be immensely missed, but I wish her the absolute best as she enjoys her retirement. I am excited to serve further and blaze toward a dynamic future with the OE family." Bale has been in the industry for over 30 years, half of which has been as a dedicated and remarkable leader to OE. Almost quadrupling revenues since his joining in the early 2000s, he is ready to expand his leadership role and continue to serve the Carolinas with excellence. The highly successful and driven sales team existing today has been cultivated and coached by Bale personally. Bale says, "This company, these people, they are family. As I expand my role, my passion for what we do and who we serve continues to be absolute priority. We are here for the long term. OE will continue to roll and provide an exceptional experience to our clients." OE will officially promote Bale to President on October 1st. Bale continues with, "We thank Cindy for her leadership and all she has contributed these three decades. I'm honored to step into this role." 