

May 30, 2025
9:00 A.M.-1:15 P.M.
University at Buffalo-Alumni Arena

MORNING ITINERARY

8:15 AM:

Registration Opens

9:00 AM:

Summit Begins

9:07 AM:

Opening Session with Barbara Annis
Better Together: *Understanding the
Science of Gender Dynamics for
Workplace Success*

9:40 AM:

P.O.W.E.R Seal Awards

SPEAKER



Barbara Annis

Join Barbara Annis, CEO of Gender Intelligence™, as she opens the Summit with powerful insights on how understanding gender differences drives better communication, decision-making, and team performance. Discover research-based strategies to build inclusive, high-performing teams through balanced representation and leadership.



May 30, 2025
9:00 A.M.-1:15 P.M.
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EMERGING LEADER PATHWAY SESSIONS

SESSION ITINERARY

10:00 AM:
Session One

**From Star Performer to
Power Player:**
Your Leadership Breakthrough

10:45 AM:
Session Two

Paid in Full:
The Art of Salary Negotiation

12:10 PM:
Session Three

See It to Be It:
Wisdom from the SHE-Suite

12:45 PM:
Networking

The Leadership Link-Up:
Where Networking Gets Real

SESSION ONE

From Star Performer to Power Player: Your Leadership Breakthrough

Have you mastered your role but feel unsure how to step into the next level? You're more ready than you think.

In this dynamic panel, rising leaders and seasoned pros will share real-world insights on what it takes to grow from a strong individual contributor into a confident, strategic leader.

Explore the mindset, challenges, and opportunities that come with stepping into your power—and walk away with the clarity and confidence to lead with purpose.

HOST



Alanna Pokorski

Alanna Pokorski brings over 20 years of experience as a physical therapist, specializing in outpatient orthopaedics for spine and extremity conditions. A longtime leader in the field, she now guides Excelsior's physical therapy team with a strong focus on innovation and patient-centered care. Alanna is also passionate about education and has taught courses for clinicians across New York State and nationally, including at the APTA Private Practice Conference. Committed to lifelong learning, she actively attends professional courses and events to stay current on best practices and emerging trends in physical therapy. Her dedication enhances both team development and patient outcomes.

SESSION ONE

From Star Performer to Power Player: Your Leadership Breakthrough

MODERATOR



Erin Johnson

Erin Johnson is a global HR executive with over 20 years of experience driving strategy, change management, and talent development across Fortune 100 and private equity-backed companies. She joined Moog in 2024 as Group Vice President, Human Resources Director for the Space and Defense Group, supporting 3,400+ employees worldwide. Erin has led strategic HR initiatives in sectors including manufacturing, technology, and food and beverage, with a focus on transformation and growth. She holds an MBA from Canisius University, a bachelor's from SUNY Buffalo State, and a certification from Oxford's Saïd Business School. Erin was named a Buffalo Business First "Most Powerful Woman" in 2022.

PANELIST



Kim Marino

Kim Marino is Manager of Talent & Organizational Development at Independent Health, where she leads talent strategy with a focus on leadership development, coaching, and associate engagement. With over 25 years of experience, Kim is skilled in using assessments to support growth at all levels. She oversees performance management, succession planning, and organizational effectiveness. Kim also leads Independent Health's diversity, inclusion, and belonging strategy and was a 2020 recipient of Business First's IDEA Award. She holds degrees from Canisius College and SUNY Buffalo State, and a Leadership Coaching Certification from UB. Kim actively volunteers with the Independent Health Foundation.

SESSION ONE

From Star Performer to Power Player: Your Leadership Breakthrough

PANELIST



Chantele Campbell

Chantele Campbell, Community Impact Officer at BestSelf Behavioral Health, is a seasoned public sector leader with 20+ years of experience in community engagement, health equity, and leadership development. Formerly Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Buffalo, she advances inclusive strategies to remove barriers to wellness and opportunity. Chantele holds two master's degrees, multiple certifications, and is pursuing a Doctorate in Business Administration. A dynamic speaker and founder of The C-Suite Mama, she empowers mothers in leadership. Recognized with numerous awards, she serves on several boards and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and The Links, Incorporated.

