



SCHOOL OF
Continuing Education

Women Leaders Conference

Schedule

Friday, March 4, 2022

Need help with the Socio app? Go to our Socio app page for FAQs, assistance with set up and information on logistics preconference and during the event!

Fully Online – including two keynote presentations and three breakout sessions from a choice of 12 options
7:30am-4:30pm

\$375 – Early Bird price extended until the registration deadline of March 1

New this year, the conference features the Socio app to share conference information, connect participants and highlight sponsors. Prior to the conference, you will be invited to join Socio and create a profile. Watch for incentives to create your profile and begin exploring the conference through Socio.

Get involved at the WLC 2022 for your chance to win one of four Southwest Airlines tickets. The more you engage on Socio on March 4, the more you network with others and the better your chances. Also, stay until the end for another chance to win!

7:30-8:15am - Sign On/Check-In

Enjoy your coffee from the comfort of your home or office while signing on to the Women Leaders Conference on Socio app. Ensure your profile is set up and review your schedule for the day.

8:15-8:45am - Breakfast/Video Roundtable Networking

Choose a topic that interests you and join a small group networking discussion on the Socio app while you enjoy your morning breakfast.

9-9:15am - Welcome

Anne O'Meara, Conference Director and Special Guests

9:15-10:15am - Opening Keynote

Building and Leading World-Class

Teams Robyn Benincasa

10:15-10:30am - Break

Visit sponsor booths and post on the event wall to be entered in giveaways. Watch videos and slideshows of interest for women leaders.

10:30-11:30am - Breakout Session 1

What's Your #Hashtag?

Donna Schumell, JD, PLCC, CDO and Partner, The Disruptive Element; Paula Winkler, CMO and Partner, The Disruptive Element

How do we want to be seen and what do we want said about us ... especially in tough times? In this working session, you start on the definition and intention of your brand by creating something as simple as your hashtag. We explore the brain science on why it needs to start as something simple and meaningful for it to be a consistent reality of us at our best. Brand work may be one of the most critical steps you take in setting your intention. What we focus on is what we work toward. Don't leave your brand to chance!

An Inside Look at the Culture of Racism, Recovery and Resiliency (CR3) Series

Shirley Burks, MA, Program Director, UWM School of Continuing Education; Gevon Daynuah, UWM School of Continuing Education

Join Shirley Burks and Gevon Daynuah as they discuss the blueprint for creating a yearlong diversity, equity and inclusion series for UWM's School of Continuing Education. This acclaimed series (attracting over 300 participants) was developed in response to the heightened visibility of racial injustices seen throughout the world during 2020. The goal was to increase awareness of the implications of racial tension and disparities, to educate and to provide solutions for community members. Through a step-by-step process, you will be guided on how they brought together community stakeholders and educational leaders while gaining buy-in from institutional leadership. Learn how you can apply these lessons to your employee series, ERGs or staff development programs. Gain tips on marketing, implementation and evaluation.

Separate but Together: Keeping Teams Cohesive

Beth Ridley [Moderator]; Marisue Fasick, Vice President of Enterprise Change Management, Northwestern Mutual; LaShonda Hill, GPHR, Vice President of Human Resources, Colectivo Coffee Roasters; Francesca Mayca Wegner, Executive Director, HPGM

As work and the workforce go through seismic changes, including remote work, staffing shortages and company reorganizations, how do leaders keep their teams unified and engaged? Join a panel of experts from different industries to learn how they keep cohesion and focus, even when teams are apart. This session is designed for managers and leaders looking for real-world examples to try with their teams.

Milwaukee's Bright Future: A Vision for Our Tech Sector

Nadiyah Johnson, CEO & Founder, Jet Constellations; Elmer Moore, Jr., Executive Director, Scale Up Milwaukee

This interactive discussion features two leaders who are working to change Milwaukee through innovative programs designed to help diverse people enter and thrive in the Milwaukee economy. Learn about the efforts of the Milky Way Tech Hub and Scale Up Milwaukee as well as other programs in our area. Discuss models used by other cities and what needs to happen to showcase Milwaukee's attributes and address its challenges. Join the discussion of what local professionals can do to drive innovation and change in our region.

11:30am-12pm - Lunch/Video Roundtable Networking

Use your lunch break to join another small group discussion via video. Network while discussing a topic important to you.

12-12:15pm - General Session Reconvenes

Announcements and Introductions, Anne O’Meara, Conference Director

12:15-1:15pm - Lunch Keynote

Gender, Race and Ethnicity in Business

Ellen McGirt

In conversation with [Kelly Mould](#), Senior Vice President and Wealth Fiduciary Advisor of Johnson Financial Group

1:15-1:30pm - Break

Visit sponsor booths and post on the event wall to be entered in giveaways. Watch videos and slideshows of interest for women leaders.

1:30-2:30pm - Breakout Session 2

Authentic Leadership Through Values and Learning

Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary, Department of Administration for the State of Wisconsin; Jodi Breese, Vice President of Customer Implementation, CUNA Mutual Group

True leadership comes through knowing your values, learning continuously and supporting others in each step of your career. Join two high-level women leaders to learn how they have defined their leadership styles by understanding their own values. Explore how lifelong learning is essential for leaders and how paying success forward is also crucial to your career. You will leave with tools to identify your values and plan simple, actionable goals.

