

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1



Unlocking AI: For Women Who Want to Work Smarter

Christina Augustine '96

Chief Operating Officer, Bloomreach

AI is changing how we work, lead, and create. In this engaging workshop, you'll learn the basics of AI, explore real-world applications, and get hands-on experience using AI tools. Designed for women at all stages of their careers, this session focuses on practical skills (not theory) so you can confidently use AI in your everyday life.

The Power Glow: Elevating Your Look from Day to Night

Lyz King

Celebrity MUA, Beauty Educator

Back by popular demand! Join celebrity makeup artist Lyz King for an exclusive, hands-on session where she reveals the secrets to seamlessly transitioning your look from a polished daytime glow to a bold, glamorous evening style.

Along the way, Lyz shares her inspiring journey in the beauty industry, her biggest career lessons, and how confidence is the ultimate accessory. Whether you're a makeup enthusiast or simply looking for quick, flawless techniques, this session will leave you looking and feeling your absolute best.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1 CONTINUED

You Belong in the Room: Raising Your Hand, Owning Your Value, and Leading with Confidence



Allison McLean '98

Advertising & Media Executive for Amazon

Christin Kloski '15

Director of Student Empowerment at
Saint Mary's College (Moderator)

In this engaging conversation, Allison McLean shares candid insights from nearly three decades in high-performance environments—including leading nine-figure-revenue teams at Amazon—on what it truly takes for women to lead with confidence, authenticity, and impact.

Through real stories and honest reflection, Allison explores why women often hesitate to raise their hands, ask for help, or advocate for themselves, and how imposter syndrome can quietly undermine even the most accomplished leaders. She discusses how confidence is built not through perfection, but through action, and why recognizing your unique value matters even when you're not the “smartest person in the room.”

The conversation will also spotlight the power of relationship capital, how genuine connections, mentorship, and support accelerate growth, and remind us that leadership is rarely a solo journey. Designed to feel relatable, energizing, and real, this session invites attendees to rethink how they show up, speak up, and support one another.

Engaging Women Conference

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1 CONTINUED



Behind the Scenes: Leadership, Influence, and the Strength of Friendship

Lisa Boykin

Director, Business & Legal Affairs, Netflix



Christina Conklin

Corporate Communications Leader & Strategist

Rossana O'Hop

Co-Owner of Fiddlewicks Candle Co. & Boss Widows

Patti Tripathi, Former CNN Anchor, Entrepreneur,
Filmmaker & Podcast Host, Breathe Easy

Bethany Hartley, President and CEO of the
South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership
(Moderator)

Four friends, four industries, one conversation. Lisa, Christina, Patti, and Rossana, leaders in media, communications, entertainment, and entrepreneurship, come together to share their journeys of friendship, leadership, and impact. This lively, candid panel explores how women support one another as they navigate high-stakes decisions, career pivots, and life challenges.

Attendees will hear how these friends built influence, negotiated with confidence, and led boldly in environments ranging from Netflix and CNN to startups and small businesses. Through real stories, practical strategies, and authentic conversation, the panel highlights how mentorship, collaboration, and resilience fuel success, both professionally and personally.

This session demonstrates that leadership doesn't happen alone. By leaning on trusted networks, embracing challenges, and staying true to your vision, women can create measurable impact while lifting others along the way.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1 CONTINUED

Using Improv to Unlock Creativity, Confidence, and Joy at Work

Julie Cotton

Founder of Next Level Improv & Wellness

What if play wasn't a distraction from productivity but the secret to it? What if play was the key to working smarter, not harder? This interactive session uses the principles of improv comedy, such as "Yes, and..." deep listening, and shared trust, to unlock creativity, confidence, and collaboration at work. Through intention-setting, guided presence, playful movement, and dynamic group exercises, participants will strengthen their ability to adapt, ideate, and connect in real time. Expect laughter, insight, and practical tools you can immediately apply to leadership, teamwork, and everyday problem-solving. Come ready to move, play, and rediscover joy as a powerful pathway to productivity.



