

## Desirée A. Knight, CAE, CMP



Desirée Knight brings nearly 30 years of professional knowledge and experience developing business events, marketing and branding strategies for association and private sector organizations. She currently serves as the director of education and meetings for the American Railway Engineering Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA). In this role, she is responsible for executing a portfolio of events which includes the AREMA Annual Conference and Expo of 3500 and the biennial co-located Railway Interchange of 9000 attendees. She also oversees development and execution of several seminars, webinars and other various educational opportunities for association members.

Desirée is an active member of professional associations and is a current board member of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) and a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), the League of Railway Women (LRW) and the International Association of Exhibition and Events (IAEE). Additionally, she serves on several industry customer advisory boards. In 2018, she completed the ASAE accelerated leadership program and is a Diversity Executive Leadership Scholar. Desirée has been recognized multiple times for industry contributions. She was named Event Industry Council, Pacesetter, in 2019 and a 2017 and 2019 Meetings Today Magazine, Meeting Trendsetter. In 2017, she was named PCMA Visionary Award, Meeting Professional of the Year Finalist and was a SPIN 40 over 40 honoree. She was the recipient of the Meet Minneapolis, Excellence in Meetings, as well as receiving the Mobile Web Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mobile Development by the Web Marketing Association in 2016.

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Desirée completed an associate degree from West Los Angeles College. Her professional credentials include the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) and Certified Association Executive (CAE) designations. She's currently completing a bachelor's degree from University Maryland University College.