

IMPACT!

□ APRIL 2, 2026

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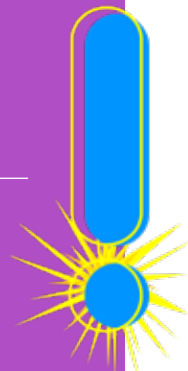


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IMPACT!

MEET THE WLC EMCEE ASHLEY KOHL BASSETT

Born and raised in South Hadley, Ashley Kohl Bassett is a graduate of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School and has dedicated the majority of her life to the art of dance. Her professional journey includes two years of intensive dance study in New York City, during which she also served as a character performer for Disney at their flagship World of Disney store.

Ashley's six-year tenure as the co-host and associate producer of WWLP-22News' weekday lifestyle program, *Mass Appeal*, provided a pivotal platform for her to discover her true purpose: bringing joy to people of all ages and abilities through dance. Today, she brings that mission to life as the Owner and Creative Director of Ohana School of Performing Arts and the owner of Ohana Clubhouse, both located in Chicopee, MA.

A recognized leader in her community, Ashley was named one of *Western Mass Women's Magazine's* "Top 25 Women to Watch" and "Top Woman in Television" in 2012. She was also honored as one of *Business West's* "40 Under 40" in 2018 and was most recently named "Citizen of the Year" by the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce in 2023.

Her commitment to service led her to found One Ohana, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting local dancers and fostering their passion for the arts. Above all, Ashley finds her greatest happiness with her husband, Wade, and her two teenagers, Summer and Brody.

**ASHLEY'S
ULTIMATE
GOAL
REMAINS
CONSTANT:**
To make a
positive impact
and contribute
to the happiness
of others.



WELCOME!

Welcome to the 29th Annual Women's Leadership Conference!

Your presence here reflects a meaningful commitment to your own leadership and to the organizations and communities you serve. We know what it takes to step away and invest this kind of time, and we've designed this day with that in mind - bringing together perspectives, ideas, and connections that will challenge your thinking, strengthen your approach, and support the work you lead every day.

Our 2026 theme, **IMPACT**, challenges us to think differently about the role we play in our professional lives and in the lives of those around us. It's not just about what we aspire to do, but about the many ways we already contribute, influence, and lead. Today is an opportunity to step back, assess where you are making an impact, and identify where you can drive it further.

We are thrilled to welcome Gayle King as our featured keynote speaker. Over the course of a remarkable career, Gayle has built a reputation for asking the questions that matter and navigating complex, high-stakes conversations with clarity, credibility, and authenticity. Many in our region may remember her from her years in Hartford, just down the road, making her presence here today all the more meaningful. From those early days to her role as co-host of *CBS Mornings*, she has remained a trusted and influential voice in journalism. Her perspective on career longevity, leadership, and the evolving media landscape will be a defining moment of the day.

We are also excited to welcome Juliet Funt, who will open the morning by challenging how we think about productivity and performance, cutting through the constant noise of modern work with a clear, disciplined approach that helps



Karen Woods

KAREN WOODS
AVP, Brand Strategy,
Marketing and Communications
Bay Path University
WLC Event Co-Chair

leaders reclaim their time, refocus their energy, and prioritize what truly drives results. At midday, Michelle Poler will take the stage with her dynamic, high-energy style, sharing a bold and deeply personal perspective on facing fear head-on and equipping you to break out of your comfort zone, take meaningful risks, and step into new levels of growth and possibility.

This conference would not be possible without the strong support of our 55 sponsors. A special acknowledgement to our Impact level sponsors, Aramark and Zasco Productions, and our Platinum sponsors, PeoplesBank, ISO New England, and The Republican, for their partnership and leadership. We also want to recognize PeoplesBank for sponsoring the Networking Lounge and serving as our Non-Profit Spotlight Sponsor, and MassMutual, a Silver Sponsor, for bringing more than 300 attendees to this year's conference!

We also extend our appreciation to the teams behind the scenes who make this day possible, and to President Sandra Doran and the Bay Path University leadership team for their continued support and vision.