Aligned & Unapologetic: Leading with Confidence, Calm, and Conviction

Angela Jackson, PhD, LMHC, LCPC

Owner of Culturally Competent Therapy

Many women lead with excellence yet carry silent anxiety, over-responsibility, and the pressure to prove themselves. This session invites women to shift from fear-based leadership to leadership rooted in clarity, purpose, and self-trust.

Through guided reflection and interactive conversation, participants will explore how anxiety shapes decision-making, communication, and boundaries, and how reconnecting with values creates calm, sustainable confidence. Attendees will leave with practical tools to lead with steadiness, integrity, and conviction without apology.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2



High-Achieving & High-Anxiety: The Hidden Stress of Doing It All

Andrea Eriks, PhD, LMHC
Founder of The Cottage



Dr. Taylor R. Nicoletti
Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Clinical Professor,
University of Notre Dame



Ciara Ward, LCSW '13
Owner of Caring Conversations Center and Ci Notes



Christine R. Guzman, PhD, LCSW
Senior Director of Discrimination, Harassment, and Title IX
Coordinator, Pitzer College



Colleen Wilcox
Director of Engagement Communications, University of
Notre Dame, and Board President for Mental Health
Awareness Michiana (Moderator)

Behind the degrees, titles, businesses, and leadership roles, many high-achieving women quietly carry anxiety, perfectionism, and the relentless pressure to perform. In this powerful panel conversation, licensed therapists will unpack the connection between ambition and burnout, imposter syndrome, over-functioning, and emotional exhaustion.

Attendees will learn:

- How perfectionism fuels anxiety and burnout
- The difference between healthy drive and harmful pressure
- Practical tools to regulate stress in high-performance environments
- How to lead, achieve, and succeed without sacrificing mental wellness

This session creates space for honest dialogue, practical strategies, and freedom from the myth that “strong women don’t struggle.”

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 CONTINUED

From Paycheck to Purpose: Financial Planning, Wealth Building, and Retirement Readiness

Renée Fleming, CTFA

Vice President of Wealth Advisory Services,
1st Source Bank

This session is designed to help women take control of their financial futures with clarity and confidence. The Wealth Advisory Team from 1st Source Bank will discuss foundational principles of financial planning, retirement preparation, and wealth management while addressing common challenges women face across career and life transitions. Participants will walk away empowered to make intentional, informed financial decisions aligned with their goals and values.



Unlocking AI: For Women Who Want to Work Smarter

Christina Augustine '96

Chief Operating Officer, Bloomreach

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 CONTINUED

When the Pivot Calls: Permission, Power, and Rising Together



Tammy Weisweaver
Women's Life and Strength Coach

Yolo Lopez DeMarco
Owner of Yolo Vox (Moderator)

We celebrate resilience but rarely talk about the courage it takes to choose change. In this intimate and reflective session, Tammy Weisweaver shares a powerful personal story of navigating pivotal moments in both business as an entrepreneur and life, opening space for an honest conversation about reinvention, uncertainty, and becoming stronger on the other side.

Designed for women at every stage, leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, and those quietly sensing a shift, this session invites participants to explore the pivots they've made, the ones they've avoided, and the ones they may finally be ready to allow. Through guided journaling and meaningful small-group dialogue, women will reconnect with their inner wisdom and the strength found in shared experience.

This session is a reminder that the most transformative pivots aren't made alone. When women give themselves permission to change, they don't just adapt, they rise.

Engaging Women Conference

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 CONTINUED

Conflict as Opportunity: Understanding, Navigating, and Leading Through Conflict



Dory Lawrence

MA, Manager of Learning and Development,
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center

Kristin Tawadros, PsyD, HSPP

Chief Clinical Officer, Oaklawn Psychiatric Center

Conflict is unavoidable, but it doesn't have to be destructive. This engaging session helps participants reframe conflict as a powerful opportunity for clarity, connection, and stronger leadership.

Participants will explore how unaddressed conflict impacts trust, morale, and performance and why navigating it skillfully is a critical leadership skill. Through real-world examples and reflection, attendees will uncover personal triggers, learn how stress shapes reactions, and gain tools to respond with confidence instead of avoidance.

