



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
**WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

**May 29, 2026**  
University at Buffalo  
Center for the Arts

**OWNING OUR POWER**  
*Building Community*

**Your Guide to Leadership &  
Professional Development**

*IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:*

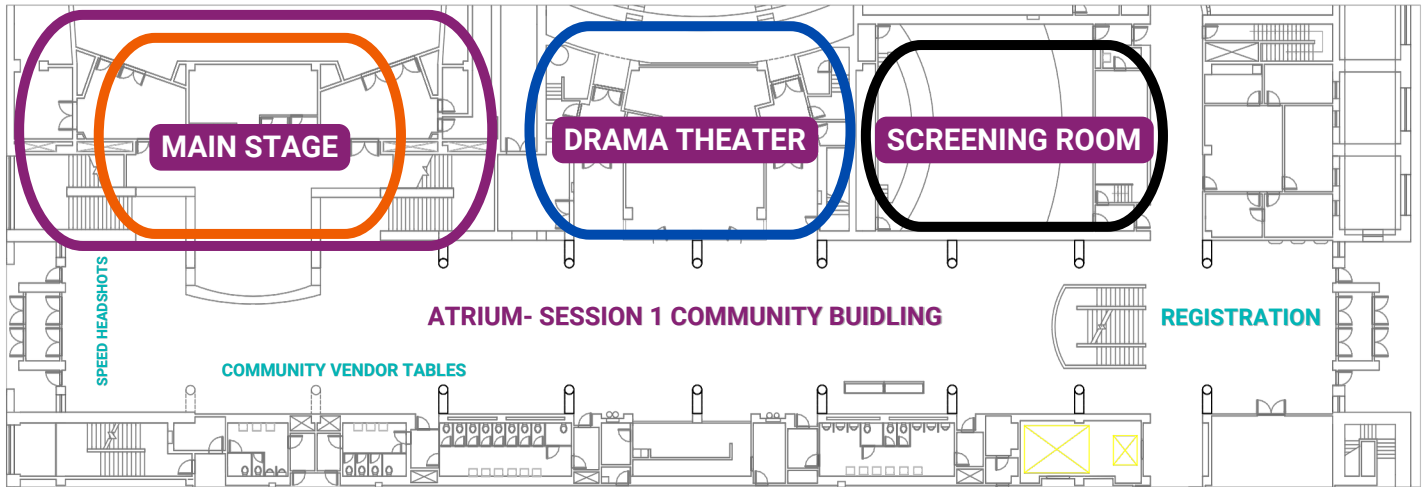


*PRESENTED BY:*

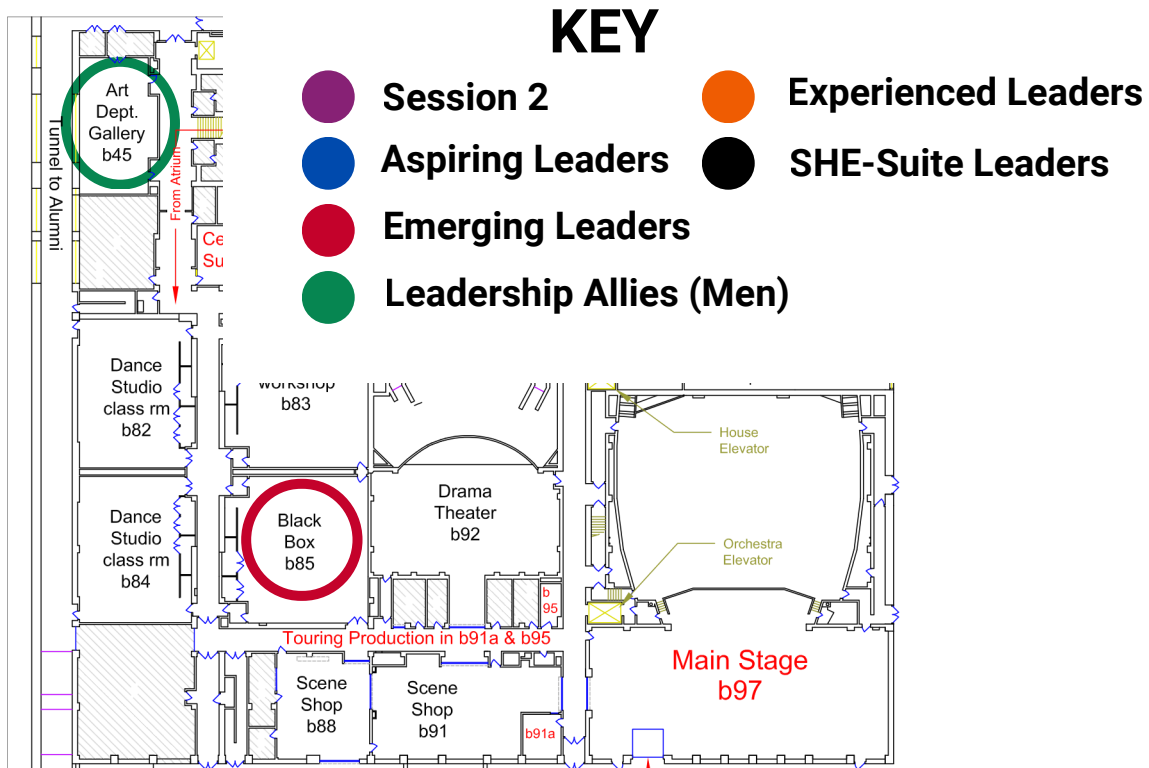


# EVENT MAP

## FIRST FLOOR



## BASEMENT- LOWER LEVEL



# WELCOME LETTER

Dear Summit Attendees,

On behalf of the University at Buffalo, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 4th Annual WNY Women's Foundation Leadership Summit.

The University at Buffalo is proud to support this important annual gathering, and we are deeply grateful for the WNY Women's Foundation's continued partnership—particularly through our Division of Athletics and our Office of Alumni Engagement. Together, we share a commitment to empowering leaders, strengthening community, and expanding opportunity across Western New York.

Centered on this year's theme, *Owning Your Power, Building Community*, the Summit brings together individuals from across sectors, experiences, and backgrounds to connect, learn, and lead with intention. The conversations you engage in today—and the relationships you build—have the potential to extend far beyond this moment, shaping our institutions, our communities, and our region for years to come.

Thank you for being part of this inspiring day. The University at Buffalo is honored to stand alongside the WNY Women's Foundation in celebrating leadership, advancing equity, and investing in the future of Western New York. I wish you a rewarding and energizing Summit experience.