As you move through the day, we encourage you to be intentional - engage in conversations, challenge your thinking, and build connections that extend beyond today. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn from one another and to strengthen the relationships that drive your work forward. Be sure to visit our exhibitors, vendors, and small business partners, whose innovation and entrepreneurial spirit are an important part of this experience.

Thank you for being here and for the leadership you bring to your organizations and communities.

Together, let's make an IMPACT!



Melissa Welch

MELISSA WELCH '06 G'11
Senior Director of Creative
Marketing Services
Bay Path University
WLC Event Co-Chair



CONFERENCE AGENDA

- ▶ **7:30 AM**
Registration, Networking, and Continental Breakfast
Upper & Lower Level Foyers

▶ **8:30 AM**
Welcome and Introduction
Exhibition Hall, Lower Level

▶ **8:45 AM**
Morning Keynote Address
Juliet Funt, Fortune 500 Advisor, Author, Founder & CEO of Juliet Funt Group

▶ **9:45 AM**
Break – Shop - Network

MassMutual attendees! Please head to the main stage for a group photo

▶ **10:15 AM**
Morning Breakout Sessions

▶ **11:15 AM**
Break – Shop - Network

▶ **11:45 AM**
Lunch
21st Century Women Business Leaders Hall of Fame Induction
- ▶ **12:15 PM**
Luncheon Keynote Address
Michelle Poler, Entrepreneur, Brand Strategist, Author, Founder of Hello Fears

▶ **1:15 PM**
Break – Shop - Network
Bay Path and Cambridge College Alumni! Please head to the main stage for a group photo

▶ **1:45 PM**
Afternoon Breakout Sessions

▶ **2:45 PM**
Break – Shop - Network

▶ **3:00 PM**
President's Address
Bay Path University President Sandra J. Doran, J.D.

▶ **3:15 PM**
Afternoon Keynote Address

Gayle King, Co-Host, *CBS MORNINGS*, Editor at Large, *Oprah Daily*

▶ **4:15 PM**
Closing Remarks

GENERAL INFORMATION



CELL PHONE USE
Please be respectful of speakers and other attendees and remember to silence your cell phones during keynote and breakout sessions.



PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR NAME BADGES
in the designated boxes as you leave.



SEATING
Your table is listed on your name badge, or you may check with the volunteers in the ballroom.



LOST AND FOUND
Lost and Found will be located at the information desk on the lower level. After the conference, you will need to call the MassMutual Center for items.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS
The breakout sessions you selected are listed on your name badge.



NURSING MOTHERS
Meeting Room 5 will be available for nursing mothers.



LUNCH
Lunch options include the following sandwiches and side salads:

- Smoked turkey breast with dill havarti, dijonnaise, baby arugula and confit tomato on ciabatta
- Black forest ham with seasonal jam, red dragon, rocket greens and roasted onions on a brioche roll
- Eggplant ragu with olives, onions, sundried tomato, basil and roasted garlic on focaccia
- Wedge salad with a gourmet tomato blend, blue cheese dressing and a balsamic reduction with a side of smoked bacon
- Tricolor tortellini with aged provolone, cured olives in a creamy italian dressing



RESTROOMS
Men's restrooms are located in Exhibition Hall A, located to your left as you exit from the room, and on the lower level meeting room pre-function space (foyer). Please see a volunteer for additional help if needed.



MEDIA WILL BE ATTENDING
Please be advised your name or image MAY appear in print, radio, television, social media or web coverage.



ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES
Assisted listening devices are available at the information desk on the lower level.

If you have questions about allergens or dietary restrictions, please speak to your MassMutual server.

A NOTE FROM BAY PATH UNIVERSITY

SANDRA J. DORAN, J.D.
PRESIDENT, BAY PATH UNIVERSITY



GREETINGS!

It is a joy to welcome you to Bay Path University's 29th Annual Women's Leadership Conference. Each year, we thoughtfully bring this day to life with a singular purpose: to convene our business community in a way that inspires, challenges, and strengthens one another. This year, we gather around a powerful and timely theme: **IMPACT**.