The session introduces the five conflict styles and when each is most effective, while also addressing how gender, power, and perception influence conflict in the workplace. Participants leave with practical language, increased self-awareness, and strategies to lead difficult conversations with clarity, courage, and purpose.

Engaging Women Conference

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 CONTINUED

Your Brain on Art: Leading with Creativity and Resilience

Ashley Molyneaux

Head of School at Premier Arts Academy;
CEO of Artful Leadership Consulting

Leadership requires clarity, emotional intelligence, and stamina, yet few leaders are taught how to care for the brain behind it all. Grounded in the neuroscience of Your Brain on Art, this session reframes creativity as an essential leadership wellness strategy, not a luxury.

Participants will explore how intentional engagement with the arts reduces stress, strengthens resilience, and improves focus, key capacities for leading through complexity and change. Blending brain science with lived experience, this session offers simple, accessible creative practices that regulate the nervous system and support sustainable leadership.

Attendees will leave with practical tools to protect their energy, enhance wellbeing, and model purpose-driven leadership for their teams. No artistic background required.



Engaging Women Conference

SPEAKER BIO



Christina Augustine '96

Chief Operating Officer, Bloomreach

Christina is a dynamic technology leader and innovator at the forefront of AI and e-commerce. As Chief Operating Officer of Bloomreach, she leads efforts to equip companies with powerful AI tools and strategies to compete and scale in demanding global markets. A trained computer programmer with patents in AI search algorithms, Christina has helped build ecommerce engineering teams at Hewlett-Packard and Walmart and previously advised global organizations on technology and strategy at Bain & Company.

Her leadership and influence have earned her national recognition as a 2023 Top 50 Women Leaders in SaaS and a 2024 finalist for the LA Times Inspirational Women Leadership Award. A proud Saint Mary's College alumna, Christina holds a BA in Mathematics and an MBA from Harvard Business School, bringing a bold, future-focused voice on innovation, leadership, and women in tech.

SPEAKER BIO



Lisa Boykin

Director, Business & Legal Affairs, Netflix

Born in Philadelphia and raised in South Carolina, Lisa Marie Boykin's journey to leadership in law and entertainment has been shaped by curiosity, courage, and a deep belief in the power of mentorship. While a student at the University of Notre Dame, a pivotal meeting with legendary civil rights scholar Derrick Bell—arranged by then Notre Dame president Theodore Hesburgh—sparked her passion for the law and ultimately led her to New York University School of Law. Before law school, Lisa spent two years living in Paris, where she earned a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and wrote her thesis on Namibia's struggle for independence and liberation from apartheid.

After graduating from NYU Law, Lisa began her legal career at Milbank LLP before moving into the media and entertainment industry. She joined PBS, where she worked on beloved programs such as Sesame Street and documentary films by Ken Burns and Henry Louis Gates Jr.. Over the past 25 years, she has built a distinguished career negotiating major film and television deals with actors, directors, and producers, holding senior roles at Paramount Pictures and The Walt Disney Company. She currently serves as Director of Business & Legal Affairs for the film group at Netflix.

Lisa was elected to the NYU School of Law Board of Trustees in 2024 and has spent many years serving the NYU Law Alumni of Color Association, supporting student scholarships and the annual Derrick Bell Lecture on Race in American Society. She is deeply committed to mentoring and believes strongly in uplifting women and people of color—guiding college students, law students, and young professionals as they discover their paths and step into leadership.

Lisa is thrilled to be participating in the Engaging Women Conference hosted by Saint Mary's College. The invitation is especially meaningful because the college's president, Katie Conboy, was one of Lisa's professors as a freshman at Notre Dame. At a time when there were only a handful of women teaching there, Katie—then a graduate student—served as a powerful role model. Lisa was the only woman in the class, making the experience both memorable and formative.

Nearly forty years later, Lisa recently reconnected with President Conboy at the 50th anniversary celebration of women at Notre Dame and has been inspired by the remarkable work she and her colleagues have done to continue a legacy of celebrating women and supporting them on their professional journeys. Lisa lives in Los Angeles, California.

