



## Vanessa Cotton Memorial Scholarship Supports Emerging Professionals

Collaborative Funding From MPI, RTE, ExCel Provides for European Students

12 September 2011 – Dallas, TX and London, UK – Meeting Professionals International ([MPI](#)) announces a scholarship for European students, created in honour of UK event industry veteran Vanessa Cotton, who passed away in June 2010. The funds will enhance the opportunities presented to those beginning their careers in the meetings and events industry, while creating a lasting legacy for the respected industry leader.

“We are delighted to be involved with the Vanessa Cotton Memorial Student Award,” said James Reed, Director of Conferences & Events, ExCel London. “Vanessa was extremely passionate about the events industry and encouraging new talent. This is a very fitting legacy and one that we are proud to support.”

“Vanessa contributed immensely to the event industry” said Graeme Barnett, Exhibition Director, EIBTM. “One of the projects she spearheaded was our future engagement with Generation Y so this scholarship is a fitting tribute in her name.”

The scholarship will be available to MPI member and non-member students and will sponsor registration, accommodations and travel for at least one student to experience the professional development and networking at the European Meetings & Events Conference ([EMEC](#)). Each collaborator in the scholarship, which includes ExCel London, Reed Travel Expo and the MPI UK & Ireland Chapter, will commit €350 for the next five years, with plans to increase fundraising and send more students to EMEC.

“This award will recognize the importance of nurturing future talent within the event sector,” said Fiona Pelham, past president of the MPI UK & Ireland Chapter. “The European Meetings & Events Conference is a fantastic way to build a network, receive key industry education and it is great that this award will enable a student to have this influential experience.”

The Vanessa Cotton Memorial Scholarship opens on 12 September 2011, and students can find information on criteria and the application process on the [MPI UK & Ireland](#) website. The winner will be announced at the MPI stand during EIBTM in December.

Individuals or organisations interested in supporting this scholarship should contact Sue Potton at [sue\\_potton@me.com](mailto:sue_potton@me.com) and the chapter secretariat at [secretariat@mpiuk.org](mailto:secretariat@mpiuk.org).

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