



09/27-30/2026

 **MHI Annual
Conference**

PALM SPRINGS, CA

**CONNECTING
THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

BUILD CONNECTIONS. MOVE BUSINESS.

The 2026 MHI Annual Conference is an interactive thought leadership event for manufacturing, material handling and supply chain professionals that focuses on the technology innovation taking place across the supply chain industry and the associated workforce challenges.

By attending, you will learn best practices and gain tangible takeaways through four powerful keynotes and five insightful education sessions. There will also be numerous opportunities for connection building and industry leadership during MHI Industry Group meetings and networking activities.

A variety of topics will be explored by subject matter experts in an interactive conference setting including three education tracks: supply chain excellence, tech forward, and human centered. Discover how technology innovation is the key for your business to overcome future disruptions and build the supply chains of tomorrow.



Supply Chain Excellence

Explore how we must drive collaboration and coordinate change across the end-to-end supply chain.



Tech Forward

Learn how investments in automation and other digital solutions like IoT, advanced analytics and AI help arm your operations with speed, accuracy and improved visibility.



Human Centered

Discover how a human centered approach in business is working to accelerate innovation, break down silos and foster breakthrough impact.

The 2026 Annual Conference will include networking opportunities like a welcome and theme dinners, an awards night, cocktail receptions, and much more! MHI members will have the opportunity to sit in on select vertical specific workgroups and guests of members can participate in our guest program.

Whether you're looking to increase your supply chain excellence, learn how to better integrate tech into your business, or increase your ROI in human capital, you'll find leading information about all things supply chain at the MHI Annual Conference, so take steps to revolutionize your supply chain operations and increase your bottom line by registering today.

Register to attend today at mhi.org/conference

MEET OUR KEYNOTES

The 2026 MHI Annual Conference will showcase four thought-leading keynote sessions, delivering the strategies and insights your supply chain needs to succeed.



Keelan Leyser

MONDAY, SEPT 28 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Trance-formations – Managing the Magic of Change

Track: [Supply Chain Excellence](#)

Past successes, proven strategies, and information flows create patterns of thinking that can hypnotize a company into undervaluing or ignoring ground-breaking insights that go against current norms, group mindsets or interrupt planning schedules. Keelan discusses how by embracing change, you can turn negatives into positives.

About Keelan Leyser | Technology Magician

For nearly two decades, Keelan Leyser has provided blue-chip companies worldwide with presentations that blend cutting-edge psychology, digital illusion, mentalism, and sharp humor to deliver practical, hard-hitting business strategies that boost your bottom line. Keelan goes beyond “business as usual,” challenging the thinking habits that shape decision-making and inspiring each audience member to access their true potential for more consistent success in business and life.

Jason Schenker

MONDAY, SEPT 28 | 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

Economic, Geopolitical, and Technology Islands of Opportunity in a Sea of Uncertainty

Track: [Supply Chain Excellence](#)

Top ranked economist and bestselling author Jason Schenker explores economic, geopolitical, and technology trends reshaping the global landscape. From AI and automation to trade and global risk, Schenker turns complexity into actionable insights for leaders.



About Jason Schenker | Technology Magician

Jason Schenker is a top-ranked economist, futurist, and author. President of Prestige Economics and chairman of the Futurist Institute, he has delivered over 1,000 keynotes, authored 36 books including 15 bestsellers on energy, leadership, and the economy, and taught more than 1.2 million students via LinkedIn Learning. Bloomberg News has ranked him the #1 global forecaster in 26 categories since 2011, including U.S. jobs and oil prices. He is a 2025 Top Voice.

John Frehse and Dr. Jessica Kriegel

TUESDAY, SEPT 29 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Lessons in Leadership From The Front Line

Track: [Human Centered](#)

This keynote will be a one hour master class in leadership in organizations with large hourly workforces. What do the next twelve months look like? What are the pragmatic things one can do immediately to drive business results? This session will make every participant a better leader with actionable information.

Speaker Dr. Jessica Kriegel's *Surrender to Lead* book will also be used as a tool. Understanding what is in and out of one's control is an early step in staying focused and approaching the workforce in a powerful way.



About John Frehse | Senior Managing Director – Ankura

John Frehse is a senior managing director at Ankura, based in the New York office. He has more than 20 years of experience focused on labor and operations strategy. He has developed and implemented strategies for more than 100 companies, and he delivers to corporate leaders innovative labor solutions that incorporate solutions to employee needs.

John's professional philosophy is that people are the most valuable resource of every company. His experience has proven that in order to create long-term success, a thoughtful and methodical approach to labor must be created.

About Dr. Jessica Kriegel | Chief Strategy Officer, Culture Partners & Author, *Surrender to Lead*

Dr. Jessica is the chief strategy officer for Culture Partners, leading research and strategy in best practices for driving results through culture. As a data scientist, her mission is 'quantify culture.' Her doctoral research and practical application through consulting engagements with Oracle, Toyota, Lockheed Martin, and Bank of America to name a few, led to The Results Equation® - a tested model where strategy combined with culture to deliver consistent results. Today, Jessica applies data-driven insights to dismantle the chaos of poor morale, low performance, and missed financial goals.





Kate Vitasek

TUESDAY, SEPT 29 | 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

The Power of T: How Trust and Transparency Connect the Supply Chain to Improve Service

Track: Supply Chain Excellence

Organizations often focus on speed and efficiency, yet service breakdowns persist because work is fragmented across functions. Collaboration across silos is a core operational requirement. In this keynote, Kate Vitasek will examine why transactional ways of working limit performance.

About Kate Vitasek | Faculty, Graduate & Executive Education, University of Tennessee

Kate Vitasek is an international authority on highly collaborative business relationships and recipient of the 2025 Thinkers50 Breakthrough Idea Award. World Trade Magazine named her among the most influential people impacting global commerce, and she has been featured on CNN International, Bloomberg, NPR, and Forbes. A Distinguished Fellow and faculty member at the University of Tennessee's Haslam College of Business, Vitasek's award-winning Vested® business model has been adopted by more than 150 organizations including bp, Intel, EY, and the Canadian government. She is the author of eight books and more than 400 articles in publications including Harvard Business Review, The Economist, and Fast Company. Vitasek is a member of both the Sourcing Industry Group and IAOP Hall of Fame, and a World Commerce and Contracting Fellow. Her career spans the buy side (Microsoft), sell side, and consulting (Accenture).

"Change the world one deal at a time."

Kate Vitasek





JOIN 700+ INDUSTRY PEERS

Investments into supply chain are increasing as businesses adjust to constantly changing parameters and the accelerated pace of globalization, including solutions for improved supply chain resiliency and transparency as well as solutions for the ongoing workforce and talent shortage. Staying up to date on everything needed to keep your business optimized can put you at the front of the line when companies are looking to invest in technology to adapt and overcome the challenges they face. Learn more about these new insights into trends and technologies that are transforming supply chains and the priorities of the people who run them.

Join 700+ of your industry peers and register to attend the 2026 MHI Annual Conference today.

Learn more & register today at mhi.org/conference

SEPTEMBER 27 - 30, 2026

JW Marriot Desert Springs

74-855 Country Club Drive

Palm Desert, CA, USA 92260