SPEAKER BIO



Christina Conklin

Corporate Communications Leader & Strategist

Christy is a seasoned communications expert who has shaped the internal cultures of some of the world's most recognizable organizations, including Activision Blizzard, Saks Fifth Avenue, Radisson Hotels, and the New York Federal Reserve Bank. With a career spanning nine cities and four countries, she is a firm believer that clear, authentic communication is the bedrock of any successful mission.

Her leadership style was forged not in a boardroom, but through a life of unconventional adventure. After earning her degree from the University of Notre Dame and studying in Innsbruck, Austria, Christy's path was anything but linear. She worked as a bartender in London and spent a year as a deckhand on a ship in Northern Australia. After nearly sinking one day in the shark-filled waters of the Great Barrier Reef, she developed a level of radical resilience that would eventually help her navigate the high-stakes world of corporate leadership.

Writing was always a passion for Christy, and upon returning to the U.S., she received her master's from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern and embarked on her communications career. She has led employees through world-changing events such as 9/11, the financial crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Christy is passionate about empowering women to push their limits, stand their ground, and navigate the treacherous paths of corporate careers. She is a native of South Bend, IN, and currently lives in San Diego.

SPEAKER BIO



Julie Cotton

Founder of Next Level Improv & Wellness

Julie hails from Phoenix, AZ, and brings over 40 years of experience in play, creativity, and performance to her work. With an MFA in Acting from Rutgers, she is also a Leadership and Master NLP Practitioner and Trainer, a certified Yoga, Pilates, and Kickboxing instructor, and a licensed massage therapist.

As the founder of Next Level Improv, Julie helps individuals, teams, and organizations bring joy, creativity, and play into challenging situations. She specializes in conflict resolution, mindfulness, grief, and communication coaching, empowering people to perform with confidence and authenticity. She has guided speakers, entrepreneurs, and professionals in preparation for interviews, podcasts, summits, masterclasses, TEDx talks, and auditions.

Julie's infectious energy extends to the stage, where she has delighted audiences as Scarecrow, Peter Pan, and more on the Lerner Stage. She is passionate about helping others unlock their confidence, presence, and creativity and is thrilled to play alongside you at the conference.

SPEAKER BIO



Andrea Eriks, PhD, LMHC, Founder of The Cottage

Andrea is a licensed mental health counselor, educator, and entrepreneur who has built a thriving, mission-driven enterprise at the intersection of emotional intelligence and strategic leadership. She specializes in helping high-achieving professionals, founders, and visionaries expand their impact without compromising clarity, connection, or self-trust.

As the founder of The Cottage, a successful psychotherapy group practice she has grown and scaled over the past decade, Andrea embodies the belief that where you begin does not determine what you are capable of building. Her leadership philosophy centers on sustainability, proving that real success requires tending to the whole self, not just the bottom line.

Known for her sharp insight and grounded presence, Andrea has a gift for translating complex emotional and relational dynamics into practical, actionable frameworks. Whether in the therapy room or the boardroom, she equips leaders to navigate ambition, identity, and growth with integrity and confidence.

Andrea's work empowers individuals to build powerful lives and meaningful leadership from the inside out.

SPEAKER BIO



Renée Fleming, CTFA

Vice President of Wealth Advisory Services,
1st Source Bank

Renée Fleming, CTFA, is a Vice President and Personal Trust Officer in the Wealth Advisory Services division at 1st Source Bank. She is a strategic wealth planner with more than 26 years of experience guiding clients through the full spectrum of wealth accumulation, preservation, and transfer. Since joining 1st Source Bank in 1999, Renée has been recognized for her thoughtful, client-centered approach and her ability to translate complex financial needs into practical, customized strategies that foster long-term relationships.

Renée's professional background includes nearly a decade as a fully licensed Financial Advisor, six years in Retirement Plan Services, and ten years as Administrator and Senior Grants Officer for the 1st Source Foundation. Her experience spans financial planning, cash management for nonprofit organizations and corporations, and multi-generational wealth solutions, providing her with a broad and well-rounded perspective on client needs.