WLC: Impact is both an invitation and a call to action. It asks you to recognize the influence you already hold, and to use it with intention. Today's conference experience is designed with that goal in mind. Throughout today, we hope you shift from asking, "Can I make a difference?" to confidently knowing, "I already am," and to consider how you can extend that impact even further.

You will hear candid stories and gain practical, actionable strategies from leaders across industries. You will engage in breakout sessions that challenge your thinking and expand your perspective. And you will connect with organizations and businesses that reflect the innovation and vibrancy of our region. Each element of the day is intended to help you translate insight into action.

Whether you are early in your career or leading at the highest levels, impact is not defined

by title; it is defined by how you show up, how you make decisions, and how you create momentum for others. This conference is an opportunity to sharpen that impact within your organization, across your industry, and in the communities you serve. In 2026, we challenge you to be intentional about the role you play in advancing your work and your world.

The Women's Leadership Conference reflects Bay Path University's commitment to career-focused learning and to developing leaders who drive meaningful change. There is a distinct energy within this Western, MA community, one grounded in purpose, execution, and the belief that leadership carries both responsibility and opportunity. We are proud to bring together individuals who do not wait for influence but act on it.

Thank you for being part of this day and for the leadership you bring to your organizations and communities. Your impact matters - now more than ever.

In the spirit that guides this great conference and Bay Path University,

Carpe Diem!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra J. Doran".

IMPACT! YOUR FUTURE

WITH GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT BAY PATH UNIVERSITY

Bay Path University's flexible graduate programs, from certificates to doctorates, are designed for working professionals to build in-demand skills, boost earning potential, and accelerate career growth. With strong support and recognized excellence across fields like business, education, and healthcare, Bay Path helps turn ambition into meaningful impact.

DEGREES OFFERED IN:

- Accounting
- Administrator in Special Education
- Applied Behavior Analysis (MS/Phd)
- Business Administration (MBA)
- Applied Data Science
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Cybersecurity
- Developmental Psychology
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Early Childhood Education
- Educational Leadership Doctorate (EdD)
- Elementary Education
- English as a Second Language
- Genetic Counseling
- Health Science Doctorate (DHSc)
- Healthcare Administration
- Nursing (MSN)
- Nursing: Direct Entry (MSN)
- Occupational Therapy (MOT)
- Occupational Therapy Bridge Program (MOT)
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)
- Occupational Therapy Hybrid Program (MOT)
- Organizational Leadership & Negotiation
- Physician Assistant Studies
- Public Health
- Reading & Literacy Instruction
- Special Education



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Member FDIC

MORNING KEYNOTE



JULIET FUNT
Fortune 500 Advisor
Author
Founder & CEO of Juliet Funt Group

A regular feature in top global media outlets, including Forbes and Fast Company, Juliet Funt is a renowned keynote speaker and tough-love advisor to the Fortune 500.

As the founder and CEO of the Juliet Funt Group, she is an evangelist for freeing the potential of companies by unburdening their talent from busywork.

Juliet's warm, relatable manner and actionable content earned her one of the highest ratings at the largest speaking event in the world, and she has worked with Spotify, National Geographic, Anthem, Vans, Abbott, Costco, Pepsi, Nike, Wells Fargo, Sephora, Sysco, and ESPN. More information and numerous resources are available at JulietFunt.com.



 jfgcanhelp.com
 [julietfunt](https://www.linkedin.com/company/julietfunt)

THE TWENTY-FIRST
CENTURY WOMEN
BUSINESS LEADERS

HALL
OF
FAME

The Twenty-First Century Women Business Leaders Hall of Fame at Bay Path University was originally conceived as a way to encourage and motivate students, especially those in the business curriculum, by profiling inspiring businesswomen in a virtual Hall of Fame.

The criteria for nomination to this virtual Hall of Fame were developed through a class project in spring 2004. Bay Path business students reached out via email to senior female executives at Fortune 500 companies, asking for their perspectives on what defines a great leader. After analyzing the responses, seven key characteristics consistently emerged. These qualities, listed below, now serve as the foundation for nominations to Bay Path's Twenty-First Century Women Business Leaders Hall of Fame.

