

2018 FPS International Convention Plenary Sessions Speaker Abstracts

Plenary Session I - Forest Products Education

Tuesday, June 12

Terry Sharik

*Dean, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Robbins Chair in Sustainable Resources
Michigan Tech*

“Enrollment in Natural Resources Degree Programs in the U.S.: Trends, Drivers, and Implications for the Future of the Natural Resource Professions”

This presentation summarizes trends in student enrollment in various disciplines in natural resources, including forest products, from 1980 to the present. A particular emphasis is placed on gender and racial/ethnic diversity given that this diversity differs among natural resource disciplines and overall is lower than in most other professions in the U.S. Possible reasons for this low diversity are explored, and strategies put forth to improve the situation.

Bob Smith

*Professor and Head, Department of Sustainable Biomaterials and Associate Dean for Extension
College of Natural Resources and Environment
Virginia Tech*

“Capturing the Future of Wood Science and Forest Products Education in the United States”

Wood Science and Forest Products educational programs have always struggled with consistent demand from students and are under increasing pressure from university administrations to be more viable and relevant in today's academic climate. This presentation will look at the development of WSFP programs, the current state of our educational discipline, and what the future may hold as we strive to adapt to a changing student population, changing needs from our employers, and a changing science.

Plenary Session II – Forest Bioeconomy
Wednesday, June 13

Brendan Jordan

Vice President

Great Plains Institute

“The emerging forestry bioeconomy: fuels, chemicals, advanced materials, and carbon management”

This is a time of transition for the forest products industry with a lack of growth in traditional markets, and emerging opportunities for advanced biofuels, biobased chemicals, and advanced materials. At the same time, numerous reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the International Energy Agency, and others posit a growing role for wood and other forms of biomass in meeting global emissions targets. This talk will discuss emerging new opportunities for value-added production, and discuss the unique role wood and forestry can play in carbon management.

Matthew Rooney

Director, Economic Growth

George W. Bush Presidential Center

“NAFTA: The Stakes for Globalization and American Leadership.”

The ongoing renegotiation of NAFTA is a critically important issue for the vitality of the American economy. The George W. Bush Institute’s analysis suggests that North America is the most competitive of the major global trading blocs, that the U.S. economy has grown more rapidly and created more jobs than other major economies, and that America’s ability to shape the rules and compete on global markets has been strengthened by NAFTA. Stepping back from NAFTA would reduce global competitiveness, growth and employment in all three countries, with lasting harm to America’s prosperity.

Plenary Session III - Housing
Thursday, June 14

Dwayne Sperber

Owner

Wudeward Urban Forest Products

“Full Circle Urban Forest Management”

Many common urban tree removal practices in the United States view felled urban trees as costly waste. However, trees removed from our cities and communities due to death, storm damage, or other circumstances are a resource worth saving. When processed, sold, and utilized, the U.S. could produce nearly 4 billion board feet annually to cushion local economies, reduce expenses for communities, and provide a sustainable, renewable resource for distinctive finishes in built spaces.

David Fell

Research Leader for Business Intelligence

FPIInnovations

“Housing Reconsidered: The New Drivers of Wood Demand in North America and Asia”

The housing sector is facing technical, social, and business practice pressures that are changing the way we build and live. Energy efficiency, prefabrication, carbon, and urban densification provide challenges and opportunities for wood-based building systems. In this session we will explore these topics from both North American and Asian market perspectives.