SPEAKER BIO



Christine R. Guzman, PhD, LCSW

Senior Director of Discrimination, Harassment,
and Title IX Coordinator, Pitzer College

Dr. Christine Guzman serves as the Senior Director of Discrimination, Harassment, and Title IX Coordinator at Pitzer College, one of the Claremont Colleges in California. She provides institutional leadership in policy implementation, compliance, and crisis response related to Title IX, Title VI, and civil rights regulations. Dr. Guzman oversees education, prevention programming, and campus-wide training initiatives for students, faculty, and staff, and works collaboratively across campus to promote equity, accountability, and inclusive practices.

With over 25 years of experience as a licensed clinical social worker, Dr. Guzman is the former owner of Integrity Consulting, Inc., where she specialized in supporting families navigating severe and persistent mental illness and major life transitions. Dr. Guzman brings deep expertise in women's issues, treating anxiety, depression, trauma, and grief.

Her professional background includes serving as Director of Field Education in Social Work and assistant professor for 12 years, where she developed accreditation-aligned policies, built diverse community partnerships, and advanced experiential learning models for emerging practitioners.

Dr. Guzman holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Azusa Pacific University and an MSW from the University of Denver. A seasoned educator, leader, and public speaker, she is committed to advancing equitable systems, culturally responsive practice, and trauma-informed leadership in higher education.

SPEAKER BIO



Bethany Hartley

President and CEO of the
South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership

Bethany Hartley is a systems builder and President & CEO of the South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership, leading economic development across 47 communities in northern Indiana and southwest Michigan. She has secured \$125 million in state investment for the region, including the area's first regional revolving loan fund, and additionally supported securing the innovative \$42 million LIFT grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. and built the programs, workforce pipelines, and cross-sector partnerships that turn investment into lasting opportunity. A nearly two-decade veteran of nonprofit and economic development leadership, Bethany holds an MBA from the University of Notre Dame, has been named to the IBJ 250 Most Influential Leaders in Indiana in 2024 and 2025, and has been honored as Woman of the Year by both YWCA North Central Indiana and the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, and as Community Champion by Saint Mary's College.

SPEAKER BIO



Angela Jackson, PhD, LMHC, LCPC
Owner of Culturally Competent Therapy

Dr. Angela D. Jackson is a licensed mental health therapist, educator, and entrepreneur dedicated to helping women lead with clarity, confidence, and resilience. She is the founder of Culturally Competent Therapy PLLC, a multi-state telehealth practice supporting adults, couples, and leaders navigating anxiety, burnout, and life transitions.

With a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from a CACREP-accredited program, Dr. Jackson combines expertise in psychology, leadership, and wellbeing to empower women to navigate high-stakes responsibilities while leading with integrity and purpose. She provides practical strategies to manage stress, build emotional resilience, and foster sustainable success—professionally and personally.

Known for her grounded presence, insightful guidance, and culturally responsive approach, Dr. Jackson inspires women to lead without over-functioning, self-doubt, or apology. Her work helps women reclaim their energy, amplify their impact, and create lasting influence in every space they occupy.

SPEAKER BIO



Lyz King

Celebrity MUA, Beauty Educator

Lyz is a visionary makeup artist, beauty educator, and founder of Beauty King Studios, a premium beauty brand rooted in artistry, confidence, and empowerment. With a background in fashion design from the Art Institute, Lyz's journey into beauty began backstage at fashion shows—where she discovered the transformative power of makeup and the artistry behind it.

Her talent quickly gained recognition as she freelanced across Chicago, assisting some of the city's top artists before joining MAC Cosmetics, where she rose to become a Product Specialist and leader within one of the brand's highest-performing stores. During her time with MAC, she traveled to train artists, refine technique, and develop the next generation of beauty professionals.

Today, Lyz is a highly sought-after artist known for delivering elevated bridal and editorial beauty experiences while mentoring aspiring artists to build sustainable careers in the industry. Her work has been featured alongside major brands and notable clients including Essence Magazine, ESPN, ROC Nation, Disney, Sony Pictures, the WNBA, and the University of Notre Dame Women's Basketball program, as well as artists connected to Ari Lennox, Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child, and Lizzo's band.

