

WBEC GREATER DMV
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

women

MEAN BUSINESS

SUMMIT

STRENGTH OF SYNERGY

Friday, March 20, 2026
9:00AM - 5:00PM

MGM National Harbor
101 National Ave, Oxon Hill, Maryland

PRESENTED BY



PROGRAM GUIDE

Plan your Summit experience to align with your business goals. In this guide you'll find all the programming, Marketplace, and speaker information you'll need for the day.



women SUMMIT
MEAN BUSINESS

WBEC GREATER DMV
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

Friday, March 20, 2026 • 9:00AM – 5:00PM
MGM National Harbor • 101 National Ave, Oxon Hill, Maryland

STRENGTH OF SYNERGY / PRESENTED BY Capital One

AGENDA

8:15AM	REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST NETWORKING, AND MARKETPLACE BROWSING
9:00AM	<p>MAIN SESSION WELCOME: STRENGTH OF SYNERGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leandra Joseph, COO, WBEC Metro NY and Greater DMV • Reuben Essandoh, Director of Enterprise Supplier Management, Supplier Diversity and On-campus recruiting, Capital One; Treasurer, WBEC NY DMV <p>POWER PANEL: SYNERGISTIC COLLABORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Madeline Fetterly, CEO & Founder, Be the Brand Collective • Marisela Rodela, Program Director, Office of Women's Initiatives (OWI), Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF) • Chinyere Hubbard, President and CEO, DC Chamber of Commerce • Nicole Cober Johnson, Founder and Chair, The BOW Collective <p>KNOW BEFORE YOU GROW PANEL: RECENTERING YOUR PATH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Angela Dingle, CEO, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) • Courtney Fairchild, President and CEO, Global Services • Nada Allie, Business Development Specialist, Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, Export-Import (EXIM) Bank • Tiffany Crowe, Director, D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP) • India Martin, Board Chair, Women Business Collaborative <p>SYNERGIZE YOUR BUSINESS JOURNEY PANEL: LAUNCH TO LEGACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Dr. Drena Valentine, Founder and CEO, Integrative Management Solutions • Elise Elfman, President and CEO, Unitec Distributions, LLC • Stacy K. Fritz, CEO, FIT2Order, LLC • Katy Voight, Vice President of Sales, API Source • Margery Kraus, Founder and Executive Chairman, APCO
11:30AM	NETWORKING LUNCH AND MARKETPLACE BROWSING

AGENDA (CONTINUED)

<p>1:00PM</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SYNERGY IN ACTION</p> <div data-bbox="289 596 1497 814" style="background-color: #4b4b9b; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">LIVE CAPABILITY PITCH PANEL FEEDBACK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Julian Kiganda, Chief Visionary and Joy Architect, Soul Therapy Media Allison Kube, Manager, Supplier Development and Opportunity, Capital One Quianne Perrin Savoy, Board Member, Women of Prince George's Advisory Board</p> </div> <div data-bbox="289 831 938 1045" style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFIED AND UNSTOPPABLE: WHY YOUR WBE CERTIFICATION IS YOUR GREATEST BUSINESS ASSET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kym Ali, MSN, RN, CEO, Kym Ali Consulting</p> </div> <div data-bbox="964 831 1497 1045" style="background-color: #e64a7a; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">SEEN BUT NOT CHOSEN: THE BRAND PROBLEM AI IS EXPOSING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Madia Brown CEO, Brandire and Founder of Hellobrand</p> </div>
<p>2:00PM</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SYNERGY IN ACTION</p> <div data-bbox="289 1142 1497 1310" style="background-color: #e64a7a; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">YOUR AI SYNERGY STRATEGY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shanel Evans, CEO, Socially Savvy® Consulting</p> </div> <div data-bbox="289 1327 1497 1772" style="background-color: #4b4b9b; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">POSITIONED TO COMPETE: STRENGTHENING YOUR BUSINESS FOR CONTRACTS AND GLOBAL MARKETS PANEL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOSTED BY EXIM Bank</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nicole Hambric, Business Development Specialist, Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, EXIM Bank Nada Allie, Business Development Specialist, Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, EXIM Bank Michael Jackson, Senior International Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service Miguel Peñaloza, Finance Manager, Office of Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration</p> </div>
<p>3:00PM</p>	<p>NETWORKING AND MARKETPLACE BROWSING</p>
<p>3:30PM</p>	<p>MAIN SESSION PROGRAMMING: SYNERGIZE YOUR NEXT STEPS</p>
<p>4:30PM</p>	<p>END OF PROGRAM</p>

DMV SUMMIT MARKETPLACE

Step into the Summit Marketplace to meet WBEC-Certified women-owned businesses and corporate partners ready to help you grow. From corporate gifting and branded merchandise to business advisory, EV infrastructure support, culinary favorites, and lifestyle brands, this is your space to connect, discover, and buy.