With warm regards,



Kathleen S. Heckman, MBA '95, BA '92  
Vice President for University Advancement





WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

THANK YOU TO OUR  
LEADERSHIP PARTNERS

# PRESENTING PARTNER:



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# EVENT PARTNERS:



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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

# EVENT ITINERY

**8:00am**

## **Registration Begins**

**Center for the Arts - Atrium**

**8:45am**

## **Session 1: Building Community**

**Center for the Arts - Atrium**

*NOTE: When you hear the song I'm Every Woman, please gather under the number on the wall that matches the number on your name tag.*

**9:40am**

## **Session 2: Opening Remarks**

**Center for the Arts- Main Stage**

Sheri Scavone - CEO WNYWF

Land Acknowledgement

## **P.O.W.E.R Awards - Catholic Charities of Buffalo**

Siobhan Smith - WNYWF Board Member

Cherie Sugg, Leigh Murak - Catholic Charities

**10:00am**

## **Session 2: UB Distinguished**

### **Keynote Panel**

**Center for the Arts- Main Stage**

Moderator: Sujata Yalamanchili

Panel: Dottie Gallagher, Dr. Ellen Baker,

Dr. Raven Baxter, Dr. Amy Butler

### **Final Remarks**

Kristen Sharkey - UB Women's Basketball

Coach

**10:50am**

**Transition to Pathways**

**11:05am**

## **Session 3**

**12:00pm**

**Break**

**12:15pm**

## **Session 4**

**1:15pm**

**Summit Concludes- Final Remarks**

# LETTER FROM OUR EVENT CHAIRS

## What an honor it is to Co-Chair the 2026 WNY Leadership Summit!

*As we reflect on previous years' Summits, we recall:*

- The energy of attendees arriving full of anticipation
- The laughter and warmth as they connect and build new relationships
- The buzz as they move from session to session
- The thoughtful questions posed to our speakers and panelists
- The generosity of speakers and panelists sharing lived experiences and insights
- The hundreds of employers who invest in their teams' learning and professional development
- The generosity of sponsors who make this program possible
- The engagement of our Board of Directors connecting with attendees
- The incredible support of volunteers ensuring the Summit runs smoothly
- The tireless work and dedication of the WNY Women's Foundation staff who make it all happen
- A day that brings together women and male allies for learning and growth, creating lasting impact and increasingly sold-out Summits
- A premier event, recognized and highly anticipated across the community
- The unmatched excitement of a room filled with individuals striving to empower women
- The powerful energy that sparks ideas and strengthens our shared commitment
- The collective strength we hold when we come together with purpose, passion, and vision

It is like a symphonic performance with many moving parts, all in sync creating something more powerful and beautiful than any one of us could accomplish alone.

Today, we encourage you to own your power and build community.

Thank you for being here!

Sincerely,

Arlene Kaukus, Wei Loon Leong, and Carmen Snell

2026 WNY Women's Foundation Leadership Summit Co-Chairs



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

# SESSION TWO

Center for the Arts- Main Stage

## OPENING REMARKS



**Sheri Scavone**  
WNYWF CEO



**Sue Gannon**  
WNYWF Board Member



**Kristen Sharkey**  
UB Women's Basketball Coach

## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

## EVENT CHAIRS



**Arlene Kaukus**  
WNYWF Board Member



**Carmen Snell**  
WNYWF Board Member



**Wei Loon Leong**  
Office of Alumni Engagement



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# SUPPORT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



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# ALL IN- P.O.W.E.R Seal Awardee



Fueling growth, unlocking potential, and building bold leaders!



*Positioning Organizations and Women to Excel & Rise*

*P.O.W.E.R. is a strategic framework to build leaders, boost culture, attract talent, and drive lasting success.*

## *P.O.W.E.R Seal Awardee:*



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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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# MOOG



# Kaleida Health



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# SESSION TWO

## *UB Distinguished Keynote Speaker Panel*

**This distinguished speaker panel features an extraordinary group of UB alumni who are leading with impact across industries and communities.**

Through a candid and engaging conversation, these bold and accomplished women will share their lived experiences, leadership journeys, and the role community and mentorship have played in their success. Participants will leave inspired and challenged with a new perspective on building meaningful connections, supporting others, and leading with purpose.

MODERATOR



**Sujata Yalamanchili**  
*WNYWF Board Emerita*

**Sujata Yalamanchili** is a partner at Hodgson Russ and an Emeritae member of the WNY Women's Foundation. She leads the firm's Real Estate Leasing and Retail Practices, advising on commercial development, leasing, investment, and financing, structuring complex acquisitions and public-private partnerships, and counseling tax-exempt institutions. Sujata has also been awarded Buffalo Business First, Power 200 Women, 2017–2023 and Best Lawyers in America, "Lawyer of the Year" (Real Estate Law), 2021 & 2023.

# SESSION TWO

## *UB Distinguished Keynote Panel*

PANELIST



**Dr. Ellen Baker**

**Dr. Ellen Baker**, a 30-year veteran of NASA, flew on three space shuttle missions in 1989, 1992, and 1995. Baker retired from NASA in 2011 and joined The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2014. She is the Director of Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), connecting medical specialists with health care providers in rural and underserved communities in the US and globally to build local capacity. She manages cervical cancer prevention programs in low-resource regions of the US and abroad. Baker earned a BA in Geology from the University at Buffalo, an MD from Weill Cornell Medical College, and a master's in public health from the University of Texas.

PANELIST



**Dr. Raven Baxter**

**Dr. Raven Baxter**, known globally as Dr. Raven the Science Maven, is a molecular biologist and science communicator who has reached tens of millions translating complex science through music, pop culture, and fashion. She's advised the White House on STEM workforce initiatives, built science communication infrastructure at Mount Sinai, and founded The Science Haven, a national nonprofit putting telescopes in the hands of families nationwide. She is also the founder and CEO of Fervae. A proud Buffalo native, she earned two degrees from Buffalo State and her Ph.D. from the University at Buffalo. Her honors include Forbes 30 Under 30 and Fortune 40 Under 40.



# SESSION TWO

## *UB Distinguished Keynote Panel:*

PANELIST



**Dr. Amy Butler**

**Dr. Amy Butler** served as Biosciences Division President at Thermo Fisher Scientific, holding leadership roles in Cell Biology, Marketing & e-Business, and Global Customer Care during her 20+ years. Previously, she was an engagement manager at McKinsey & Co. and a developmental neuroscientist at the Salk Institute. She holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania and has served on the boards of the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine and BioCom California.

PANELIST



**Dottie Gallagher**

**Dottie Gallagher** is President & CEO of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the region's chamber of commerce and economic development organization representing members who employ over 250,000 people. Formerly president of Visit Buffalo Niagara and a Buffalo News executive, she serves on multiple community and economic development boards and is the Buffalo convener of the NYSMART-I corridor Tech Hub. Dottie holds degrees from Towson University, University at Buffalo, and Niagara University.