Whether working behind the scenes, in the studio, or on stage as a speaker and educator, Lyz's mission remains the same: to inspire confidence through art and empower others to see their beauty, power, and potential.

SPEAKER BIO



Christin Kloski '15

Director of Student Empowerment at
Saint Mary's College (Moderator)

Christin Kloski is a passionate educator, equity advocate, and community leader committed to expanding access, opportunity, and belonging in higher education. As the founding Director of the Office for Student Empowerment at Saint Mary's College, Christin leads transformative efforts to advance socioeconomic diversity through systemic change, inclusive practices, and a deeply student-centered approach—particularly for first-generation and underrepresented students.

A proud Saint Mary's alumna, Christin holds a BA in Political Science and English Writing and an MPA from Indiana University. Recognized as a Michiana Forty Under 40 honoree and a member of the 2025 Indiana Latino Institute Leadership Circle, Christin continues to shape the future of leadership through education, advocacy, and community impact.

SPEAKER BIO



Dory Lawrence

MA, Manager of Learning and Development,
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center

Dory Lawrence is the Manager of Learning and Development at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, where she leads the Oaklawn Leadership Academy and designs impactful professional development experiences. With more than 20 years of experience in leadership development, facilitation, and program design, Dory brings a thoughtful, people-centered approach to building strong, resilient teams. She holds a master's degree in Educational and Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri and has held roles spanning educational advocacy, trauma-informed youth programming, and rehabilitation counseling. A sought-after presenter, Dory has shared her expertise at state, regional, and national conferences.

SPEAKER BIO



Yolo Lopez DeMarco

Owner of Yolo Vox

Yolo Lopez DeMarco is the founder of Yolo Vox, a bilingual multimedia company that assists businesses and organizations with Spanish-language marketing, translation, and event planning services. Yolo's original bachelor's degree in broadcasting opened doors to journalism at Fox 28 News, WFRN Radio, and, most recently, WVPE in Elkhart.

Born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, and raised in Elkhart, Indiana, Yolo brings a passion for bridging gaps and thinking outside the box. She is a recipient of the Goshen Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year award, 40 Under 40, the Indianapolis Latino Institute Leaders award, and the Business Diversity Initiative award from the Elkhart Chamber. Yolo currently serves on the CAPS board of directors and led the design committee for the new Tolson Center in Elkhart. When she's not helping clients or breaking up drama between her four daughters, she loves to get away to play volleyball with her husband.

SPEAKER BIO



Allison McLean '98

Advertising & Media Executive for Amazon

Allison McLean is a seasoned advertising and media executive with nearly three decades of experience driving growth at the intersection of content, commerce, and innovation. For the past eight years, she has led high-performing sales teams at Amazon Ads, overseeing nine-figure revenue portfolios and helping brands scale in a fast-growing, global marketplace.

A proud Saint Mary's College alumna ('98), Allison began her career in media planning at Starcom Worldwide before pivoting into sales, where she rose into leadership roles at Getty Images and Yahoo. Recruited to Amazon Ads in 2014 during its early expansion, she has since thrived as a growth-oriented, people-centered leader.

Known for her strategic insight and ability to navigate change, Allison brings a compelling perspective on leadership, career evolution, and scaling impact.

SPEAKER BIO



Ashley Molyneaux

Head of School at Premier Arts Academy;
CEO of Artful Leadership Consulting

Ashley is a social entrepreneur, nonprofit founder, and education innovator dedicated to building purpose-driven organizations that strengthen communities. She is the Founder and Head of School of Premier Arts Academy, Indiana's first arts-integrated public charter school, where she pioneers work at the intersection of education, creativity, and social impact.

With over 20 years of experience in education and nonprofit leadership, Ashley has founded and scaled multiple mission-driven organizations, guiding teams through growth and transformation while staying anchored in values. Her approach blends strategy with heart, emphasizing creativity, wellbeing, and collective strength as the foundations for sustainable success.

Passionate about arts integration, social entrepreneurship, and human-centered leadership, Ashley challenges leaders to reimagine how creativity, purpose, and resilience can transform organizations and the lives of the people within them.