87th Street Creative – Animated graphics, motion design, and video production for marketing, explainers, promos, training videos, and animated logos.
• 87thstreetcreative.com

API Source – Branded merchandise, promotional products, and ecommerce fulfillment (screen printing, embroidery, warehousing).
• apisource.com

Dai Technologies Corporation (DaiTechCorp) – EV charger sales and installation (residential and commercial) plus EV infrastructure design and project consulting. | daitechcorp.com

Forever's Treasures – Women's jackets, dresses and tops for all occasions. • ftshopnow.com

Government Contract Support, LLC (GovCon Support) – Federal contracting and procurement advisory across the contract lifecycle to strengthen execution and elevate performance.
• govconsupport.com

Integrative Management Solutions, LLC – Strategic management and operations consulting to improve efficiency, performance, and business transformation outcomes. • imsllcmd.com

Kommas with Kellé – Fractional CFO support, bookkeeping, and profit-focused financial strategy for service-based business owners.
• kommaswithkelle.com

Luji's Chocolate – Ethical bean-to-bar chocolate (bars and cocoa products) plus curated tastings and chocolate experiences for groups and corporate events. • lujischocolate.com

Marigold and Grey – Ready-to-ship and custom gift boxes for corporate gifting, client appreciation, holidays, and special occasions. • marigoldgrey.com

Mercury Envelope and Printing Corp. – Commercial printing, envelopes, direct mail, direct marketing, and mail fulfillment (forms, brochures, books, packaging).
• mercuryprintingcorp.com

NILA Bags – Bags and accessories brand.
• nilabags.com

Pedi Licious Footwear LLC – Patent-issued toe-separating pedicure sandals plus natural body and sole scrubs. • pediliciousfootwear.com

People Rise LLC – Strategic consulting, coaching, training, and organizational development support for small to mid-size businesses. • peoplerisellc.com

Savvy Scents by Sherrie – Luxurious candles, room sprays, and diffusers with layered, refined scents that elevate the ambiance of every space.
• savvyscentsbysherrie.com

Submissive Perfume – Fragrance brand and signature scents. • submissiveperfume.com

Tier 1 Solutions Group – Women and employee-owned marketing consultancy delivering marketing ops strategy, creative design, and omnichannel execution to help brands sell more.
• t1solutionsgroup.com

Xanadu Botanicals and Design, LLC – Interior landscaping, plant walls, moss art walls, floral design, and holiday décor (design, installation, and service).
• xanadubd.com

MARKETPLACE CORPORATE PARTNERS



Banking and financial solutions that help small businesses manage cash flow, access capital, and scale with confidence. | capitalone.com



Advancing health through innovation and partnership, supporting stronger communities and inclusive economic growth. | lilly.com



MGM RESORTS
INTERNATIONAL®

Global hospitality and entertainment company offering destination resorts, gaming, dining, and world-class meetings and event venues. | mgmresorts.com

Visit every table. Leave with at least one new connection.



women MEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT

WBEC GREATER DMV
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

Friday, March 20, 2026 • 9:00AM - 5:00PM
MGM National Harbor • 101 National Ave, Oxon Hill, Maryland

STRENGTH OF SYNERGY / PRESENTED BY **Capital One**

PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MORNING MAIN SESSIONS:

WELCOME: WHERE SYNERGY BEGINS

WBEC NY DMV Chief Operating Officer, Leandra Joseph, will open the day by inviting you to consider the possibilities and collective impact that emerges through the Strength of Synergy. She'll also speak to the current state of today's business environment and how WBEC NY DMV remains a constant partner as you navigate what's next, grounding the day in shared purpose and forward momentum.

STRENGTH OF SYNERGY

Reuben Essandoah, WBEC NY DMV Board Treasurer and Director of Enterprise Supplier Management at Capital One, will bring greetings from the Board on the power of partnership and the strength of our network.