MOOG



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# WE SEE YOU AT BESTSELF



**SCAN CODE TO  
VIEW ALL JOBS**





WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

May 29, 2026  
8:00 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

University at Buffalo-Center for the Arts

# ASPIRING LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

*Drama Theater*

## SESSION ITINERARY

**11:05 AM:**  
Session Three

**Step Into Your Power:**  
*Confidence, Presence, and Your  
Personal Brand*

**12:00 PM:**

**Break**

**12:15 PM:**  
Session Four

**Lean In or Listen?**  
*Building Visibility Early in Your Career*

**1:15 PM:**

**Closing Remarks**  
*Summit Concludes*

## THANK YOU TO OUR PATHWAY LEADERSHIP PARTNERS:



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# ASPIRING LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

*Drama Theater*

HOST



**Lisa Ceglia**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Lisa M. Ceglia (She/Her/Hers)** is Senior Vice President of Government Relations at M&T Bank, where she lead government relations and policy advocacy efforts within the banking sector. Prior to joining M&T Bank, Lisa held leadership roles at Smiths Group and Halliburton, overseeing advocacy strategy, stakeholder engagement, and public policy initiatives across the U.S. and Canada. Lisa also spent several years with the American Petroleum Institute, advancing from Research Assistant to Director of Federal Relations, focusing on energy policy and federal advocacy. Earlier in their career, Lisa served as Legislative Liaison for Erie County, New York. Lisa holds both a Bachelor of Science and an MBA from Niagara University.

HOST



**Dr. Ellen Grant**  
*WNYWF Emeritae Member*

**Dr. Ellen E. Grant (She/Her/Hers)** is a Buffalo native and accomplished health care executive currently serving with O'Donnell & Associates. Dr. Bishop began her career as a nurse at Erie County Medical Center before advancing into leadership roles at Buffalo General Hospital and later becoming the first African American appointed Erie County Mental Health Commissioner. In 2001, she became the first woman CEO of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Throughout her career, Dr. Bishop has remained deeply committed to community service, leadership development, health equity, and advancing opportunities for women across Western New York



# SESSION THREE

## *Step Into Your Power: Confidence, Presence, and Your Personal Brand*

**How you show up online and in the room shapes how others experience your leadership.**

*Seasoned professionals share how early-career leaders can build confidence, develop a strong personal brand, and communicate their strengths with clarity. Participants will gain practical insights on establishing credibility, showing up authentically, and making a lasting impression in the first years of their careers.*

MODERATOR



**Christine  
Kimmel-Hurt**

**Christine Kimmel-Hurt, PHR, (She/Her/Hers)** has over more than 15 years at Moog, she has built a diverse HR career spanning HR Business Partner roles, talent acquisition, global mobility, and change leadership across the business. These experiences shape how she partners with teams to work through tough business challenges using an HR lens and collaborate closely with people across the organization, near and far.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and son (10), friends and family. She also enjoys cooking and being outdoors, especially in the Adirondacks.

# ASPIRING LEADERS

*Step Into Your Power:  
Confidence, Presence, and Your Personal Brand*

PANELIST



Lauren Lewis

**Lauren Lewis (She/Her/Hers)** is a Partner at StaffBuffalo and HRBuffalo, where she leverages her background in sales and recruiting to help WNY companies build stronger teams and professionals step into meaningful, impactful careers. With more than a decade of experience, she is known for her direct, relationship-driven approach to leadership, communication, and growth. Lauren is passionate about empowering the next generation—especially early-career women—to build confidence, own their voice, and advocate for their value. She actively mentors students and young professionals across the Buffalo region and serves on the board for several nonprofits, championing opportunities for future leaders throughout WNY.

PANELIST



LaTanya Walton

**LaTanya Walton (She/Her/Hers)** is a dynamic human resources leader, culture strategist, and advocate for equitable workforce practices, serving as Manager of Talent Acquisition & Engagement at Say Yes Buffalo. With over 20 years of experience across social services, healthcare, and workforce development, she brings a people-first approach to inclusive hiring, employee engagement, and thriving workplace cultures. She created “The Say Yes Way,” a framework centered on clarity, care, access, equity, and consistency. LaTanya also serves as Diversity Director for the Buffalo Niagara Human Resources Association, advancing DEIA initiatives. A proud University at Buffalo alumna and former EOP student, she champions mentorship and pathways for emerging leaders.

# SESSION FOUR

*Lean In or Listen?  
Building Visibility Early in Your Career*

**In the early years of your career, knowing when to listen, learn, and step forward can shape your leadership path.**

In this interactive session, aspiring leaders will explore how to build visibility with intention; sharing ideas, contributing with confidence, and recognizing the moments that matter. Participants will gain practical insights to help them find their voice, stand out professionally, and grow their influence early in their careers.

MODERATOR



**Lisa Coppola**



Scan me!

**Lisa Coppola (She/Her/Hers)** is the founder and managing partner of The Coppola Firm, a past board chair of the National Association of Women Business Owners in Washington, DC, and a longtime advocate for women in business. She currently serves on the board of the SPCA Serving Erie County. Lisa is peer-rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. She was part of the Top 25 Women NY Super Lawyers in 2025. She part of The Best Lawyers in America and the Business First Power 200 Women Lists.

Through her law firm, online training platform [coppolatraining.com](http://coppolatraining.com), and leadership roles, she works to help women lead, grow, and make lasting impact.

# SESSION FOUR

*Lean In or Listen?  
Building Visibility Early in Your Career*

PANELIST



**Kathleen  
Achibar-Boyd**

**Kathleen Achibar-Boyd (She/Her/Hers)** began her career interning in the city courts under the first Latina appointed to the Buffalo City Court bench. That early exposure to public service led her to transition into electoral politics, where she worked on numerous federal, state, and local campaigns across Western New York. She went on to serve as a senior government staffer for New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer.

Today, Kathleen is a partner at Bolton St. Johns, one of New York State's top lobbying firms, leveraging her government experience to advance strategic policy outcomes statewide.

PANELIST



**Carolyn Altomare**

**Carolyn Altomare (She/Her/Hers)** is Senior Vice President of Digital Media Sales at RRD, leading a national organization focused on digital media, data, and marketing technology solutions. With more than two decades in digital advertising, she has played a key role in building and scaling RRD's digital business and advancing its evolution into an integrated marketing solutions platform.

A transformational sales leader, Carolyn is known for building high-performing teams, launching new capabilities, and driving growth through innovation and cross-functional collaboration. She began her career at AOL and holds a BBA in Marketing from Fordham University. She lives in Hamburg with her husband and three daughters.

# SESSION FOUR

## *Lean In or Listen? Building Visibility Early in Your Career*

PANELIST



Daniella Gallego

**Daniella Gallego (She/Her/Hers)** is a Colombian-American born in Beaufort, South Carolina to immigrant parents, whose experiences have shaped her unwavering commitment to advocacy. She is deeply passionate about empowering marginalized communities, particularly individuals experiencing homelessness, immigrants, and Latinx populations. Having overcome significant challenges herself, Daniella earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from SUNY Oswego, exemplifying resilience and determination.

As the Community Engagement Coordinator at the Homeless Alliance of WNY, she leads the Youth Action Board and Program Advisory Committee, ensuring those with lived experience play a central role in decision-making. Driven by her professional expertise and lived experiences, Daniella is committed to uplifting Latinx women in her community and inspiring the next generation of Latina leaders.

PANELIST



Dr. Joyce Ohm

**Joyce Ohm (She/Her/Hers)** earned a Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is a nationally recognized expert in cancer epigenetics and currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her research focuses on understanding the molecular drivers of rare cancers called sarcomas and developing novel therapeutic strategies. Her work is supported by the National Institutes of Health and other foundations. An avid cyclist, she has completed the 500-mile Empire State Ride five times, raising funds for cancer research.

