

PEAK OFFERED A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MPC NETWORK TO CONNECT

PEAK 2023 featured nearly 2,800 participants from 35 states and 16 international countries. The show was rebranded after 51 years of being known as the Midwest Poultry Federation (MPF) Convention.

It has always been a great time for those within MPC's network to reconnect. In addition to attending the MPC Annual meeting, there were several other ways current and past COE grads, sponsors, and COE faculty were able to reconnect during PEAK.

This year, "COE" stickers were available for current and past grads, as well as others who feel connected to the courses, to add to their PEAK badges. With the COE program entering its 28th year, the network of past COE students is wide. The stickers allowed people to make connections and share their involvement with the program.

MPC encourages current and prospective COE students to attend the convention's Careers Program. This year, students from Purdue's Poultry Club attended the Careers Program, including Anne Troyer (COE 2021) and Oliva McGuire (COE 2023). Michelle Stangler (2022) also attended. Blake Van Denburgh (COE 2005/2006) moderated a panel of industry professionals. After the panel, students headed to the show floor with industry ambassadors to learn about companies and careers in the industry. Asha Scheideler (COE 2021/2020) served as an ambassador.

Wednesday evening COE graduates were encouraged to meet at the Hilton Minneapolis bar before heading to the PEAK receptions. The 'meet & greet' was attended by past COE students spanning the 1996 through 2020 classes, as well as current and past COE faculty members.

On the final day of PEAK, team 'COE Rules the Roost' competed in Family Feud. The team was captained by Zachary Simons (COE 2016/2017) and included Michaela Olson (COE 2015/2016), Eliza Ripplinger (COE 2016/2017), Danni Drees (COE 2016/2017), and Chelsea Russell.

Several past graduates were on staff at their company's booth at PEAK and three past COE students were featured in the Ted Talks, including Gabrielle House (COE 2017) speaking on "The Use of Dynamic Lighting Systems for the Optimization of Cage-Free System Use in Commercial Laying Hens," Andrea Mendoza (COE 2020) speaking on "Assessment of Steam in VSD+ Procedure for Mass Depopulation in a Cage-Free Environment," and Eliza Ripplinger (COE 2016/2017) speaking on "Health Effects of Feeding a Dried Egg Product in Layers."



Past and upcoming COE students at the career event.



(L to R): Darrin Karcher (COE 200/2001); Brian Joyer (COE 199/2000); Carrie McFarland (COE 1996); Lou Arrington; Peter Sonstegard (COE 2003/2004); Logan Hulst (COE 2015/2016); Taylin Flom (COE 2018); Zachary Simons (2016/2017); Abby Scott (COE 2017); Ron Kean; Dannielle Drees (COE 2016/2017); Jordyn Samper (COE 2019/2020); Emily Buehler (2017/2018); Greg Fraley.



(L to R): Kelsey Held (COE 2016/2017); Ron Kean; Ken Koelkebeck; Crystal Ganz (COE 2011/2012); Zachary Simons (COE 2016/2017); Candace Pomeroy (COE 2012/2013); Chelsea Russell; Jeremy Lies (COE 2001/2002); Katy Hermansen (COE 2019/2020).



Team 'COE Rules the Roost' after their Family Feud win.