POWER PANEL: SYNERGISTIC COLLABORATION

A candid conversation with regional ecosystem leaders on what's happening right now and how to plug into partnerships that actually move revenue, access, and influence. Expect practical insights and takeaways you can immediately put to work in your business.

- Moderator: Madeline Fetterly**, CEO and Founder, Be The Brand Collective
- Chinyere Hubbard**, President and CEO, DC Chamber of Commerce
- Nicole Cober Johnson**, Founder and Chair, The BOW Collective
- Marisela Rodela**, Program Director, Office of Women's Initiatives (OWI), Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF)



PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MORNING MAIN SESSIONS (CONTINUED):

KNOW BEFORE YOU GROW PANEL: RECENTERING YOUR PATH

Learn from community and network partners on what's shifting in the federal and local landscape, what's staying the same, and how to adjust your business strategy with intention.

Gain a clearer view of emerging themes and considerations to guide your planning for the year ahead.

Moderator: Angela Dingle, CEO, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP)

Tiffany Crowe, Director, D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP)

Courtney Fairchild, President and CEO, Global Services

Nada Allie, Business Development Specialist, Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, Export-Import (EXIM) Bank

India Martin, Board Chair, Women Business Collaborative

SYNERGIZE YOUR BUSINESS JOURNEY PANEL: LAUNCH TO LEGACY

Hear directly from fellow WBEs across industries in a stage-based, real-world growth conversation. Our 2025 WBE Suppliers of the Year share how they've moved from winning early opportunities to building systems, scale, and staying power.

Moderator: Dr. Drena Valentine, Founder and CEO, Integrative Management Solutions

Elise Elfman, President and CEO, Unitec Distributions, LLC

Stacy K. Fritz, CEO, FIT2Order, LLC

Margery Kraus, Founder and Executive Chairman, APCO

Katy Voight, Vice President of Sales, API Source

PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

CERTIFIED AND UNSTOPPABLE: WHY YOUR WBE CERTIFICATION IS YOUR GREATEST BUSINESS ASSET

The landscape for women-owned businesses is shifting, and with it, the opportunities that once felt within reach are becoming harder to access. But this is not the time to retreat. It's the time to lean in. In this motivational session, we'll explore why WBE certification matters more now than ever before, and why the businesses that invest in obtaining, renewing, and actively leveraging their certification will be the ones that thrive through uncertainty. Whether you're considering certification for the first time or wondering if it's still worth the effort, this session will challenge you to think bigger about what your certification can do for you.

Kym Ali MSN,RN, CEO of Kym Ali Consulting

SEEN BUT NOT CHOSEN: THE BRAND PROBLEM AI IS EXPOSING

The businesses winning with AI don't have better prompts. They have something most small businesses lack: a brand operating system. Right now, everyone is using AI to create more content, but content can be seen every day and still fail to move a business forward. Why is that? AI doesn't create clarity. It amplifies whatever makes you easy to choose — or easy to ignore. In this hands-on session, you'll learn how to build the missing piece: a Brandprint, a living brand engine that travels with your business and shapes every message, every campaign, every AI output around a clear point of view and purpose. You'll leave with a working Brandprint you can immediately use to create content people actually recognize, remember, and choose.

Madia Brown, CEO, Brandire & Founder of Hellobrand

LIVE CAPABILITY PITCH PANEL FEEDBACK

Come prepared to deliver a short capability pitch and receive instant, structured feedback from an expert panel. This session is for you if you want to clarify your value and improve readiness for future pitch opportunities.

Julian Kiganda, Chief Visionary and Joy Architect, Soul Therapy Media
Allison Kube, Manager, Supplier Development and Opportunity, Capital One
Quianne Perrin Savoy, Board Member, Women of Prince George's Advisory Board



PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONTINUED):

POSITIONED TO COMPETE PANEL: STRENGTHENING YOUR BUSINESS FOR CONTRACTS AND GLOBAL MARKETS

Designed for businesses that are preparing to take the next step in their growth, this session focuses on how companies can strengthen their foundation to compete for contracts while also positioning themselves for expansion into new markets. Panelists will discuss how access to the right financing tools can help manage risk and support growth, how business development resources can prepare firms to pursue larger and more complex opportunities, and how building the right relationships can open doors to key buyer and partner connections. Attendees will gain practical insight into how these elements work together to support long-term competitiveness, with real-world perspective on how building readiness today can lead to contract wins and global sales tomorrow.