# SESSION FOUR

*Lean In or Listen?  
Building Visibility Early in Your Career*

PANELIST



Tayrin Tapia

**Tayrin Tapia (She/Her/Hers)** is a community leader, founder, and corporate sustainability professional. She is the Founder of Latinas Evolving, a platform and media brand, including its magazine, dedicated to elevating Latina entrepreneurs through storytelling, professional development, and community-driven experiences, and the visionary behind the Tapia Legacy Foundation, which expands access to mentorship, education, and resources for underrepresented communities, with a focus on Hispanic and Latine entrepreneurs. By day, she serves as the Business Support Manager for Corporate Sustainability at HSBC, supporting initiatives focused on social impact, community investment, and corporate responsibility.



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION



# What would you do with five extra hours each week?



How much more could your organization achieve with five extra hours a week per employee?

**Hi, I'm Peggy! I'm a busyness addict in recovery.**

And I'm an expert in how to achieve more by doing less.

I spent years in time poverty — too much to do, too little time. The cost was real: lost revenue, strained relationships, and declining wellbeing.

Today, I help individuals and organizations turn time poverty into time wealth—so they can focus on what truly drives results.

**Ready to reclaim your time?** Contact me to talk in a pressure-free environment. Or take my free assessment to identify your low value activities.

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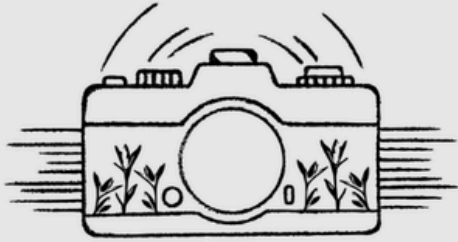
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THE WAY**

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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

May 29, 2026  
8:00 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

University at Buffalo-Center for the Arts

# EMERGING LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

*Black Box Theater*

## SESSION ITINERARY

**11:05 AM:**  
Session Three

**Control the Controllable:**  
*Building Power, Wealth, and Resilience in Your Career*

**12:00 PM:**

**Break**

**12:15 PM:**  
Session Four

**Your Leadership, Your Way:**  
*Style, Strength, and Resilience*

**1:00 PM:**

**Closing Remarks**  
*Summit Concludes*

## THANK YOU TO OUR PATHWAY LEADERSHIP PARTNERS:



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# EMERGING LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

*Black Box Theater*

HOST



**Cynthia Bass**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Cynthia Bass, MBA, CDA (She/Her/Hers)** serves as the Chief Diversity Officer for ECMC Corporation. Her primary duties include implementing a strategic plan that prioritizes and communicates the importance of diversity in a community-based, safety net hospital setting; Cynthia's positioning will ensure that as changes that shape the healthcare delivery systems continue to evolve, so too will ECMC dynamically evolve in response to the needs of patients and staff. Cynthia is also profoundly rooted in her community's Servant Leadership, her work includes multiple leadership positions in the church. Cynthia serves as a board member for the WNY Women's Foundation

HOST



**Joleigh Wylucki**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Joleigh Wyluck (She/Her/Hers)** is a seasoned entrepreneur and business leader with a diverse portfolio spanning HVAC services, the trash and recycling industry, compressed natural gas vehicle inspections, and the legal cannabis sector. As one of the founders of Blue Ribbon Heating and Air Conditioning, CNG Inspections of Buffalo, Love Nug Cannabis Dispensary and several other ventures, Joleigh brings over 16 years of experience in operations, compliance, and strategic growth. She is also a dedicated community advocate, serving as a board member for the Western New York Women's Foundation, where she supports initiatives that empower women and promote economic equity. With a focus on innovation, sustainability, and community impact, Joleigh continues to build forward-thinking, customer-focused businesses across evolving markets.

# SESSION THREE

## *Control the Controllable: Building Power, Wealth, and Resilience in Your Career*

**Women can't control every systemic challenge they face in the workplace or in life.**

But they can control how they position themselves financially, professionally, and personally, so they don't burn out or fall behind. This session helps women stop reacting to life and start leading their career and financial future intentionally.

MODERATOR



**Heather  
Gresham, Esq.**

**Heather Gresham (She/Her/Hers)** is a founding partner of Gresham & Gresham, PLLC, a boutique law firm in Buffalo. Heather is passionate about issues involving equity and fairness. For more than twenty years, she has held leadership positions in Non Profit Advocacy, Human Resources, and Workforce Development, and has designed systems and processes that have empowered her clients to become active, educated, and informed participants on their path to success. Ms. Gresham is guided by the principles of Servant Leadership, and knows that being a good leader means listening to the needs of her clients, in order to best assist with meeting their needs.

# SESSION THREE

*Control the Controllable:  
Building Power, Wealth, and Resilience in Your Career*

SPEAKER



**Nicholle Overkamp,**  
MBA, ChFc, CDFA, CLU

**Nicholle Overkamp (She/Her/Hers)** is an award-winning financial advisor, business coach, and Founder & CEO of Wilcox Financial Group and PowHERhouse Money Coaching. She works with high-achieving women and entrepreneurs who are ready to stop playing small and lead with their money. With over a decade of experience, Nicholle blends financial strategy, entrepreneurship, and leadership coaching to help clients grow wealth and build businesses that support their lives. Known for her no-fluff approach, she simplifies complexity and drives confident decision-making. Nicholle is a #1 best-selling author, sought-after speaker, podcast host, and a passionate advocate for women stepping fully into financial power and independence.



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

# SESSION FOUR

*Your Leadership, Your Way:  
Style, Strength, and Resilience*

## **Leadership is not one size fits all.**

In this session, emerging leaders will explore how to define their unique leadership style while strengthening the resilience needed to navigate challenges and growth. Participants will gain practical insights on leading with authenticity, adapting through change, and building the confidence to lead in their own way. Participants will gain practical insights to lead authentically and remain steady in the face of change.

MODERATOR



**Jillian Jones**

**Jillian Jones (She/Her/Hers)** is Deputy Director of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, where she leads institutional operations, advances major strategic initiatives in partnership with the board, and represents the museum in local, national, and international circles. She previously served as Director of Advancement, culminating in the successful completion of the museum's \$230 million capital campaign. Jones began her career at The George Washington University, where she earned her MA in Museum Studies, and later led philanthropic strategy at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. She is an active member of the Art Museum Development Association and the WNY Women's Foundation, and has been recognized by Buffalo Business First as a 40 Under 40 honoree and a Women in Business awardee.

# SESSION FOUR

*Your Leadership, Your Way:  
Style, Strength, and Resilience*

PANELIST



Kelly Cultrara

**Kelly Cultrara** is President of AP Executive Staffing, where she brings more than 25 years of experience helping organizations build high-performing, people-centered teams. A relationship-driven leader, Kelly has played a key role in growing the firm into a nationally expanding organization while staying deeply rooted in Western New York. She is passionate about empowering others to lead authentically and build meaningful, lasting connections. Kelly is actively involved in the community through nonprofit leadership and mentorship and is dedicated to supporting the next generation of women leaders. She believes the strongest leadership comes from becoming more of who you are, with intention, courage, and resilience.