► **NOMINEES**
for Bay Path's Twenty-First Century Women Business Leaders Hall of Fame will possess the following characteristics:

Takes risks &
**assumes
responsibility**

Serves as a
**mentor
to others**

Possesses an
**innovative and
entrepreneurial spirit**

Maintains an
optimistic attitude
that creates a positive workplace

Incorporates
integrity, accountability,
and a strong sense of business ethics
in her day-to-day management style

Adheres to a
**collaborative management
style that fosters teamwork**
as well as individual excellence

Values education
**as a way to learn
new ideas,**
improve communication
and remain curious and open-minded

WBLHOF NOMINEE

► **SUZANNE PARKER**
Executive Director
Girls Inc. of the Valley

Since 2006, Suzanne has led Girls Inc. of the Valley with a clear and powerful mission:
inspiring girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Under her guidance, the organization has grown its reach across Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, and neighboring communities, delivering life-changing programs that help girls discover their potential.

A Western Massachusetts native, Suzanne began her career in music education before earning her law degree and dedicating more than 35 years to strengthening the region she calls home.

Her leadership has extended to both local and national boards, including the Board of Trustees at Holyoke Community College and the National Board of Girls Inc.

One of Suzanne's proudest achievements is steering Girls Inc. of the Valley through a major campaign to secure a permanent home for its work. This month, the organization celebrates the opening of its new headquarters—a beautifully restored, 150-year-old building in Holyoke that will serve generations of girls to come.

Suzanne credits this milestone to her remarkable team of staff and volunteers, who embody the spirit of "Ready or Not, Here They Come!"



**INSPIRING GIRLS TO
BE STRONG, SMART,
AND BOLD.**

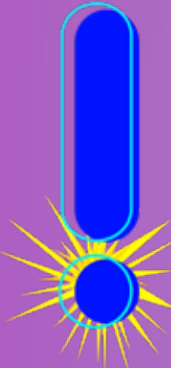
Congratulations to Bay Path University
on another amazing
Women’s Leadership Conference!



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Proud WLC production provider
for the last 20 years!

LUNCHEON
KEYNOTE



MICHELLE POLER
Entrepreneur
Brand Strategist
Author
Founder of Hello Fears

Michelle Poler is a Latina entrepreneur, brand strategist, author, and professional keynote speaker. She is the creator of the project 100 Days Without Fear, and founder of Hello Fears, a movement that has reached over 70 million people worldwide.

Today, her work as an author, digital educator, and social influencer continues to amplify her impact, helping audiences turn fears into opportunities, comfort into growth, and ultimately go from being “one more” to becoming “one of a kind.”

Michelle’s best-selling books have been translated into seven languages, and distributed in four continents:
1) *Hello, Fears: Crush Your Comfort Zone and Become Who You’re Meant to Be*
2) *The Hello, Fears Challenge: A 100-Day Journal for Self-Discovery*

She has been invited to speak at The Global Leadership Summit, Google, P&G, ESPN, TEDx, Netflix, Microsoft, and Meta, among many others. Her work has been featured in: *The TODAY Show*, *Forbes*, CBS, CNN, BuzzFeed, Mashable, and Huffington Post, to name a few.

Michelle holds a master’s degree in branding from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and early in her career, she worked as an art director for brands including Hershey’s, Wendy’s, AT&T, and Revlon.

When Michelle is not flying, speaking, or indulging in culinary experiences around the world, you’ll find her drinking matcha at home in Miami, and living fully with her husband, Adam, and their son, Noah.