Hosted by Export-Import (EXIM) Bank

Nicole Hambric, Business Development Specialist,
Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, EXIM Bank

Nada Allie, Business Development Specialist,
Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, EXIM Bank

Michael Jackson, Senior International Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service

Miguel Peñaloza, Finance Manager, Office of Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. Small
Business Administration

YOUR AI SYNERGY STRATEGY

AI, grounded in the real needs of women business owners. This hands-on session will show you how to use AI to save time, strengthen marketing and sales, improve proposals, and build smarter workflows that support growth without burning you out.

Shanel Evans, CEO, Socially Savvy® Consulting



AFTERNOON PROGRAMMING

NETWORKING AND MARKETPLACE BROWSING

Use this time to continue conversations sparked throughout the day, explore the Marketplace, and identify opportunities to work with each other. This is a dedicated space to discover aligned businesses, explore potential partnerships, and expand your network in ways that support long-term growth.

CLOSING MAIN SESSION: SYNERGIZE YOUR NEXT STEPS

We'll wind down and bring the day together by highlighting key insights and shared takeaways from across the Summit. You'll have the opportunity to reflect on what stood out, identify practical next steps, and connect those actions to WBEC NY DMV programs, resources, and opportunities available to you. The day will wrap up with closing remarks and a drawing for some exclusive prizes you won't want to miss.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Leandra Joseph | COO, WBEC Metro NY and Greater DMV

As Chief Operating Officer of WBEC Metro NY and Greater DMV, Leandra Joseph has been a guiding presence within our organization for 15 years, ensuring clarity, alignment, and forward momentum across programs and operations. Known for her strategic and collaborative approach, she provides continuity behind the scenes and is a trusted partner to the team, board, and broader WBE ecosystem.



Reuben Essandoh | Director of Enterprise Supplier Management, Capital One

As Director of Enterprise Supplier Management, Reuben leads a team responsible for driving the strategy for Capital One's award-winning Supplier Development program which seeks to develop and grow an inclusive supply chain. Reuben is also accountable for the entire supplier value chain activities for third party vendors related to Brand, Global Finance, External Affairs, Treasury, Premium Products & Experiences, and Corporate Strategy categories. This work includes sourcing and supplier selection; contract negotiations; invoice management; and delivering third party risk governance services.



A Board member of WBEC NY DMV, where he serves as Treasurer, he also sits on the BODs of Junior Achievement, Shalom Farms and Elk Hill, an organization that supports at-risk youth, and Celebrate RVA. Reuben loves to give back.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Be the Brand.

Madeline Fetterly | CEO and Founder, Be The Brand Collective

Madeline Fetterly is the CEO and Founder of Be the Brand, an executive communications and professional branding firm that helps leaders and organizations bring their stories to life. She is an expert in professional branding, storytelling, executive communication, and using LinkedIn as a strategic platform to build influence, credibility, and visibility.

Madeline is driven by the creativity and collaboration that comes from building strong partnerships, solving complex challenges, and championing people and ideas. She is deeply committed to strong leadership and to creating people-centered work environments where individuals and organizations can thrive.



Chinyere Hubbard | President and CEO, DC Chamber of Commerce

Chinyere Hubbard serves as president and CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce representing over 1000 members. As a visionary leader and Washingtonian native, she directs the Chamber's strategic initiatives to strengthen DC's business ecosystem while advocating for policies that reduce operating costs, stimulate growth, and create a thriving economic environment across the District.

Hubbard's leadership encompasses comprehensive advocacy before local government, strategic membership development, business coalition-building, and revenue generation to advance the Chamber's strategic goals. Hubbard champions business interests through policy advocacy, strategic partnerships, and value-driven programming. She brings passion for fostering innovation, expanding economic opportunity, and mentoring emerging leaders—all in service of delivering a bold vision for a vibrant and prosperous Washington, DC business community.



MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Nicole Cober Johnson | Founder and Chair, The BOW Collective

Nicole Cober is a founder, a principal managing partner, an author, a media influencer, and an advocate for women's empowerment and small business growth. With over 30 years of experience in legal and business consulting, she leads Cober Johnson and Romney (CJR)/CJR Development Partners, a land development and legal consulting firm.

She is also the founder of The BOW Collective, a group of over 300 black women businesses that generate over 1.7B dollars annually and collaborate to scale their ventures through contracts and capital. Additionally, Nicole was appointed to the National Women's Business Council, which advises the White House, Congress and the US Small Business Administration on policy related to women in business.



