

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.



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SHE-SUITE PATHWAY SESSIONS

SESSION ITINERARY

10:00 AM:
Session One

Beyond the Keynote:
*A SHE-Suite Deep Dive with
Barbara Annis*

10:45 AM:
Session Two

AI with Purpose:
Driving Organizational and Social Good

11:40 AM:

Facilitated Networking Lunch

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

Beyond the Keynote:
A SHE-Suite Deep Dive with Barbara Annis

This exclusive session offers senior executives the rare opportunity to go beyond the mainstage and engage directly with Barbara Annis in an intimate, peer-to-peer setting.

Building on the themes from her opening session, we'll take a deeper dive into the real-world implications of gender intelligence at the highest levels of leadership—through candid conversation, shared experiences, and meaningful connection with fellow leaders.

HOST



Siobhan Smith

With 30+ years of executive experience, Siobhan Smith is a trusted partner to leaders navigating change and driving performance. As Co-President and Co-Founder of Catapult Executive Consulting, she helps organizations align strategy, culture, and talent to achieve measurable results. A certified Executive and Team Coach, Siobhan brings empathy, insight, and a results-driven approach to leadership development, team alignment, and succession planning. She has guided leaders across industries including finance, healthcare, and manufacturing. A dedicated community leader, she serves on the WNY Women's Foundation board and is passionate about helping people lead with purpose, authenticity, and impact.

SESSION ONE

Beyond the Keynote:

A SHE-Suite Deep Dive with Barbara Annis

MODERATOR



Dr. Allison Brashear

Allison Brashear, MD, MBA is an internationally renowned neurologist, researcher, and academic leader. As Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo, she leads strategic integration across UB's five health science schools. A pioneer in movement disorders research, Brashear's NIH-funded work has transformed treatments for spasticity and dystonia. She is a dedicated advocate for diversity in medicine and a leader in advancing women's leadership. Her visionary approach fosters excellence in medical education, research, and clinical care while strengthening community and hospital partnerships across the Buffalo region.

MODERATOR



Liz Woike

Liz Woike is President & CEO of BestSelf Behavioral Health. She began her career as an intern at Lake Shore Behavioral Health in 2002 and rose through the ranks to executive leadership. A Tonawanda native and Kenmore West graduate, Liz studied international relations at Yale and sustainable farming in Costa Rica as a Fulbright Scholar. She served in the Peace Corps in Gabon before returning to Buffalo to work at Vive, Inc. and earn her MSW from the University at Buffalo. Liz is a Leadership Buffalo and Health Fellows alum and remains deeply engaged in the behavioral health community.

SESSION ONE

Beyond the Keynote:

A SHE-Suite Deep Dive with Barbara Annis

SPEAKER



Barbara Annis

Barbara Annis is CEO of Gender Intelligence™ Group (BIN) and a global expert in inclusive leadership, gender diversity, and culture transformation. A pioneer in advancing Gender Intelligence™, she has helped shift organizational mindsets toward gender unity as a driver of business success. Barbara began her trailblazing career as the first woman in sales at Sony, earning 14 top performance awards. Over 30 years, she and her team have led 8,000+ workshops and executive coaching sessions worldwide. A bestselling author and Harvard Women's Leadership Board member, she received the International Alliance for Women Lifetime Achievement Award for her global impact.

SESSION TWO

***AI with Purpose:**
Driving Organizational and Social Good*

As AI transforms the way we work, the most powerful applications go beyond efficiency—they advance equity, innovation, and impact.

In this future-focused session for SHE-Suite leaders, we'll explore how to harness AI not just for performance, but for purpose. Discover how thoughtful, ethical implementation can drive both organizational excellence and meaningful social change.

MODERATOR



Becky Brubaker

Becky is General Manager at Bureau Veritas, overseeing the Buffalo testing facility and US/Canada Supply Chain Solutions. With 30 years in publishing before transitioning to manufacturing, Becky has held executive roles at Power Drives, Inc. and HarperCollins. She brings deep operational expertise, leading large teams through business transformation, automation, and crisis management, including pandemic response. A certified leadership coach, she's passionate about developing women in business and driving performance through people and process. Becky holds a BS from RIT and an MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School. She lives in Clarence Center, NY, with her husband Todd and their twin sons, Gavin and Nate.

SESSION TWO

***AI with Purpose:**
Driving Organizational and Social Good*

SPEAKER



Dr. Christine Wang

X. Christine Wang, Ph.D. is a professor of early education and learning sciences at the University at Buffalo, where she directs the Fisher-Price Endowed Early Childhood Research Center and serves as Senior Associate Dean for Research. She leads CELaRAI, a national center advancing responsible AI for early literacy, and contributes to the National AI Institute for Exceptional Education. Christine is an internationally recognized scholar, keynote speaker, and award-winning mentor. Her work bridges research, education, and technology to improve learning outcomes for all children. In 2025, she received the UB President's Medal for her impact on education, equity, and innovation.

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.