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For Immediate Release

Food Manufacturing Industry Leaders Assemble at QCS Leadership Conference for Cooperative Learning and Networking

More than 300 members and supply partners gathered for the three-day conference.

LISLE, Ill., Dec. 21, 2017 — Food manufacturers and industry supply partners gathered at the QCS Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, last month with the key objective of sparking conversations about disruption, innovation and the changing world of consumer packaged goods.

Conference attendees participated in educational sessions, panel discussions and interactive breakout sessions to discuss innovations in production, consumer buying behavior and marketing, and how those changes are affecting the way in which the CPG industry does business.

“The 2017 QCS Leadership Conference was one of the more focused and productive events that I have recently attended,” said QCS supply partner Andrew Dun, EVP, sales and marketing, Bulk Lift International. “The conference had a fun and casual atmosphere, with opportunities to interact with member companies on a personal level,” Dun said. “I will highly recommend the QCS Leadership Conference to other suppliers that focus in the food & beverage industry, and [I] plan to attend next year. Our discussions were engaging and substantive, and a few of them have already resulted in new business projects.”

Dr. Julie Williamson, chief growth officer at Karrikins Group and keynote speaker at the conference, posed the driving question: “How do you find that place where you can leverage the best of what you’ve delivered in the past with where the market is going?”

Williamson led the group through an entertaining and engaging process of discovering their own edge of disruption as they work to stay ahead of changes in their markets and find ways to become more relevant in their industries.

“In every industry, there is a need for leaders to move from awareness to action in the face of disruption,” Williamson said. “How you do that while creating new value for your customers, employees and businesses is the question every leader needs to be working to answer. The leaders at the QCS conference took the opportunity to question their assumptions, lean into disruption and move to action in critical areas that are impacting their businesses today and in the future.”

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Leaders from the industry, represented by executives from HP Hood, Prairie Farms Dairy, DuPont and Producers Dairy, participated in a panel discussion that demonstrated how new trends and technologies have arisen from the evolution of their respective companies.





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Attendees participated in a teambuilding event at Disney's Epcot Center, which embodies new ideas and technologies and provided the perfect setting for attendees to focus on imagination and exploration.

The conference culminated with an evening of awards recognizing production excellence, marketing innovation and industry leadership.

"It was a great conference," said QCS member Greg Admire, purchasing supervisor, Umpqua Dairy Products. "I loved the Disney Mission for its team-building aspect and the speed networking for a more focused discussion than is possible standing around a crowded booth. Winning a couple of big awards was icing on the cake."

Next year's QCS Leadership Conference will be held in Austin, Texas, Nov. 4–6, 2018. For more information about the QCS Leadership Conference, please visit www.qcsleadershipconference.com.

About QCS Purchasing, LLC

QCS Purchasing, LLC, is a member-owned, not-for-profit supply-chain solutions provider for the food and beverage industry. More than 150 national supplier-partners provide solutions in a wide variety of categories. By aggregating purchases of common supplies, QCS Purchasing provides members with access to high-quality goods and services at the lowest possible total cost. QCS Purchasing has nearly 500 member companies, and, since 2005, the number of purchases QCS Purchasing manages has continually increased year over year.

About Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc.

Quality Chekd works on behalf of dairy processors by providing them with services to improve business success, and providing consumers with safe, delicious dairy products. Food safety is first, and Quality Chekd has established quality assurance (QA) measures and evaluations, laboratory resources, and employee training and planning that include and surpass government regulations. Quality Chekd members have access to human resources tools, marketing trends and information, and purchasing opportunities to help them maintain costs. All of these services are part of the Quality Chekd trademark, which signifies product excellence. For more information about the Quality Chekd organization or membership, please visit www.qchekd.com.

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