Marisela Rodela | Program Director, Office of Women's Initiatives (OWI), Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF)

Marisela Rodela is the Program Director for the Office of Women's Initiatives at the Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF), where she advances inclusive economic development by expanding access to capital, knowledge, and networks for women entrepreneurs across the DC Metro region. A passionate leader in economic and community development, she brings over a decade of experience as a small business owner and has worked in public health, the food & beverage sector, and the local small business ecosystem. She previously held leadership roles with DC Brau Brewing and the DC Brewers Guild, and currently serves on the boards of the Heurich House Museum and Craft x EDU, among others.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Angela Dingle | CEO, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP)

As President and CEO of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), Angela Dingle leads a national nonpartisan organization advocating on behalf of women entrepreneurs, strengthening their impact on our nation’s public policy, creating economic opportunities, and forging alliances with other business organizations. Serving as the voice for the over 14 million women owned companies in the U.S., WIPP works with lawmakers to impact and influence policy that provides economic equity, procurement inclusion and access to the global marketplace.



Angela is a sought-after speaker and thought leader, sharing her insights and expertise at conferences and events focused on women in business and government contracting.



Tiffany Crowe | Director, D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP)

Tiffany Crowe’s confirmation as the permanent Director of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP) was met with resounding approval by The Council of the Committee on Public Works and Operations on November 7, 2023. Her journey in this role commenced when Mayor Muriel Bowser first appointed her as the Acting Director on September 7, 2023.



Director Crowe is a long-serving public administrator with over a decade of leadership experience in operations, human resources, and systems. From 2012 to 2019, she served as Senior Advisor and Counsel to the Associate Director of Supervision, Enforcement, and Fair Lending at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In this role, she provided guidance to the Associate Director and senior staff on operational, legal, and strategic matters

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Courtney Fairchild | President and CEO, Global Services

Courtney Fairchild is the co-founder and President of Global Services. Ms. Fairchild has been with the company since it was founded in 1997 and headed up the Global Services GSA Schedule Program division from its inception. Over the past twenty-seven years she and her team have successfully prepared, negotiated, and managed 3000+ Schedule contracts for Global Services' clients.

Ms. Fairchild is also the current Chair of the Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) Board of Directors where she helps to educate and advocate on behalf of women-owned businesses to help strengthen their impact on our nation's public policy, create economic opportunities, and forge alliances with other business organizations.



Nada Allie | Business Development Specialist, Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, Export-Import (EXIM Bank)

Nada Allie is a Business Development Specialist within the Emerging Exporter Business Development Division at the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM). With over 25 years of experience spanning the stock market, regulatory services, and retirement industries, Nada is a seasoned leader known for her strategic insight, risk management expertise, and dedication to driving organizational growth.



In her work at EXIM, Nada leverages her extensive financial background to support emerging exporters, particularly small and underrepresented businesses, helping them access international markets and U.S. government-backed financing. Her passion lies in creating pathways to economic growth and opportunity for all.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



India Martin | Board Chair, Women Business Collaborative

India Martin is a 25-year veteran of financial services (Investment Banking & Retail) and a member of the Forbes Coaches Council. She has held global CIO, CTO and COO roles including expatriate assignments in London, Frankfurt, Tokyo and Hong Kong. In her post banking career, India is a public and private company board director and globally recognized leadership coach, advisor and strategist. Through her multi-disciplinary leadership consultancy, she advises Fortune 500 clients around the world. As of 2025, she serves as Board Chair of the Women Business Council.



Dr. Drena Valentine | Founder and CEO, Integrative Management Solutions

Dr. Drena Valentine is the Founder and CEO of Integrative Management Solutions, LLC (IMS), a management consulting and growth strategy firm specializing in operational excellence for 7-figure businesses. She created and leads The Executive: Thriving Beyond Millions, a nationally recognized business accelerator program. With over 25 years of transforming businesses and a passionate commitment to advancing Black, minority, and women business owners, Dr. Valentine brings strategic depth and proven methodologies to conversations about sustainable growth and legacy building.



She has been recognized as Maryland Black Chamber's Champion for Change and honored with the 2022 Women Making History award from the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Elise Elfman | President and CEO, Unitec Distributions, LLC

Elise Elfman is the President and CEO of Unitec Distribution Systems, where she has led the company since 2009, redefining how large organizations design, manage, and control complex uniform programs. With more than 17 years of industry leadership, Elise has built Unitec into a trusted partner for corporations and government agencies that require high levels of compliance, operational consistency, and cost control. She is known for helping organizations modernize legacy uniform programs, driving measurable operational improvements.