PANELIST



Juweria Dahir

**Juweria Dahir (She/Her/Hers)** is a leader in innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development known for blending creative vision with data-driven strategy. She is the founder of JD Vertex, a consulting and data evaluation firm focused on data storytelling, impact evaluation, and strategic development. Juweria also serves at KeyBank as Co-Chair of Key4Entrepreneurs and a Key4Women Business Advisor, supporting women-owned and small businesses through capital access, financial literacy, and growth strategy. Previously, she served as Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and spent six years in municipal government leading strategic planning initiatives. She is also a Professor of Entrepreneurship and holds a MA from UB School of Architecture and Planning.



Juweria Dahir

Builder of Communities and Ecosystems | Urban  
Planner | Professor of Entrepreneurship | WNY Pr...



# SESSION FOUR

*Your Leadership, Your Way:  
Style, Strength, and Resilience*

PANELIST



**Dr. Latricia Davis**  
WNYWF Board Member

**Dr. Latricia C. Davis (She/Her/Hers)** is a leadership strategist, speaker, and executive mentor committed to helping leaders rise with resilience and lead with intention. She serves as Director of Inclusion at West Herr Automotive Group, where she leads initiatives that strengthen leadership effectiveness, innovation, and belonging. Dr. Davis is also the founder of Power to Emerge; a global leadership firm focused on empowering leaders at every stage to navigate change and lead authentically. With a Ph.D. in Creative Leadership, Innovation, and Change, she brings both academic rigor and real-world insight to conversations on courageous leadership, self-awareness, and leading in one's own way.

PANELIST



**Gina Paigen**

**Gina Paigen (She/Her/Hers)** is an executive coach, consultant, facilitator, and diversity strategist who helps individuals, teams, and organizations lead with purpose and creativity. She partners with clients to accelerate leadership, build high-performing teams, and foster inclusive, equitable cultures grounded in courage, compassion, and mindfulness. Gina's experience spans for-profit, nonprofit, and government sectors—from high-tech and biotech to academia, agriculture, and construction. She has coached CEOs, senior executives, directors, and emerging leaders, and consulted with corporate teams, boards, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits. Gina holds three professional coaching certifications, including neuroscience-based coaching, is a Certified Diversity Executive®, and is a certified practitioner in multiple leadership and assessment tools.





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# **WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**



**BILLS** FOOTBALL

**LET'S GO!**



# Lead the moment. Shape the future.

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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

May 29, 2026  
8:00 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

University at Buffalo-Center for the Arts

# EXPERIENCED LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

Main Stage

## SESSION ITINERARY

**11:05 AM:**  
Session Three

**Using Your Influence:**  
*Driving Change and Uplifting Women*

**12:00 PM:**

**Break**

**12:15 PM:**  
Session Four

**Leading Without Losing Yourself:**  
*Boundaries, Balance, and Sustainable Leadership*

**1:00 PM:**

**Closing Remarks**  
*Summit Concludes*

## THANK YOU TO OUR PATHWAY LEADERSHIP PARTNERS:



Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



# EXPERIENCED LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

*Main Stage*

HOST



**Emily Burns Perryman**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Emily (She/Her/Hers)**, Chief Marketing Officer at Invest in Others Charitable Foundation, is a PR and marketing executive with over 20 years of experience elevating brand visibility and driving engagement across diverse sectors. She has led strategic initiatives for global brands including Avon Products, Inc, Christian Dior Couture, and Jones New York/Nine West, and held senior roles in business advocacy, financial services, and higher education. She currently serves as Chief Marketing Officer for the Invest in Others Charitable Foundation; a national nonprofit focused on amplifying the charitable work of financial advisors through grantmaking. A local community leader, she serves on the board of the WNY Women's Foundation and as Vice Chair of the National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York.

HOST



**Marta Rogers**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Marta Rogers (She/Her/Hers)** is a leadership coach and HR executive with more than thirty years of experience leading organizational change across food manufacturing, financial services, and global corporate environments. Throughout her career, she has coached leaders at every level – from production supervisors to C-suite executives navigating career transitions. Clients describe her as authentic, objective, and deeply skilled at meeting people where they are. Marta also serves on the Board of the WNY Women's Foundation.

# SESSION THREE

## *Using Your Influence: Driving Change and Uplifting Women*

**Experienced leaders have the ability to shape cultures, open doors, and create opportunities for others.**

In this session, participants will explore how to use their influence to champion women, strengthen diversity in leadership, and create environments where more voices are supported and valued. Leaders will gain insight into how intentional actions and everyday decisions can help drive meaningful and lasting change.

MODERATOR



**Kendra Brim**

**Kendra Brim (She/Her/Hers)** is a leadership strategist, speaker, and community builder dedicated to developing people and strengthening organizations. She serves as Vice President of Programs & Organizational Advancement at Leadership Buffalo, where she designs transformative leadership experiences and cultivates cross-sector partnerships. Kendra is also the founder of K. Savannah Consulting, a firm that helps organizations execute strategy through strategy execution, operational alignment, and cross-sector collaboration, and Out of Bounds, a platform supporting athletes in their transition beyond sport. A former Division I basketball player at Colgate University, she brings a values-driven and experiential approach to leadership that centers growth, access, and meaningful impact.

# SESSION THREE

## *Using Your Influence: Driving Change and Uplifting Women*

PANELIST



**Allanna  
Kelly-Beaton**

**Allanna Kelly-Beaton** is a dynamic business leader and co-founder of Kelton Enterprises, overseeing 47 Tim Hortons locations across Western New York. Since 1999, she has grown the business to include over 1,100 employees, earning accolades like the 2025 Amherst Chamber Business of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year from Niagara University.

Deeply committed to community and ethics, Allanna serves on various boards and partners with organizations like Golisano Children's Hospital and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps. Recognized on the Buffalo Business First 200 Influential Women's List, she continues to prioritize mentorship, trust, and local philanthropy.

PANELIST



**Dr. Allison Brashear**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, (She/Her/Hers)** is a pioneering neurologist and transformational leader in academic medicine. As vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo, she guides UB's health sciences enterprise and advances clinical excellence as president and CEO of UBMD Physicians' Group. A global leader in ATP1A3-related disease research, her work helped bring three FDA-approved botulinum toxin therapies to patients worldwide. Formerly dean at UC Davis, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine and serves on national boards dedicated to strengthening academic medicine and advancing women's leadership.

# SESSION THREE

## *Using Your Influence: Driving Change and Uplifting Women*

PANELIST



**Christian Johnson**

**Christian Johnson (She/Her/Hers)** is an innovative entrepreneur and change-maker known for turning bold ideas into impactful businesses. She first gained recognition with her invention, Driver Watchdog, earning an invitation to the White House under President Obama. Her journey includes appearances connected to reality television and Shark Tank, amplifying her entrepreneurial voice. Christian has scaled a company to over \$5 million in revenue in just two years, showcasing her strategic expertise. As President and CEO of Beautiful Brains, she leads sustainable manufacturing and circular solutions like SmartCycle™, driving environmental impact while aligning business growth with climate and sustainability goals.

