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SGMP to Hold 2020 National Education Conference & Expo in St. Louis

ALEXANDRIA, VA—March 25, 2019—The Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) announced today that its 38th National Education Conference (NEC) will take place in St. Louis, Missouri. The event will be held May 19-21, 2020, at the Cervantes Convention Center at America’s Center. The Marriott St. Louis Grand has been named the conference hotel. The 2020 NEC will bring together members from all over the country for industry-leading educational sessions and networking.

“The SGMP National Board is looking forward to bringing the NEC to St. Louis,” said SGMP President Michelle Milligan, CGMP. “We are pleased to be working with the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission (Explore St. Louis) who is helping us arrange the logistics for our annual meeting. We look forward to a fabulous meeting in a fun, energetic venue, and enjoying the city’s warm Midwestern hospitality.” SGMP meeting planning members reported more than \$1.2 billion in buying power for planning and holding government meetings in 2018.

The Society’s goal is to prepare new and seasoned government meeting professionals with best practices and connections they need to succeed in the field. This need was highlighted recently as meeting professionals have been handling the challenges brought on by the recent partial federal government shutdown. Risk management, such as responding to government shutdowns, natural disasters, and medical emergencies, is one of the nine core competencies that will be addressed at the conference.

Other core competencies related to government meetings include the following: education/programming, facilities and services, logistics, financial and contract management, technology, leadership, ethics, protocol, and federal, state and local travel. Attendees will earn at least eight education contact hours that include multiple blocks of specific training toward their Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) certification.

The Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) three-day course will be offered as a special pre-conference program. The CGMP course teaches recognized industry practices and includes specific and thorough instruction in ethics, federal budget and appropriations, acquisition and contracting, federal travel rules and regulations, RFPs, risk management and protocol. Once earned, the CGMP is the highest designation available that is specifically for government meeting professionals, and it is frequently required by government agencies.

The 2019 NEC will be held in Detroit, Michigan June 25-27, 2019. Those who plan or provide services for local, state or federal government meetings are invited to attend the conference. Visit SGMP.org to learn more.

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The Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) was founded in 1981 and is the only national organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to individuals who plan and execute government meetings. We deliver our membership value of education, resources and networking to 2,000 plus members in 21 chapters across the country. Our mission is to enhance and promote the expertise of government meeting professionals. For more information, please visit www.sgmp.org.