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 HelloFears
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TOGETHER WE THRIVE

FOR OVER 85 YEARS
ARAMARK
HAS BEEN ROOTED IN SERVICE
DOING GREAT THINGS FOR
**OUR PEOPLE
OUR PARTNERS
OUR COMMUNITIES
AND OUR PLANET**

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WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



AFTERNOON KEYNOTE



GAYLE KING
Co-Host
CBS MORNINGS
Editor at Large
Oprah Daily

Gayle King is co-host of *CBS Mornings*. An accomplished television journalist, Gayle King interviews top newsmakers and delivers original reporting to *CBS Mornings* and all CBS News broadcasts and platforms. She is also editor-at-large of *Oprah Daily*, hosts a live, weekly radio show titled *Gayle King in the House* on SiriusXM, and recently co-hosted CNN's *King Charles* alongside NBA legend, Charles Barkley.

King is known for her ability to handle complex and sensitive topics with directness and grace. Since joining CBS News in 2011, she has interviewed world leaders, political figures, and cultural icons, including Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Bruce Springsteen, Dave Chappelle, Billie Eilish, and Elon Musk. Her work exploring social issues, politics, pop culture, history, and race has earned her three Emmy Awards, a place in the *Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame* (2018) and a spot on *TIME* magazine's list of the 100 most influential people (2019). Other honors include the Variety Power of Women Award (2017) and the Matrix Award from New York Women in Communications (2010).

Earlier in her career, King hosted *The Gayle King Show* on OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) and spent 18 years as a news anchor at WFSB-TV in Hartford, following reporting roles in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Kansas City.

Throughout a career spanning five decades, Gayle King has demonstrated the impact of asking important questions, trusting one's talents, and bringing the full force of your authentic self to your work, your family, and your friendships. She lives in New York City and is the mother of two adult children.



GayleKing

GayleKing



Women Empowering Women

We are powered by a workforce of about 700 employees with diverse personal and professional backgrounds, and united by our shared values of expertise, respect, dependability, innovation, and collaboration.

Together we are solving the power grid's greatest challenges to ensure reliability through an ever-changing energy landscape.



“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.”

- Sheryl Sandberg,
Tech executive, writer
and philanthropist



The Republican.

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Proudly supporting Bay Path University and the 2026 Women's Leadership Conference.



Empowering women.
Elevating leadership.
Creating impact.

At Voya, we believe leadership thrives when women are empowered and inclusion is intentional. Guided by our purpose — *Together we fight for everyone's opportunity for a better financial future* — we invest in women, champion diverse voices, and support organizations that enrich the lives of us all. That's why we're proud to support the Bay Path Women's Leadership Conference.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS



BREAKOUT SESSION A

Help Them Thrive
The Science and Soul of Human-Centered Leadership with Melissa Majors

Location: Lower Level Meeting Room 3-4



BREAKOUT SESSION B

Focus-Forward Leadership
Cut Through the Distraction and Move Forward with Purpose with Sheree Cain-Jones

Location: Lower Level Meeting Room 1-2



BREAKOUT SESSION C

Burn Bright Not Out
The Blueprint for Leaders and Teams to be Unstoppable with Erin Stafford

Location: Upper Level Ballroom A



BREAKOUT SESSION D

AI as the New Chief of Staff
How Leaders Reclaim Time, Focus, and Power in an AI-Driven World with Tamilla Triantoro

Location: Upper Level Ballroom B

BREAKOUT SESSION A

► **HELP THEM THRIVE**
*The Science and Soul of
Human-Centered Leadership*

Imagine a workplace where people don't just survive—they thrive. Where conversations are filled with curiosity instead of conflict. Where feedback fuels growth instead of fear. Where trust runs deep, and success is shared.

That's not a fantasy. It's a choice. And it starts with how we lead ourselves and each other.

In this transformational session, Melissa Majors blends behavioral science, relatable storytelling, and real-world strategies to show you how to unlock your own potential and elevate the people around you. Whether you're a team leader, team member, or simply navigating the complex demands of life and work, this session will help you prioritize what matters most: meaningful relationships, mental well-being, and human-centered performance.

Grounded in insights from her acclaimed book, *Help Them Thrive*®, Melissa shares practical tools to tackle the real challenges of modern work—burnout, disconnection, groupthink, divisive dynamics, and more—through tactical empathy and smart, brain-friendly strategies.

This isn't about becoming someone you're not. It's about becoming more of who you are—a leader of impact, influence, and integrity.