PANELIST



**Quinn Novak**

**Quinn Novak (She/Her/Hers)** is the Executive Director of Marketing at Ingram Micro, where she leads with a focus on innovation, strategy, and transformation. She oversees marketing initiatives that drive measurable impact and supports Ingram Micro's global go-to-market strategy. Previously, Quinn served as Director of Brand Management in the consumer goods industry, managing full product lifecycles and shaping brand architecture, storytelling, and customer experience. With a career grounded in insights and creativity, she brings a collaborative, growth-minded leadership style to the technology sector. Quinn lives in Buffalo, New York, with her husband and their two children.

# SESSION FOUR

## *Leading Without Losing Yourself: Boundaries, Balance, and Sustainable Leadership*

**Women leaders are often asked to stretch further, give more, and hold everything together.**

In this session, experienced leaders will explore how setting clear boundaries, protecting their energy, and prioritizing well being can strengthen both leadership effectiveness and personal sustainability. Participants will gain practical insights on leading with intention while maintaining the clarity and resilience needed for the long run.

MODERATOR



**Majority Leader  
Leah Halton-Pope**

**Majority Leader Leah Halton-Pope** brings a strong background in government relations and a deep commitment to public service to her roles as Ellicott District Councilwoman and Majority Leader of the Buffalo Common Council, assumed in January 2024. Previously serving as Senior Advisor to Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, she developed expertise in policy, legislative strategy, and community engagement. Her work at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and as a Field Organizer for Obama for America strengthened her advocacy and coalition-building skills, while her time with Girl Scouts of Western New York reflected her dedication to youth empowerment. Halton-Pope focuses on inclusive leadership, economic opportunity, and amplifying diverse voices across the district.

# SESSION FOUR

*Leading Without Losing Yourself:  
Boundaries, Balance, and Sustainable Leadership*

SPEAKER



**Dr. Kimberly  
DeSimone**

**Dr. Kimberly DeSimone** is a tenured full professor, gender equity expert, and leadership scholar with over 20 years in academia and a decade of Fortune 500 leadership experience. Her research and widely published work focus on advancing women, workplace equity, and the hidden dynamics shaping leadership and advancement. She is the creator and host of the globally followed Advancing Women Podcast, reaching listeners in over 150 countries. An award-winning educator and speaker, Dr. DeSimone was named a Buffalo Business First Woman of Influence and has been invited to present globally, including at the United Nations. She also serves as an executive coach, helping leaders build sustainable, equity-centered practices and supporting women in navigating bias and systemic barriers.



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

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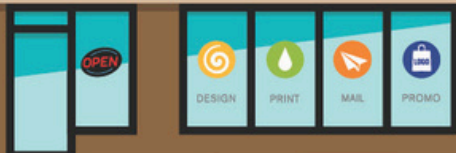
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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

May 29, 2026  
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University at Buffalo-Center for the Arts

# SHE-SUITE PATHWAY SESSIONS

Screening Room

## SESSION ITINERARY

**11:05 AM:**  
Session Three

**Smarter Work, Greater Impact:**  
*Applying AI Where It Matters Most*

**12:00 PM:**

**Break**

**12:15 PM:**  
Session Four

**Stronger Together:**  
*Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

**1:00 PM:**

**Closing Remarks**  
*Summit Concludes*

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# SHE-SUITE PATHWAY SESSIONS

Screening Room

HOST



**Siobhan Smith**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Siobhan Smith (She/Her/Hers)** is the Founder and Principal of Siobhan Smith Executive Consulting and a Vistage Chair. She partners with senior leaders and executive teams to strengthen leadership, build trust, and navigate growth, transition, and complexity with clarity and confidence. Siobhan brings more than 25 years of senior leadership experience inside corporations and over 13 years as an executive consultant and executive coach. She previously co-founded Catapult Executive Consulting, a nationally recognized firm, and is known for helping leaders and teams translate insight into meaningful progress and results. A Leadership Buffalo graduate and former Board Chair of Trocaire College, Siobhan is also an active member of the Western New York Women's Foundation, where she serves on the Executive Committee and the Women in Leadership Committee. She was recognized by Buffalo Business First as a 2023 Women of Influence honoree in the entrepreneur category.

HOST



**Liz Woike**

**Liz (She/Her/Hers)** is a Buffalo native who earned a BA from Yale University, followed by a Fulbright year in Costa Rica and two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. She has a Master of Social Work from SUNY Buffalo, joined Lake Shore Behavioral Health as an intern in 2002, became a counselor in 2004, and joined the BestSelf Executive Management Team in 2012. As Chief Operating Officer, she was instrumental in the 2017 merger of Lake Shore and Child and Adolescent Treatment Services to form BestSelf, and she was appointed CEO in July 2020. A graduate of Leadership Buffalo and a Health Leadership Fellow, Liz serves as Board President for Value Network IPA Behavioral Health Care Collaborative, serves as Board Secretary for the NY State Council for Community Behavioral Health Care, and is an at-large Trustee of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. She has been awarded Buffalo Business First's Woman of Influence and C-Level Leader awards, the Athena Award.

# SESSION THREE

*Smarter Work, Greater Impact:  
Applying AI Where It Matters Most*

**Artificial intelligence is transforming how work gets done, creating new opportunities to think strategically and lead more effectively.**

In this session, participants will explore practical ways to apply AI to streamline tasks, strengthen decision making, and focus their time on the work that matters most. Women leaders will gain insight into how thoughtful use of AI can support productivity, innovation, and greater impact across their organizations.

MODERATOR



**Leecia Eve**

**Leecia Eve (She/Her/Hers)** is an operations and public policy expert with more than 30 years of experience across the public and private sectors, advising government and Fortune 500 clients on mission critical initiatives. She previously served as a senior executive at Verizon, where she helped accelerate 5G deployment across the New York-New Jersey region and led public policy, government affairs, and philanthropy. In public service, she has held senior roles including General Counsel of Empire State Development and counsel positions for Senators Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton. She chairs Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and serves on multiple major boards.

# SESSION THREE

*Smarter Work, Greater Impact:  
Applying AI Where It Matters Most*

SPEAKER



Tiffany Vasilchik



**Tiffany Vasilchik (She/Her/Hers)** is Co-Founder of Hot Cognition, an AI-powered company helping SMBs, enterprise teams, and consultancies scale smarter. With over 20 years leading business development and brand management at top innovation and brand firms including Prophet, Landor, and Fahrenheit 212, and global companies including Pepsi and Mondelez, she has worked with teams of every size and stage. She brings that experience to building AI tools that help sales and marketing leaders work more efficiently, freeing up time and space for what humans do best: building relationships. Tiffany is also focused on gender bias in generative AI, researching how senior women leaders are navigating and adopting these tools, and what that means for the next generation of women in the workforce.



