



**Michele Bennett, CEM**  
**SPIE – The International Society for Optics and Photonics**  
**Senior Exhibitions Manager**

I had no idea that the part-time summer job I took stuffing mailing envelopes for this little engineering society up on the hill would turn into a nearly 30-year career in exhibitions! Starting out on 10-company tabletop shows that were crammed into a hallway of a hotel, to now leading a team to manage our flagship Photonics West exhibition is a dream come true. Along the way I have had the great opportunity to work with amazing industry professionals who mentored and taught me the value of developing long-term partnerships to create incredible results.

[micheleb@spie.org](mailto:micheleb@spie.org)