**Melissa is the Managing Director | Informa Connect Meetings & Catersource Group the producer of this show.**

**Melissa went steadfastly into Leadership Mode demonstrating the traits of a GREAT LEADER. First, she demonstrated that GREAT LEADERS have the uncanny ability of being open and transparent and, therefore, not letting rumors spread. Melissa explained to me that no one was taking the other over. She calmly expressed that as the catering and event industries evolve and increasingly intersect, they recognized the need for a single source of inspiration and expertise. She stated their goal was and continues to be to bring more business value to all us.**

**Secondly GREAT LEADERS are individuals who do the right thing even when it’s unpopular or extremely tough to do. This co-located experience was just that. Melissa and the team knew this would be unpopular, but they also knew that by creating a powerhouse event for catering and event professionals and suppliers, a one-stop for education, exhibits, networking and innovation we would all benefit.**

**And lastly, Melissa demonstrated that GREAT LEADERS cannot operate in a vacuum; they need and value the feedback from constituents.  Melissa and others did just this; they listened took our feedback and still are taking our feedback so that our industry will have one sensory stimulating environment  that truly does better serve us all and help us stay ahead of trends as one community in one place.**

**For her overwhelming demonstration of being a GREAT LEADER during the very difficult time of combining these market leading events into one experience, please help me in honoring Melissa Fromento with the 2020 Steve Kemble Leadership Award.**