Elise is a committed mentor and advocate for entrepreneurship and manufacturing excellence, regularly advising emerging leaders and supporting initiatives that strengthen regional manufacturing and supply-chain ecosystems.



Stacy K. Fritz | CEO, FIT2ORDER, LLC

Stacy Fritz is a keynote speaker, workplace health strategist, and the founder of FIT2order, where she helps organizations move from burnout to balance without disrupting the workday. She is also the inventor of the vidaBALL, a patented breathing tool created to help people reset stress and reconnect in under five minutes.



With over 17 years of experience spanning education, corporate wellness, and leadership development, Stacy blends science, story, and real-world strategy. As a 2026 WBENC Star, she brings an honest, grounded perspective on what it really takes to grow a business, build systems, and lead people well through every stage from launch to legacy.

MAIN SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Margery Kraus | Founder and Executive Chairman, APCO

Margery Kraus, a globally recognized master storyteller and communications innovator, is the founder and executive chair of APCO, a global advisory and advocacy consultancy headquartered in Washington, D.C. She has deep expertise in providing strategic counsel on issue-based communication, crisis management, market entry and corporate reputation across diverse industry groups.



Margery is also active on other institutional and corporate boards and committees. She is chairman emeritus of the board of the Women Presidents' Organization; the advisory board of Enterprising Women magazine and ambassador for Fortune Most Powerful Women.



Katy Voight | Vice President of Sales, API Source

With 20 years at API Source, Katy Voight-Nobis has built her career helping brands create authentic, lasting connections through meaningful branded merchandise programs. As a daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother, Katy leads with purpose and heart, bringing a people-first approach to every client and partnership. She believes branded merchandise is far more than giveaways or swag—it's a tangible brand experience that creates emotion, strengthens loyalty, and becomes part of someone's story. Katy is proud of the impact API Source makes by supporting employees, uplifting communities, and delivering memorable solutions for clients.



BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Kym Ali MSN, RN | CEO of Kym Ali Consulting

Kym Ali is an award-winning Registered Nurse, CEO, and AI strategist who helps leaders and organizations harness artificial intelligence to work smarter, scale faster, and stay ahead of what's next. As CEO of Kym Ali Consulting, Kym partners with executives and brands to integrate AI through audits, implementation, and cloning services, helping them scale revenue without scaling their calendar. Her client roster includes the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services, Pfizer, Stanford University, and Meta, with a 98% satisfaction rating and Exceptional CPAR ratings across engagements.



Madia Brown | CEO, Brandire & Founder of Hellobrand

Madia Brown, an award-winning brand strategist, founded Hellobrand, an AI-powered platform for SMEs to build and scale their brands strategically. With over 15 years in brand development, Madia created Hellobrand to offer high-impact brand marketing without traditional agency costs.

Her journey began with Brandire, her award-winning creative studio in Washington, D.C. As Chief Storytelling Strategist, she led transformative campaigns for major tourism and economic development brands, including Destination DC and the National Museum of African-American History & Culture. Observing the barriers smaller organizations faced, Madia founded Hellobrand to democratize brand development, enabling small teams to build brand equity with strategic rigor.



BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Julian Kiganda | Chief Visionary and Joy Architect, Soul Therapy Media

Julian B. Kiganda is the Chief Visionary + Joy Architect of Soul Therapy Media, where she helps organizations build brands and cultures that heal, connect, and inspire. A mental health advocate, award-winning designer, professional storyteller, and 2025 Innovation Award recipient from WBEC Metro NY & Greater DMV, she creates transformational experiences that bridge wellness, leadership, and communication. Her journey into advocacy began after attending six funerals in one year, leading her to confront her own mental health and rediscover joy through a holistic approach to wellness. That experience reshaped her mission: to help others thrive by embedding wellness into the way we live and lead.



Allison Kube | Manager, Supplier Development and Opportunity, Capital One

Allison's mission is to help people better their lives and live to their fullest potential. She works hard to accomplish this through her professional career and ongoing non-profit/fundraising work. Allison Kube is a part of the Supplier Development and Opportunity team at Capital One. She is responsible for sourcing suppliers for Capital One's procurement efforts and leads one of Capital One's inclusive supplier development programs, SAGE Advice. These programs provide tools, resources and mentoring to enable businesses to become more competitive in the marketplace. Allison is also the program lead for the Capital One Envision Summit, which is in its fourth year.

