By sharing our research through paper presentations and integrating practitioner perspectives throughout the conference program, we fulfill the POMS fundamental purposes:

- to extend and integrate knowledge that contributes to the improved understanding and practice of production and operations management (POM);
- to disseminate information on POM to managers, scientists, educators, students, public and private organizations, national and local governments, and the general public; and
- to promote the improvement of POM and its teaching in public and private manufacturing and service organizations throughout the world.

Clearly, the success of the 2013 Denver conference relies on the support of POMS current and new members and the hard work of the Program Chair and Track Chairs for inviting current POMS members and new members to attend this exciting conference. However, this conference is made possible by the tireless effort of the organizing committee members to whom I would like to express my gratitude.

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Once again, welcome to the 24th Annual Conference of the Production and Operations Management Society. I look forward to meeting you at the conference, and I hope you will have a wonderful time in the city of Denver.

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