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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University at Buffalo-Center for the Arts

# LEADERSHIP ALLY PATHWAY SESSIONS

Art Gallery- Lower Level

## SESSION ITINERARY

**11:05 AM:**  
Session Three

**What's Stopping Me?**  
*Positive Intelligence and Stronger Allyship*

**12:00 PM:**

**Break**

**12:15 PM:**  
Session Four

**Stronger Together:**  
*Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

**1:00 PM:**

**Closing Remarks**  
*Summit Concludes*

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# LEADERSHIP ALLY PATHWAY SESSIONS

*Art Gallery- Lower Level*

HOST



**Alanna Pokorski**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Alanna Pokorski (She/Her/Hers)** brings over 25 years of experience as a Doctor of Physical Therapy, specializing in outpatient orthopaedics for spine and extremity conditions. A longtime leader in the field, she now guides several teams in Excelsior Orthopaedics including therapy, urgent care, sports medicine, and nutrition services with a strong focus on innovation and patient-centered care. Alanna is passionate about creating a high quality experience for patients in Western NY and is committed to leadership mentorship and teaching. She has taught several clinical and leadership courses across New York State and nationally, including at the APTA Private Practice Conference and the Orthoforum national conference. Committed to lifelong learning, she actively attends professional courses and events to ensure Excelsior is current on best practices and emerging trends in orthopedic care. Her dedication enhances both team development and patient outcomes.

HOST



**Michael Ball**

**Michael Ball** is the vice president of community affairs for Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, where he directs corporate grants, sponsorships, and health disparity initiatives. He also leads the Blue Fund, which awards major grants to enhance regional health.

Previously, Ball served as regional director for Empire State Development and executive director of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council. His background also includes leadership roles at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

A Buffalo native, Ball holds a master's degree from the University at Buffalo. He actively serves on several local boards, including the Buffalo Olmstead Parks and Buffalo Sabres Foundation.

# SESSION THREE

## *What's Stopping Me? Positive Intelligence and Stronger Allyship*

### **What holds us back from being the allies we aspire to be?**

In this session, participants will explore how positive Intelligence, emotional intelligence, and self-awareness influence leadership and allyship. When allies develop greater awareness of their habits and reactions, they become far more effective supporters and sponsors for women leading to business growth.

Participants will gain practical allyship tools that strengthen collaboration, advance inclusive leadership, and help translate good intentions into meaningful action.

MODERATOR



**Brad Damstedt**

**Brad Damstedt (He/Him/His)** is a self-described late starter in the world of Allyship and is grateful for the open-armed welcome he's received. With a strong background in volunteerism, Brad is working on broadening his perspectives through data and stories and on speaking up as an advocate for others. Brad is inspired by seeing people help other people. Brad works as a research engineer at Linde, using his PhD in chemical engineering to develop combustion related applications that enable Linde customers to reduce pollution emissions, increase productivity and / or utilize alternative fuel sources. Brad is married and father of four.

# SESSION THREE

## *What's Stopping Me? Positive Intelligence and Stronger Allyship*

MODERATOR



Emry Moore

**Emry Moore**, Lead Community Affairs Specialist at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, is a driving force behind Highmark's commitment to community well-being and corporate social responsibility. With over a decade of dedicated service to the local health plan and a strong foundation in operations and service, Emry expertly cultivates and strengthens strategic partnerships across Western New York. Emry's collaborative approach extends to working closely with local organizations and internal teams, ensuring resources are effectively directed through charitable contributions and sponsorships, ultimately amplifying Highmark's positive impact and fostering a healthier community.

SPEAKER



Christina Lesh

**Christina Lesh (She/Her/Hers)** is a Vistage Chair and executive leadership coach working with Western New York CEOs and business owners navigating complex, high-stakes decisions. She helps leaders build stronger companies and cultures where women can fully contribute and advance.

She leads a peer advisory group where leaders challenge each other's thinking, strengthen judgment, and uncover blind spots that quietly limit performance. Christina does this work because she has seen too many capable executives burn out in isolation, because they carry decisions without honest challenge or perspective.

As a result of her 15+ years as a senior leader and executive coach, she believes most leadership gaps are an opportunity for awareness and the willingness to examine the gap between intent and impact.

# SESSION FOUR

*Stronger Together:  
Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

**Progress happens when leaders across sectors and perspectives work together to create meaningful change.**

In this session, participants will explore how collaboration, allyship, and shared leadership can strengthen organizations and expand opportunities for women.

Through discussion and practical insights, leaders will learn how to turn intention into action and work more effectively across industries and roles. The session will include interactive scenario modeling that brings these concepts to life and demonstrates how collaborative leadership can work in practice. Participants will drive a culture of winning together for our community.

MODERATOR



**Erin Johnson**  
*WNYWF Board Member*

**Erin Johnson (She/Her/Hers)** is a global business executive with more than 25 years of experience leading strategy, business transformation, and human resources across diverse industries, from Fortune 100 companies to private equity-owned organizations. She currently serves as Vice President of Human Resources for Moog's Space and Defense operating group, supporting rapid growth to equip those who defend freedom and explore the universe. Erin holds an MBA from Canisius University, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Economics, and a certification in Strategy from the University of Oxford. She serves on the boards of the WNY Women's Foundation and Mount St. Mary Academy and has been recognized as a Top 40 Under 40 business leader and one of Buffalo Business First's Most Powerful Women.

# SESSION FOUR

*Stronger Together:  
Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

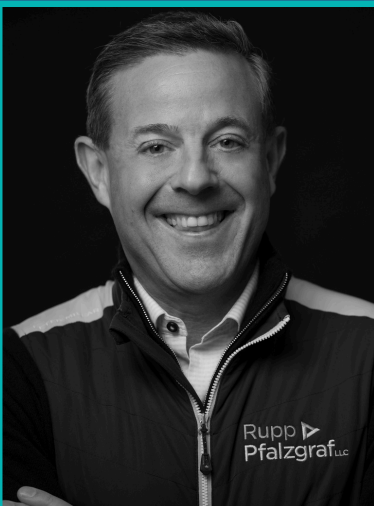
PANELIST



**Jamie Batt**  
WNYWF Board Member

**Jamie Batt (She/Her/Hers)** is a Partner and co-leader of the Business Law Group at Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC, where she advises businesses and executives on mergers and acquisitions, succession planning, and complex corporate transactions. Known for her ability to align stakeholders and move deals forward, she serves as a trusted advisor during pivotal moments of growth and transition. Jamie is widely recognized for her leadership, including Buffalo Business First's Power 200 Women and Women of Influence honors. She is an avid supporter of initiatives that advance women in leadership. As an active leader in the Western New York community, Jamie serves on the Board of Directors of the WNY Women's Foundation.

PANELIST



**Dave Pfalzgraf**

**David R. Pfalzgraf, Jr.** is the Founding and Managing Partner of Rupp Pfalzgraf LLC, where he has led the firm's growth into one of Western New York's leading full-service law firms. Under his leadership, the firm has been recognized as one of Buffalo's Best Places to Work for 18 years. He advises closely held and public companies on mergers and acquisitions, financing, and complex business transactions, serving as a trusted advisor on high-stakes decisions. David is consistently recognized among the region's top business leaders, including Buffalo Business First's Power 250, and is known for building strong teams and driving collaboration. Outside the office, David is proud to serve on numerous for profit and not for profit Boards and loves to travel with his wife Amanda and his 4 grown children. He is also an avid and accomplished squash player and Ironman.