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Quianne Perrin Savoy | Board Member, Women of Prince George's Advisory Board

Quianne Perrin Savoy is the co-founder of Moore & Moore Creative, a merchandising and creative agency based in the Washington, DC area. Since launching the company in 2016, she has helped organizations including the Kennedy Center, BET Her, and the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation bring their brands to life through thoughtful merchandise, curated gifting, and creative product experiences. Quianne is passionate about supporting women entrepreneurs and building brands through storytelling and design.



Nicole Hambric | Business Development Specialist, Emerging Exporter Business Development Division, EXIM Bank

Nicole C. Hambric is a dedicated Business Development Specialist at the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), where she plays a key role in supporting small businesses by helping them secure the financial solutions necessary for exporting. Nicole works tirelessly to bridge the gap for businesses seeking to expand their international reach and grow their operations.

Passionate about empowering small businesses, Nicole is committed to providing tailored resources and guidance to help these entrepreneurs succeed in the global marketplace. By leveraging EXIM's financing tools and expertise, she assists these businesses in navigating the complexities of exporting, opening doors to new opportunities and driving economic growth within their communities.

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Michael K. Jackson | Senior International Trade Specialist,
U.S. Commercial Service

Michael K. Jackson serves as a Senior International Trade Specialist in the Baltimore office of the U.S. Commercial Service, the export promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. He brings nearly two decades of federal experience in international trade and export development, including prior business development roles with the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).



In addition to his public service, Mr. Jackson is the Founder & CEO of Michael K. Jackson International, a leadership development and professional speaking practice focused on resilience and sustainable well-being for leaders and teams under pressure.



Miguel Peñaloza | Finance Manager, Office of Manufacturing and Trade,
U.S. Small Business Administration

Miguel Peñaloza is a Finance Manager under the SBA's Office of Manufacturing and Trade (OMT). Miguel supports small businesses and lenders which engage with SBA's three core export loan programs as well as the recently launched Working Capital (Pilot) Program.



Prior to joining the SBA, Miguel worked as a Loan Specialist with the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) as well as a Membership Manager with the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). His background in lending provides a unique understanding of the financing needs for small businesses.

BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Shanel Evans | CEO, Socially Savvy® Consulting

Shanel Evans is a consultant, trainer, TEDx Speaker and powerhouse business strategist focused on building strategic visibility that drives measurable growth for entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and organizations. With expertise spanning professional services, infrastructure, social impact, and small business development, she blends high-level strategy with practical execution to expand influence, engage the right audiences, and align brand presence with business goals.



SOCIALLY SAVVY
CONSULTING

Through her signature SAVVY © Framework and tailored training programs, Shanel equips leaders with the strategy, systems, and discernment needed to convert attention into results and create sustainable impact at scale.

CHAMPIONS CIRCLE

TITANIUM



PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD



SILVER

Bank of America
CitiGroup
Delta Air Lines
EY
Google
Hess Corporation
Johnson & Johnson
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Mars Inc.
MassMutual
Micron Technology Inc.
Morgan Stanley
New York Life Insurance
Northwell Health
Organon
Prudential

Pfizer Inc.
Regeneron
Suntory Global Spirits
T. Rowe Price
Wells Fargo
FLOMO/Nygalia Corp

CHAMPIONS CIRCLE

BRONZE

Accenture	Command Marketing
American Water	Innovations
Bristol Myers Squibb	Teva Pharmaceuticals

MEMBER

ADP	Marsh McLennan	PSE&G
AIG	McCormick & Co.	PwC
Altria Client Services	Merck	Sandoz, Inc.
AMC Networks	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)	SMECO
Colgate-Palmolive	Monumental Sports & Entertainment	Sodexo
DC Water	National Grid	The Travelers Companies, Inc
Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts	NEA Member Benefits	Tishman Speyer
Fairfax County Economic Development Authority	New York Power Authority	US Tennis Association (USTA)
FanDuel	New York University	Verizon
Federal Home Loan Bank of New York	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp	Vistra Corp
Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Novo Nordisk	Washington Gas
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond	Pepco, an Exelon Company	Webster Bank
Flagstar Bank	Port Authority of NY and NJ	WSSC Water
Manhattan Construction	Pride Global	