



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Impressive Turnout Puts WEFTEC 2016 in the Top Five** *More than 20,000 attend 89<sup>th</sup> annual conference and exhibition*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – An impressive turnout of 20,113 registrants and 1,006 exhibitors using 301,900 net square feet of space puts WEFTEC 2016 within the top five largest and best-attended events in the conference's 89-year history. The Water Environment Federation's (WEF) 89<sup>th</sup> annual technical exhibition and conference was held Sept. 24-28 at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, La.

WEFTEC has long been the springboard for new and innovative products, ideas, and initiatives, and WEFTEC 2016 was no exception. Highlights included the installation of green infrastructure on the grounds of New Orleans City Hall during the ninth annual Community Service Project; exciting discussions and knowledge exchange during the Great Water Cities session, Women in Water breakfast, as well as countless workshops, technical sessions, and networking events; the fifth annual Innovation Showcase, which included the return of the popular Sustainable Beer Smackdown, the Operator Ingenuity Contest, and the unveiling of the Water Reuse Roadmap Primer; the recognition of sixty-one Utility of the Future Today recipients for exceptional performance in sustainable water management and operations; and much more.

"The success of this year's conference reflects WEFTEC's decades-long tradition of innovation, education, and dedication," said WEF Executive Director Eileen O'Neill. "From programming to attendance, WEFTEC 2016 was another outstanding chapter in WEFTEC's history."

The world's largest annual water quality conference was also the launch pad for the ongoing [#mywaterlegacy social media campaign](#), designed to highlight and promote the tradition of working in the water sector, the importance of mentorship and membership and the essential work of water professionals. "Those of us who have made water our chosen profession have also chosen to work together to create a solid foundation for the future — a future that's built on clean and safe water," 2015-16 WEF President Paul Bowen said as he introduced the campaign during the well-attended Opening General Session. "As water professionals, we are uniquely positioned to make a positive, lasting impact on this magnificent world we share. It's something to be inspired by and immensely proud of."

Planning for next year's event in Chicago, which will commemorate WEFTEC's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is already underway. More than 850 companies have reserved nearly 300,000 net square feet of space at McCormick Place and the [2017 Call for Abstracts](#) will open on **Friday, October 21**. Submissions will be accepted through **December 1, 2016**.

For more information about the WEFTEC 2017 Call for Abstracts, please contact [speakers@wef.org](mailto:speakers@wef.org). For more information about exhibition and sponsorship opportunities,

please contact [weftecsales@wef.org](mailto:weftecsales@wef.org).

WEFTEC 2017 will be held Sept. 30–Oct. 4 at McCormick Place in Chicago, Ill. Registration and housing will open in spring 2017. For more details, visit [www.weftec.org](http://www.weftec.org).

For WEFTEC 2016 highlights and coverage please see the online editions of the [\*WEFTEC Daily\*](#).

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### **About WEF**

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 33,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org).