PANELIST



Julie Berrigan

Julie Berrigan is the Executive Director of the ECMC Foundation, overseeing operations, fundraising, and board collaboration. With 20 years in the nonprofit sector, she has led major campaigns, including a \$3.7 million effort for the Park School of Buffalo and securing Lockport Memorial Hospital's first \$1 million gift. Julie specializes in donor engagement and planned giving, with training from the Lilly School of Philanthropy. She holds degrees from Hamilton College and Canisius College. A Central New York native, she's lived in Buffalo for 20 years and serves on the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Niagara Community Center board and Niagara Area Foundation council.

SESSION ONE

From Star Performer to Power Player: Your Leadership Breakthrough

PANELIST



Dr. Latricia Davis

Dr. Latricia C. Davis is a leadership strategist, transformational speaker, and executive mentor known for inspiring breakthrough thinking. As Director of Inclusion at West Herr Automotive Group, she leads culture transformation initiatives that drive innovation and excellence. She is also the founder of Power To Emerge, a global leadership firm. With a Ph.D. in Creative Leadership, Innovation, and Change, she developed the D.A.R.E. Model™ of Resilient Leadership. Her work spans corporate, government, education, and nonprofit sectors. Honored with the 2022 Black Achievers Award and named to Buffalo's Power 100 in 2024, she empowers leaders to lead with clarity and courage.

PANELIST



Jeannie Parent

Jeannie Parent is an Executive Leadership Coach with deep expertise from a career in C-suite roles across North American media companies. Formerly SVP of Media Sales at The Buffalo News and President/CEO for Digital First Media's Michigan Region, she led operations, sales, and digital strategy. Jeannie co-created Buffalo's first leadership course for women, "Next Level Leadership," and coaches leaders across sectors. She serves on several boards, including United Way of WNY, and is a Faculty Coach at UB. Certified in Leadership Coaching and Hogan Assessments, she blends executive insight with empathy. Jeannie lives in Buffalo with her husband and family.

SESSION TWO

***Paid in Full:**
The Art of Salary Negotiation*

Knowing your worth is one thing—asking for it is another.

In this practical and confidence-boosting session, we'll break down the essentials of salary negotiation, from research and timing to language and mindset.

Walk away with the tools to advocate for yourself, own your value, and navigate the negotiation table with clarity and confidence.

MODERATOR



**Rene Petties-
Jones**

Rene Petties-Jones is President and CEO of the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc., and Chair of the national NFJC Board—its first African American woman leader. A champion of equity and inclusion, she serves on the Community Foundation's Racial Equity Roundtable and held national DEI leadership roles with PRSA. A University at Buffalo alum, Rene is a Rockwood Fellow and Harvard alum of the Advancing Women of Color program. Honored with numerous awards, including Business First's Power 200 and the City of Buffalo's Equity Award, she actively serves on advisory boards advancing justice, education, and community well-being.

SESSION TWO

***Paid in Full:**
The Art of Salary Negotiation*

SPEAKER



**Julia Culkin-
Jacobia**

Julia Culkin-Jacobia is the Compensation Consulting Practice Leader at Catapult, bringing over 20 years of experience as a Human Resources and Compensation Executive. She has led HR strategy across diverse industries, from tech and life sciences to healthcare and municipalities. Julia specializes in designing compensation philosophies, incentive plans, and market-aligned strategies that support business goals while attracting and retaining top talent. Known for balancing business needs with employee engagement, she creates programs that drive results and foster positive culture. Julia holds a bachelor's in business administration from the University at Buffalo and an executive certification from Harvard Business School.

SESSION THREE

*See It to Be It:
Wisdom from the SHE-Suite*

Representation isn't just powerful—it's transformational.

In this inspiring panel, accomplished women leaders share their journeys to the top, the lessons they've learned, and the realities they've faced along the way.

Whether you're just starting out or redefining what leadership looks like at your level, this session offers real talk, relatable stories, and the motivation to lead boldly—on your own terms.