# SESSION FOUR

*Stronger Together:  
Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

PANELIST



**Beth Hollis**

**Beth Hollis (She/Her/Hers)** is a transformative leader whose career reflects exceptional drive, strategic vision, and sustained impact. Beginning in an entry-level dealership role at age 20, she rose rapidly through various sales and leadership positions to become President of West Herr Auto Group in 2026. Over two decades, she has led multiple operations, consistently elevating financial performance, team engagement, and customer loyalty. Known for her servant leadership and sharp business acumen, Beth helps shape organizational strategy, customer experience, growth, team engagement and culture at one of the nation's top auto groups. Her influence extends beyond business through active community leadership, board service, and numerous honors recognizing her as a leading voice in Western New York.

PANELIST



**Scott Bieler**

**Scott R. Bieler** began his career with West Herr Automotive Group in 1975 as a Sales Consultant and quickly advanced into leadership roles, becoming General Manager in 1981 when the company operated a single dealership. He became a partner in 1983, president in 1997, and majority owner in 2000. Under his leadership, West Herr has grown into the largest automotive group in New York State and one of the largest privately owned groups in the country, with 41 locations, 27 franchises, and over 3,100 employees. A dedicated philanthropist, he and his wife Kathy founded the Scott Bieler Family Foundation to strengthen Western New York communities.

# SESSION FOUR

*Stronger Together:  
Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

PANELIST



Denise Gueli

**Denise Gueli** helped launch The Bonadio Group Buffalo office in 2002 and grew into a Partner, later leading both the Commercial and Small Business Teams. She served as Managing Partner of the Buffalo office until retiring in 2023 and now supports clients in a Senior Counsel role. Denise specializes in construction, auto dealerships, and pension plans, and is known for her strong relationships and mentorship. A SUNY Geneseo graduate, she has been active in the community, including leadership roles with the NYSSCPA and United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. She has received Business First's 40 Under 40 and NAWBO honors.

PANELIST



Jim Keefe

**Jim Keefe** is a Firm Ambassador in the Advisory & Consulting Division and Construction & Real Estate Industry of The Bonadio Group's Buffalo office. His responsibilities include new business development, consulting, and promoting the Firm in the Western New York Business Community. From a client perspective, Jim has earned an outstanding reputation in the Buffalo market for seeing beyond providing accounting and compliance services. He is also a consultant and advisor who takes special pride in empowering companies with the ability to see where they are now and where they want to go, complemented by the experience of guiding clients on how to achieve their goals. Jim assists clients with financing of all forms regularly. Jim believes that a strong client relationship is the cornerstone of superb client service, a sentiment that is reflected in his business approach.

# SESSION FOUR

*Stronger Together:  
Empowering Leaders Across Sectors to Drive Collaborative Action*

PANELIST



**Councilwoman  
Zeneta B. Everhart**

**Zeneta B. Everhart**, a lifelong Buffalo native, is a public servant and community advocate dedicated to equity and inclusion. She holds degrees from Villa Maria College and Canisius College and began her career in media with Spectrum News before transitioning into public service as Director of Diversity & Inclusion for New York State Senator Tim Kennedy. Following the 5/14 tragedy that injured her son, she testified before Congress, contributing to the Safer Communities Act. She co-founded initiatives supporting single mothers and promoting inclusive education. In 2023, she was elected to the Buffalo Common Council, representing the Masten District with a commitment to service and community empowerment.

PANELIST



**Adam Fogel**

**Adam Fogel (He/Him/His)** serves as Chief of Staff to Congressman Timothy M. Kennedy (NY-26), overseeing offices in Washington, D.C. and Western New York, and serves as Campaign Manager for Kennedy for Congress. A veteran of government and politics, Adam previously served as Chief of Staff to a Montgomery County (MD) Council member and a Maryland State Senator, and managed successful campaigns in New York and Maryland. Originally from Cleveland, Adam relocated to Buffalo nine years ago with his wife, a Western New York native. They live in Snyder with their three kids and a dog. He holds degrees in English and Political Science from Allegheny College and Political Management from George Washington University.

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# WOMEN'S WELLNESS SUMMIT

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### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Mary Wilson**  
Philanthropist and Founder,  
WNY Girls in Sports

### PANEL #1: ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

#### MODERATOR



**Melissa Holmes**  
Daybreak News Anchor,  
WGRZ



**Elspeth Call, MD, FACOG**  
OB/GYN,  
Trinity Medical, an affiliate  
of Catholic Health



**Eram Chaudhry, MD**  
Cardiologist,  
Trinity Medical, an affiliate  
of Catholic Health



**Kenyani Davis, MD, MPH**  
Primary Care Physician,  
Trinity Medical, an  
affiliate of  
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### PANEL #2: 360° WELLNESS FOR WOMEN

#### MODERATOR



**Ida Gibson, Ph.D.**  
Director of Culture and  
Community Engagement  
at Catholic Health



**Trini E. Ross**  
Partner, Harter  
Secrest & Emery LLP



**Cindy Voelker**  
President and CEO,  
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WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION  
WNY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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*Jody E. Briandi, Esq.  
Hurwitz Fine President/Managing Partner  
WNY Women's Foundation, Board of Directors*

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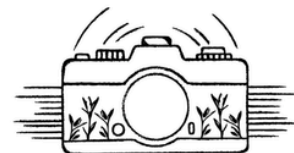
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Danielle Andolora is a distinguished member of the Elite Advisors Group at Equitable Advisors, an internal recognition program that highlights exceptional performance and leadership. She has notably led The Empire Branch in the DSF class for three consecutive years and achieved the distinction of being the top-ranking female in the Equitable Advisors DSF class nationwide in 2025. She is also the first female to achieve the Bronze Eagle recognition as a DSF. With over three decades of industry experience, Danielle leverages her engineering background to assist clients in portfolio analysis and financial strategy development, providing personalized and supportive guidance. Before joining Equitable Advisors, Danielle had a successful career in the automotive, medical device, and aerospace industries, where she held significant roles such as Senior Process Engineer and Manufacturing Engineering Group Leader. Her qualifications include certifications in Quality Systems (ISO14001, QS9000), Lean Manufacturing, and she holds a Six Sigma Green Belt. Academically, Danielle earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and an MBA from St. Bonaventure University.

Further enhancing her expertise, Danielle earned a Coaching Certificate from Columbia University and is recognized as a credentialed Holistic Financial Coach by Equitable Advisors. She is passionate about empowering women, drawing inspiration from her personal experience as a single mom to her son Joseph.

Danielle enjoys spending time with her family, is fluent in Italian, is a golfer, and has achieved remarkable success in swimming. She ranked 5th nationally in her age group as a US Masters competitive swimmer and became the Empire State Champion in backstroke events in 2025. Additionally, Danielle serves as President of Niagara Aquatics Club, where she advocates for life-saving swimming skills across all ages in local communities. Danielle is licensed to practice in multiple states, including New York, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

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### Danielle Andolora, MBA, Financial Professional

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