



Presentation Key Takeaways

Tues. Nov. 3	
9:00 – 10:15 am	Keynote Address: The Unstoppable You with Alex Weber, American Ninja Warrior star • Break through limits: Overcome fear, doubt, burnout, and adversity. • Build resilience: Strengthen mental and emotional well-being. • Reach your next level: Find purpose, act and achieve your goals.
10:30 – 11:00 am	Land Acknowledgement/Sinking in my Homeland with Lora Ann Chaisson, principal chief, United Houma Nation • Indigenous people were here long before it became New Orleans. • The Houma Nation has adapted, sacrificed and survived. • Climate change has affected our nation and Gulf Coast communities.
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Setting Expectations for 2027 and Beyond with Connor Lokar, senior forecaster & keynote manager, ITR Economics • Gain a clearer view of the macroeconomic trends likely to shape business conditions in the year ahead. • Understand how broader business cycle changes and sector-level drivers may influence the plumbing industry and product demand across residential and commercial products. • Use forward-looking economic insight to better align investments, budgets, workforce planning, and resource allocation.



1:00 – 2:00 pm	From Emerging Concern to Emerging Regulation: The Microplastics Shift with Julie Panko, principal scientist/senior vice president, ToxStrategies • Learn how the latest EPA action and California regulation on microplastics will potentially impact plumbing manufacturing products and processes.
2:00 – 2:30 pm	The Global Trade Landscape: What Plumbing Manufacturers Need to Know with Brian Ledgerwood, international trade specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration • Learn about the work of the International Trade Administration and Office of Materials Industries. • Gain an overview of U.S. plumbing export data and key markets, as well as an update on certain Section 232 tariffs.
2:50 – 4:00 pm	Accessible Plumbing Fixtures and Elements with Gene Boecker, accessibility project manager, Accessibility Professionals Association and Cinema United, and Josh Schorr, technical assistance coordinator, U.S. Access Board • Applicable accessibility laws. • Clearances and spaces. • Specific requirements for plumbing fixtures.
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Federal Appliance Efficiency Deregulation and Its Impact on State-Level Enforcement Risks with Daniel Eisenberg, principal, Beveridge and Diamond • Gain an understanding of the current federal appliance efficiency framework. • See the potential benefits to manufacturers from federal deregulation. • Identify risks associated with state efforts to fill regulatory gaps, with California as a bellwether.



Wed. Nov. 4	
7:30 – 8:30 am	Women of PMI Breakfast with Simone Bruni, founder and operator, Demo Diva • Momentum in the chaos. • Consistency over intensity. • Tiny steps direct the impact.
9:00 – 9:30 am	From Watersheds to Planetary Boundaries: Rethinking Water Management with Alyssa Dausman, Ph.D., senior vice president and chief scientist, The Water Institute • Water systems are not only about water: water connects many things including energy, food, ecosystems, and health. • Traditional governance, geographies, and management approaches no longer work. • Nexus thinking can be a solution, considering interdependencies, tradeoffs, co-benefits, and systems governance.
9:30 – 10:30 am	Advocacy Government Affairs Update led by Troy Benavidez, leader, strategic partnerships, government relations and policy, LIXIL, with Jerry Desmond and Stephanie Salmon, PMI's advocacy/government affairs consultants, and Matthew Windrum, director of state government affairs, policy and advocacy, PMI • Advocacy in action: PMI actively engages federal and state policymakers on issues shaping the plumbing industry. • Stay ahead of change: Emerging priorities—including AI, EPR, PFAS, tariffs, IoT, water efficiency, and water reuse—continue to influence the regulatory landscape. • Election impact: The midterm election results will shape the policy environment and PMI's advocacy priorities moving forward.



10:50 am – 12:00 pm	PFAS Regulation, Policy and Compliance in a Rapidly Changing Landscape with John Gardella, shareholder and attorney, CMBG3 and Jay West, senior director, chemical products and technology, American Chemistry Council • States are very aggressive on PFAS legislation, and there is a diverse array of issues they are attempting to address. • Some states require reporting and labeling of products containing intentionally added PFAS, while others require a "currently unavoidable use" determination to stay in commerce. • Federal activities have largely focused on PFAS levels in water, and this presentation will cover the latest developments.
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Beyond Structure: The Future of Embodied Carbon Policy and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) Systems with Ariel Brenner, project manager, codes and policy, New Buildings Institute • Current state of embodied carbon policy. • Emerging research on MEP embodied carbon. • Future policy pathways for MEP systems' embodied carbon regulation.
1:45 – 2:45 pm	Skilled Workforce Development Panel Discussion led by Kate Olinger, senior director, regulatory, sustainability and external affairs, GF Americas, with Brandon Hudson, deputy executive director, SkillsUSA; Tim Johnson, president and founder, TJC Group; and Marshall Moore, programmatic lead, META American Workforce Academy • Current skilled workforce challenges. • What manufacturers can do now to strengthen their workforce pipeline. • Perspective on policies, training and current needs.



Thurs. Nov. 5	
9:00 – 9:45 am	How AI Works and How to Work with It with Knud Berthelsen, professor of practice and senior advisor for AI literacy, Tulane University • How generative AI works, and why that explains both its strengths and its mistakes. • Which AI models, tools and agents matter now, and what each one does best. • Best practices for reliable results: give context, assign roles, ask before tasking.
9:45 – 10:30 am	Securing the Flow: Cyber, Physical, and Supply Chain Risk in Plumbing Manufacturing with Colleen Brown, partner, Sidley Austin • Cyber risk has entered a new era of speed and sophistication. • Physical security and cybersecurity are now inherently linked. • Supply chain security requires a consistent, methodical approach.
10:30 – 11:15 am	Water as the Cornerstone of the U.S. National Economic Security with John Sabo, executive director, ByWater Institute for Climate Adaption, Tulane University • Water underpins infrastructure and critical operational limits for the following sectors: food and beverage, energy, textiles, IT and manufacturing. • Future challenges are managing extremes and volatility, creating pathways to have abundant water at the right place at the right time, and managing over-abundance with infrastructure. • Adapting to changing extremes requires a recipe or portfolio of built, natural, cyber and social infrastructure. We have to invest in this now or pay more to recover from natural disasters.