IMPACT!

ABOUT MELISSA MAJORS

Melissa Majors is a captivating storyteller who enlightens through talks that spark inspiration, insight, smiles, and wisdom.

She is a leading advisor, coach, and advocate for human-centered leadership. Her expertise is curated from leading teams across various industries, including investments, insurance, ed-tech, and business consulting. Her practical experience is enhanced by her formal education, which she gained by studying strategy and innovation at Harvard University.

Melissa is the author of two books — *Help Them Thrive: Leadership Coaching for Humans Leading Humans* and *The 7 Simple Habits of Inclusive Leaders*.

Melissa has been featured in publications such as *Forbes* and has presented to audiences at Google, the National Association of Realtors, 7-Eleven, RTX (formerly Raytheon), Catalyst, Lantheus, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and many more.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Melissa is a die-hard Ohio State Buckeyes fan who now lives with her husband, Terrance in Cedar Hill, Texas. They have two children, Terrance and Luke, and a sheepadoodle named Ziggy, who doubles as the family's "Chief Wellness Officer."

 melissamajors.com

 [Imelissamajorsconsult](https://www.instagram.com/Imelissamajorsconsult)

 [Melissa Majors](https://www.linkedin.com/in/MelissaMajors)

 [melissamajorsconsulting](https://www.facebook.com/melissamajorsconsulting)

2026 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

BREAKOUT SESSION B

► **FOCUS-FORWARD LEADERSHIP**
Cut Through the Distraction and Move Forward with Purpose

Leaders are managing unprecedented levels of change, pressure, and distraction. Many feel pulled in too many directions, reacting to what's urgent instead of focusing on what's important. Focus-Forward Leadership helps them step back, clarify their "why," and decide where their energy and attention need to go right now.

Using Sheree's FOCUS Method, participants will leave with a personalized leadership clarity statement and a concrete step to move forward with confidence.



ABOUT SHEREE CAIN-JONES

Sheree Cain-Jones, widely known as Coach Sheree, is a women's advisor and relationship coach who helps high-functioning women set boundaries so they can reclaim their time, energy, and money—and turn their vision into action.

Born into poverty in a home marked by addiction and abuse, Sheree became a teen mom and high school dropout before rewriting her own story. She returned to school as an adult, earned a nursing degree and a master's in project management, and built a career helping women rise above limitations.

Today, she teaches the strategies that helped her become a powerful relationship coach. A dynamic speaker and former TEDx coach, she guides women across the country toward clarity and confidence.

As the creator of *The P's of Communicating with Presence* and *The Power School*, Sheree

equips women to identify their life's purpose, communicate boundaries with confidence, and align their relationships with their goals.

Rather than offering hype-driven motivation, Sheree provides practical frameworks women can implement immediately.

Her clients leave with tools, confidence, and actionable steps to turn pain into purpose, vision into movement, and words into power.

Featured on *Stagetime with Darren LaCroix*, EquipHer Conference, California Central Women's Conference, UNLV, Nevada State University, and more, Sheree continues to inspire women to lead with presence, purpose, and poise.

 shereecainjones.com

 [Sheree Cain-Jones](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ShereeCainJones)

 [sheree.cainjones](https://www.facebook.com/sheree.cainjones)

BREAKOUT SESSION C

► **BURN BRIGHT NOT OUT**
*The Blueprint for Leaders and
Teams to be Unstoppable*

Success today demands more than effort—it requires focus, energy, and strategies that drive sustainable peak performance without sacrificing well-being. For high-performing teams and leaders, the challenge isn't just reaching the top, but staying energized, motivated, and fulfilled enough to remain there for the long haul.

In this transformative keynote, Erin delivers a powerful framework in her signature, high-energy style, designed to help leaders and teams unlock next-level performance while maintaining balance and resilience. Drawing on decades of research with CEOs, Fortune 100 leaders, Olympians, and celebrities, she combines actionable insights with inspiring stories to help audiences move beyond hustle culture and embrace strategies that drive exceptional results—without burnout.