Women Leaders Driving Equitable, Inclusive Workplace Cultures

Corry Joe Biddle, VP of Community Affairs + Executive Director, FUEL Milwaukee, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) [Moderator]; Denise Domian, Chief Human Resources Officer, Johnson Financial Group; Lucia Galezewski, Regional Finance Business Partner, Rockwell Automation; Ellen McGirt, Senior Editor, Fortune; Isioma Nwabuzor, Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Baird; Shary Tran, Global Diversity Equity and Inclusion Leader, Amazon Worldwide

Racial equity and inclusion in the workplace requires a shift in corporate culture ... a shift that needs to include women. Despite the blow that women have taken in the workplace by way of COVID-19 (more stress, slow advancement, early exits from the workplace), women are consistently doing more to advance diversity, equity and inclusion for their teams and companies. Women are also more likely to be allies to women of color. Yet this important work is going unrewarded and unrecognized by many companies as they fail to formalize the critical role of women in this necessary workplace shift. Join us for this informative panel discussion about the valuable role of women in driving equitable, inclusive workplace cultures.

Thoughtfully Fit®: Build Your Core Confidence

Darcy Luoma

Join Darcy Luoma, executive coach, as she teaches you how to face any challenge – no matter how difficult – using a model she herself has tested under extreme fire.

This inspiring session gives you the confidence to handle life's challenges. Darcy shares how she successfully used her Thoughtfully Fit® model when her life fell apart following her husband's shocking arrest and incarceration.

Darcy trains you to use these same tools to build your core in the face of conflict, change or uncertainty – even a global pandemic. You'll leave with a core workout to immediately strengthen your life personally, professionally, spiritually and emotionally, and build your resilience to handle any situation thoughtfully.

Change From Above: Diversifying Corporate Boards

Patricia Ackerman, Senior V.P. of Investor Relations, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, and Treasurer, A.O. Smith Corporation; DeVona Wright Cottrell, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, GMR Marketing and the Omnicom Experiential Group (OEG); Inge Plautz, Senior Vice President and Executive BDO, Old National Bank

Companies often point to their boards of directors as evidence of their diversity, but a recent USA Today study showed that board membership in many companies does not reflect the racial makeup of their business's workers or the U.S. as a whole. White men hold half or more of many board seats.

What is the role of a corporate board and why is it important to have diversity on the board? How are board members elected? What is the role of the board in helping the CEO and other leaders challenge the status quo? What happens when a board practices tokenism and how is it recognized, challenged or avoided?

Learn what is happening in the world of corporate boards and how you might be considered for one. Join us for a discussion on the ways that diversity on boards improves both a company's bottom line and its culture.

2:30-2:45pm - Break

Visit sponsor booths and post on the event wall to be entered in giveaways. Watch videos and slideshows of interest for women leaders.

2:45-3:45pm - Breakout Session 3

Difficult Conversations: Simple Tools for Tough Discussions

Lauren Pagenkopf, Owner & Principal, Laurus Consulting, LLC

Difficult conversations come with the territory of leading and working with others, but most of us dread having them. Whether we need to deliver tough performance feedback to a direct report or address a sensitive topic with a co-worker, we look for reasons to avoid them. Or we see these conversations as confrontations and arm ourselves for battle. In short, they make us uncomfortable. And while they may never be our favorite part of the job, with a few key insights about yourself and some powerful tools and techniques, you can get a better outcome! This interactive session provides you with the chance to reflect on your own experiences, learn, practice and share your insights with others.

Bring Your Full Self to Work: Foundations for Creating LGBTQ+ Welcoming Teams

Jen Murray

This workshop introduces you to the foundational concepts related to fostering belonging and cultivating LGBTQ+ inclusivity in the workplace. You will be encouraged to discover ways to meaningfully engage with LGBTQ+ communities from respecting pronouns to supporting LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)/Business Employee Resource Groups (BERGs). Together we explore the value of uplifting genuine, heart-centered living by honoring people for their self-identified expressions. Now is the time to create a better workplace for all by establishing environments that encourage people to live their truth and be bold, audacious and authentic. You get to build upon successes and invite deeper dialogue around inclusion, engagement and living from your whole self while simultaneously working to impact and influence the world with your leadership.

What Women Want (At Work): Working Toward Personal and Professional Wellness

Emma Almond, Global PR and Communications Director, ManpowerGroup

Data tells us that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women. Now is our opportunity to commit to ambitious goals, measure progress and reshape a future of work that works better for all. ManpowerGroup's new research tells us that more attention must be paid by employers to enabling the balance of family care responsibilities and careers. We can help women and all the people in our organizations if we just ask ourselves the question, "Do we really know what's going on in their lives?" This includes developing and growing existing talent within organizations, keeping the best and brightest, while also driving skills and growth. For the post-pandemic era, organizations need to commit to creating focused, flexible, inclusive work environments that give women better opportunities to succeed.

Women Leaders in Tech and Engineering

Sarah Urban, Vice President IT, Charter Manufacturing [Moderator]; Holly Baumgart, Vice President of Strategy, Sargento Foods, Inc.; Christine Cheng, PhD, Associate Professor, Computer Science Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Dr. Fabiola Corvera-Stimeling, Senior Director of Client Experience, Northwestern Mutual ; Punita Miller, Global Product Manager, Rockwell Automation

Male-dominated professions have historically included challenges for women who work in them. Once women take the lead, however, can they make a real difference, both for other women and for their companies? In this motivational panel, we highlight women who are not only thriving in tech and engineering, but leading their fields in new and exciting ways. Hear about their challenges, take away applicable advice, be inspired and learn about how tech and engineering are changing our work and our world.

3:45-4pm - Closing Remarks and Giveaways

Anne O'Meara, Conference Director and Special Guests

4-4:30pm - Networking/Video Roundtable Discussions

Optional: Join expert moderators to converse, engage and share on the Socio app via small group video discussions. What did you learn today? What are your next steps? Who will you connect with after the conference?