MODERATOR



Rosanna Berardi

Rosanna Berardi is the Managing Partner of Berardi Immigration Law, an award-winning firm she founded in 2005 after leaving a prestigious big-firm job. Starting with one client, she built a multinational business immigration practice known for exceptional client service. A former Immigration Inspector and Trial Attorney, Rosanna brings decades of experience to her work. Her firm is a certified woman-owned business and has earned numerous accolades, including “Best Places to Work” and Inc.’s Female Founders 200. A sought-after speaker and media source, Rosanna remains deeply engaged in her community and values time with her husband, son, and local nonprofits.

SESSION THREE

*See It to Be It:
Wisdom from the SHE-Suite*

PANELIST



Heather Gresham

Heather Gresham is Counsel and Vice President of People and Culture at RepresentUs, America's leading nonpartisan anti-corruption organization. With over two decades of HR leadership experience across healthcare, higher education, and transportation, she is dedicated to fostering inclusive, authentic, and thriving workplaces. A licensed attorney, Heather earned both her juris doctor and bachelor's degrees from the University at Buffalo. She also holds certifications from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI), Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Executive Education.

PANELIST



Amie P. Feroletto

Major Amie P. Feroletto is the first woman to serve as Troop A Commander in the 107-year history of the New York State Police. A 22-year veteran, she has held numerous roles including Trooper, Sergeant, Station Commander, Lieutenant, Captain, and service in the Professional Standards Bureau. She now leads over 400 personnel across eight Western New York counties. Major Feroletto holds a bachelor's in Business Administration and a master's in Criminal Justice. Her service in Troops A, B, D, E, H, and K reflects her adaptability and leadership. Her historic promotion marks a milestone for women in law enforcement.

SESSION THREE

*See It to Be It:
Wisdom from the SHE-Suite*

PANELIST



Trini Rossi

Trini E. Ross became the first African American woman to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York on October 11, 2021. Unanimously confirmed, she was among the first five U.S. Attorneys appointed by President Biden. She served until February 14, 2025, and was selected for the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, where she chaired the subcommittee on Law Enforcement Coordinators, Victims, and Community Outreach. Her legal career spans roles at the DOJ, National Science Foundation, and private practice. A frequent speaker and educator, Ms. Ross has earned numerous awards for her public service and professional excellence.

PANELIST



Kathleen Heckman

Kathleen Heckman is Vice President for University Advancement at the University at Buffalo, New York's largest public university. With nearly 30 years of higher education experience, she leads fundraising, alumni engagement, and advancement operations. A trusted advisor and member of the president's cabinet, she co-directed UB's \$1 billion Boldly Buffalo campaign and shapes strategies to elevate UB among the nation's Top 25 public research universities. Her expertise spans campaign planning, donor relations, and alumni programming. Kathleen holds an M.B.A. and a bachelor's in international business from UB. She lives in Clarence, New York, with her husband and two children.

SESSION THREE

*See It to Be It:
Wisdom from the SHE-Suite*

PANELIST



Rebecca Brady

Rebecca grew up in New Zealand, where she spent her childhood playing sports and enjoying the outdoors. She studied Marketing and Management at Victoria University before spending ten years working across various companies in Singapore, including six years at Hewlett-Packard. She then moved to Japan, where she lived for another decade while raising her children. In 2015, Rebecca and her family relocated to Buffalo, NY. After facing challenges reentering the workforce due to a career gap, she started her own business, Top Seedz, creating healthy, seed-based snacks. Rebecca serves on the board of the Darwin Martin House and enjoys playing squash, pickleball, and golf in her free time.

PANELIST



Lorrie Turner

Lorrie Turner is a seasoned legal executive with over 28 years of experience in corporate law, intellectual property, and brand protection. She most recently served as Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President of Global Legal and Brand Protection at New Era Cap, supporting the company's global growth. Earlier, she held legal roles at Rich Products Corporation and Hodgson Russ LLP. Lorrie earned her J.D. magna cum laude from the University at Buffalo School of Law and a B.S. with distinction from Clarkson University. She is passionate about nonprofit work, including cancer research fundraising and animal rescue organizations.