This keynote is more than a roadmap for success—it's a call to action that will recharge your team and create unstoppable momentum. Leaders and teams will leave energized, focused, and equipped to achieve extraordinary results with balance, clarity, and purpose.



IMPACT!

ABOUT ERIN STAFFORD

Erin Stafford is a powerhouse author, speaker, and leader with a career as diverse as it is impactful. From Paris and London to Los Angeles and San Diego, she has excelled as an MTV advertising executive, celebrity stylist, journalist, and marketing expert. She has worked with iconic brands such as American Express, Apple, Coca-Cola, and Nike, and has styled celebrities for the Emmys, Grammys, and Academy Awards.

Erin's most transformative role was as head of marketing for the largest healthcare staffing company in the U.S., where she helped drive 27x growth and supported the largest healthcare personnel deployment in history. This experience cemented her expertise in leading through complexity and driving high performance in high-stakes environments.

A self-described recovering Type A overachiever who has experienced and overcome burnout, Erin blends personal insight with lessons learned from working alongside top performers.

She is the bestselling author of *The Type A Trap: Five Mindset Shifts to Beat Burnout and Transform Your Life*, endorsed by Mel Robbins, Olympian Amy Purdy, and Chris Barton, founder of Shazam.

As a member of the Forbes Business Council, Erin regularly contributes thought leadership on burnout and peak performance. Her expertise has been featured in outlets including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, and MSN.

 erinstafford.com

 [erinmstafford](https://www.instagram.com/erinmstafford)

 [Erin Stafford](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ErinStafford)

 [StaffordErin](https://www.youtube.com/StaffordErin)

2026 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

BREAKOUT SESSION D

► **AI AS THE NEW CHIEF OF STAFF**
*How Leaders Reclaim Time, Focus,
and Power in an AI-Driven World*



What if you had a chief of staff who never slept, never forgot, and could process more information in a minute than most teams do in a week?

Artificial intelligence is no longer a future concept or a technical add-on. It is becoming a new layer of leadership support, reshaping how decisions are made and how leaders spend their time. Leaders who learn to work with AI as a strategic partner will not just move faster, they will think more clearly and protect their attention and energy.

In this forward-looking and practical session, Tamilla Triantoro reframes AI not as a tool, but as a modern chief of

staff for today's leaders. Drawing on her research on human-AI collaboration and real-world leadership examples, she shows how AI can absorb much of the invisible work that drains leaders, including planning, coordination, information triage, and first-draft thinking. The result is not less human leadership, but more of it.

This session focuses on designing a smarter way of working in a world where intelligence is no longer scarce. Participants will leave with a clearer sense of what to delegate to AI and how to use this shift to reclaim time and focus on things that matter.

ABOUT TAMILLA TRIANTORO

Dr. Tamilla Triantoro is an Associate Professor in the School of Business at Quinnipiac University. She researches artificial intelligence, human-AI collaboration, and the future of work, focusing on how AI changes leadership, decision quality, and employee well-being.

Her work has been featured in BBC, *Forbes*, Fast Company and included in Springer Nature volumes. She is the co-author of *Converging Minds: The Creative Potential of Collaborative AI*.

Dr. Triantoro serves on the Advisory Board of the European University Alliance EUonAir, the Scientific Board of the Human+AI Institute by CampusAI, and is a council member of the Human-Machine Interaction Research Center.

She speaks internationally on practical frameworks that help leaders deploy AI responsibly and create business value.

An avid traveler, she has spoken about technology on six continents and visited more than 110 countries.

 tamilla.triantoro

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NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT



Magic for Maddie



leave a little
SPARKLE *Wherever You Go...*



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FOR PEDIATRIC
BRAIN CANCER



**HELP FAMILIES
IN THE FIGHT**
BATTLING ALL FORMS
OF CHILDHOOD CANCER



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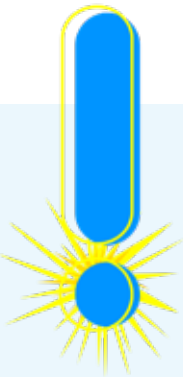
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