SPEAKER BIO



Taylor R. Nicoletti, PsyD, HSP
Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Clinical
Professor, University of Notre Dame

Dr. Taylor Nicoletti is a licensed clinical psychologist and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Notre Dame. She serves as the clinical supervisor of the Child & Family Therapy Clinic at Notre Dame's Veldman Family Psychology Clinic, where she teaches, provides evidence-based care to children and families, and supervises doctoral trainees. Her work focuses on trauma-informed care, suicide prevention, and culturally responsive mental health practices in both community and health care settings.

Dr. Nicoletti's clinical and community work centers on supporting Black youth and families impacted by trauma, systemic inequities, and violence, with a focus on promoting healing, resilience, and sustainable wellbeing.

As a South Bend native, mother, educator, and clinician, Dr. Nicoletti is deeply committed to building safer, more compassionate communities where youth, families, and women can thrive.

SPEAKER BIO



Rossana O'Hop

Co-Owner of Fiddlewicks Candle Co. &
Boss Widows

Born in Santiago, Chile, Rossana immigrated to the United States with her family at age seven in search of opportunity and stability. That early experience shaped a lifelong commitment to resilience, education, and pursuing possibility—even when the path forward is uncertain.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Rossana built a successful career in finance and media, beginning in public accounting with Arthur Young (later Ernst & Young) before moving into the entertainment industry with Twentieth Century Fox. At just 26 years old, she was appointed Managing Director of the Netherlands Fox Film Corporation in Amsterdam, launching a career that would span international finance, media production, and executive leadership.

She later founded RSO Financial Media Group, providing financial consulting to production companies before becoming the longtime CFO of Half Yard Productions, where she spent 16 years overseeing financial strategy and guiding the company through a successful acquisition by an international media conglomerate.

After the profound loss of her husband of 30 years during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rossana stepped away from corporate life and co-founded Fiddlewicks Candle Co., embracing entrepreneurship once again and building a company rooted in creativity, friendship, and purpose.

Her journey, spanning immigration, global leadership, entrepreneurship, and personal loss, has shaped her into a passionate advocate for resilience, reinvention, and community. Today, she is especially committed to supporting and uplifting women navigating grief, transition, and the courage to begin again.

SPEAKER BIO



Andrea Short

President and CEO, 1st Source Bank
Keynote Moderator

Andrea Short began her career at 1st Source Bank in 1998 as Tax Director. In September of 2001, she was promoted to Vice President and Controller. She was promoted to Senior Vice President in 2011, and Chief Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer in 2013. In October of 2014, she was promoted to Executive Vice President and given responsibility for Loan and Retail Operations. In July of 2020, Ms. Short added the role of President of 1st Source Bank and a year later relinquished the Chief Financial Officer role to focus all her energies as President. Ms. Short was promoted to President and CEO of 1st Source Bank in December 2022 and President of 1st Source Corporation in April 2023. In October 2025, Ms. Short was promoted to CEO of 1st Source Corporation and relinquished the title of President of 1st Source Bank. She is also a member of the 1st Source Bank and 1st Source Corporation Board of Directors.

Ms. Short is a Certified Public Accountant with a B.A. degree from Alma College. She has completed the University of Chicago Booth School of Business' Chicago Management Institute and Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. She has been involved with numerous charitable and community organizations.

SPEAKER BIO



Tricia Sloma

Emmy Award-Winning Journalist,
Anchor & Reporter
WNDU

Tricia is an award-winning journalist with over 33 years as an anchor and reporter at WNDU, where her reporting has informed, inspired, and driven change across world. She has earned two regional Emmy Awards, multiple state media honors, and in 2020 was named Journalist of the Year by the Indiana Society of Professional Journalists. Her work has had tangible impact, including reporting that led to reforms in Indiana's school bus safety laws.

Tricia recently served as executive producer and host of *Knute Rockne and a Century of Champions*, a documentary honored with the prestigious 2025 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award. Beyond journalism, she champions foster children through her long-running weekly segment, *Wednesday's Child*, giving voice to those who need it most.

