

POMS College of Sustainable Operations Mini-Conference 2024

April 25th (Thursday) 2024, Minneapolis MN

The College of Sustainable Operations is excited to be hosting the mini-conference at POMS 2024 on April 25th! The mini-conference will be a great place to facilitate discussion on various topics in sustainable operations, exchange thoughts, foster research ideas and collaborations to advance our field, and build a closer community together!

Please see below for the detailed schedule.

12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 1:15pm	Welcome Remarks: <i>POMS College of Sustainable Operations Board</i>
1:15pm – 2:00pm	Research Showcase: <i>Presentations from the CSO Student Paper Competition Finalists</i>
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Presentation: The Backhaul Project: Farm to Rural Grocery to Wholesale <i>Dr. Kathryn J Draeger (University of Minnesota, Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships)</i>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Networking Break
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Presentations: Circular Economy: Challenges and Opportunities <i>Paul Gardner (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Recycling Association of Minnesota)</i> <i>James Schuld (Medtronic)</i> <i>Courtney Panther (Sleep Number)</i>

4:30pm – 5:00pm	Networking Break
5:00pm – 5:40pm	<p>From the Editors:</p> <p>Conversations with DEs from the POMS Sustainable Operations Department</p> <p><i>Professor Yanchong (Karen) Zheng (MIT Sloan School of Management)</i></p> <p><i>Professor Nicholas C Petruzzi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)</i></p>
5:40pm – 5:50pm	Concluding Remarks
6:00pm	POMS Joint Mini-Conference Reception

Below are some logistic details:

- **Registration/Check-in:** The POMS registration counter for the mini-conference will open at 8:30am on April 25th (Thursday).
- **Lunch:** Lunch will be provided for all registered participants from 12:00pm – 1:00pm at the Northstar Ballroom in the conference hotel (Hyatt Regency Minneapolis).
- **Mini-conference:** The main event will take place in Greenway B-C,H-I.
- **Reception:** The joint mini-conference reception will take place from 6:00 pm – 7:30pm at the Great Lakes Ballroom.

Thank you all for joining and see you soon!

Sincerely,

The POMS College of Sustainable Operations Board
 President: Suvrat Dhanorkar (Pennsylvania State University)
 President-Elect: Michael Lim (Seoul National University)
 Past President: Basak Kalkanci (Georgia Institute of Technology)
 VP - Outreach and Awards: Safak Yucel (Georgetown University)
 VP - Meetings: Natalie Huang (University of Minnesota)
 Secretary/Treasurer: Nur Sunar (UNC at Chapel Hill)
 Online Editor: Wayne Fu (University of Michigan-Dearborn)

External Speakers:



Dr. Kathryn J Draeger

Kathryn Draeger is Statewide Director for the U of M Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships and adjunct professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics. She oversees statewide programming in sustainable development, including clean energy and sustainable ag and food systems. Dr. Draeger is currently principle investigator on USDA-AFRI-NIFA grant to develop innovative supply chains for locally produced food as well as other sustainable ag related efforts. She has been a Bush Leadership Fellowship and a MacArthur Scholar. She served as an Environmental Protection Commissioner in Iowa and was appointed to the Governor's Roundtable for Sustainable Development in Minnesota. Before joining the U she founded two successful corporations Sustainability International, Inc. and Environmental Ground, Inc. In 2007, Kathy and her family moved to rural Big Stone County MN to live and farm sustainably. Kathy holds a doctorate in water resources and master's in Soil Science from the University of Minnesota.

Paul Gardner is the Chair of the Recycling Association of Minnesota and Administrator of the Minnesota Clean Water Council. He has two decades of experience at different roles in recycling both in Minnesota and nationally. Gardner was a state legislator in Minnesota from 2007 and 2010, and headed up a nonprofit working with a large consumer brand from 2011 to 2015 that advocated for extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging in the United States.



Paul Gardner



Jim Schuld

Jim Schuld is a seasoned supply chain and operations executive with over 21 years of experience in the medical device industry. Currently, he holds the position of Director – Technology & Innovation Strategy at Medtronic, where he is responsible for developing and implementing the company's global supply management innovation strategy. Throughout his career at Medtronic, Mr. Schuld has consistently demonstrated leadership in driving operational excellence, product innovation, and sustainability. Notably, he led teams to achieve a prestigious Global Medtronic Sustainability Award in 2020 for their work in implementing circular and reverse supply chains. He is a recipient of multiple Medtronic Star of Excellence awards, recognizing his contributions to the company's success.

For Courtney Panther, it's always about the people, and it's this approach that allowed her to impact organizational change, specifically in terms of sustainability, at Sleep Number. With a background in people leadership and a degree in chemical engineering, Courtney joined the Sleep Number team as the Senior Production Manager, a role which involved starting and managing the company's DFW Assembly and Distribution Center. In April 2023, her role changed to become the Material Recovery Manager, a new position designed to recover returned products so they can be properly refurbished and used to satisfy warranty claims.

"This has been uncharted territory for Sleep Number," says Matt Firtko, Director of Warehouse and Material Recovery Optimization. "This initiative drives towards the goal of improving material circularity and pioneering sustainability. Due to her strong leadership skills, she has been able to drive cross functional organizational change at a level that is very uncommon at Sleep Number. Courtney is leading the way in extending the useful life of Sleep Number's products while also increasing gross margins. "



Courtney Panther