When she's not reporting, Tricia enjoys gardening, travel, art, and the outdoors with her husband, Tom, and their two daughters.

SPEAKER BIO



Kristin Tawadros, PsyD, HSPP
Chief Clinical Officer,
Oaklawn Psychiatric Center

Dr. Kristin Tawadros is the Chief Clinical Officer at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, where she provides strategic leadership for mental health services across multiple campuses. A licensed psychologist with deep expertise in clinical systems, program development, and workforce leadership, she is committed to advancing accessible, high-quality mental health care. Dr. Tawadros earned her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Indianapolis, specializing in child and adolescent psychology, and also serves as a practicum supervisor for doctoral students at the University of Notre Dame. Her work is grounded in collaboration, innovation, and building strong community partnerships that support both providers and the people they serve.

SPEAKER BIO



Patti Tripathi

Former CNN Anchor, Entrepreneur,
Filmmaker & Podcast Host, Breathe Easy

Patti is the Founder and President of Saris to Suits®, host of the Breathe Easy podcast for the American Thoracic Society, and a former network news anchor. She made history as one of the first network anchors of Indian origin, rising to prominence at CNN despite not speaking English fluently until age twelve.

In 2012, Patti founded Saris to Suits® to empower women and girls to achieve their fullest potential. Her advocacy was galvanized by global tragedies like the 2012 Jyoti Singh case, shaping her mission to advance women's safety, dignity, and opportunity.

Patti's life is a testament to resilience. From navigating personal upheavals and the loss of her mother to surviving two brain surgeries in 2025, she channels her experiences into creating pathways for women's growth and empowerment.

Through initiatives like Sari Moves, she supports women's wellness, employment, and sustainability, transforming discarded sari fabrics into meaningful creations.

A pioneering journalist, humanitarian, and advocate, Patti inspires women to rise above barriers, embrace purpose, and lift others along the way.

SPEAKER BIO



Ciara Ward, LCSW '13

Owner of Caring
Conversations Center and Ci Notes

Ciara is a clinical behavioral health therapist, author, and visionary founder of Caring Conversations Center and Ci Notes. Her work lives at the powerful intersection of psychology, spirituality, and lived experience, creating spaces where healing feels honest, accessible, and transformative.

For more than a decade, Ciara has guided individuals, families, and communities through trauma, major life transitions, and identity shifts. She is known for helping high-functioning, high-achieving individuals move beyond survival mode and reconnect with their authentic selves. Her approach centers emotional intelligence, radical self-awareness, and truth-telling as catalysts for sustainable healing.

Through Caring Conversations Center, she supervises and mentors emerging clinicians, cultivating the next generation of thoughtful, grounded therapists. Through Ci Notes, she extends healing beyond the therapy room, offering books, podcasts, workshops, and retreats designed to make personal growth practical and deeply personal.

Ciara's mission is clear: to expand how we experience therapy and to remind people that they are already whole, already worthy, and already equipped to evolve.

SPEAKER BIO



Tammy Weisweaver

Women's Life and Strength Coach

Tammy is a women's life and strength coach who supports women in caring for their mind, body, and soul through seasons of change. A former kindergarten teacher turned business owner, Tammy led and grew a successful business for 15 years before intentionally pivoting—following her own inner compass into the unknown and eventually selling her company. Having made bold, sometimes confusing-from-the-outside pivots that were deeply aligned on the inside, she now speaks and coaches from lived experience. Through nervous system regulation, self-care practices, and grounded reflection, Tammy helps women give themselves permission to pivot, even when they're afraid, and to trust that meaningful change—especially when supported by community—can lead to a fuller, stronger life.

SPEAKER BIO



Colleen Wilcox

Director of Engagement Communications,
University of Notre Dame, and
Board President for Mental Health Awareness Michiana

Colleen is a communicator and community advocate who believes powerful stories can bring people together and spark real change.

As Director of Engagement Communications at the University of Notre Dame, she leads the University's BeyoND storytelling initiative, which highlights how Notre Dame partners with communities locally and around the world. Through BeyoND, Colleen works to elevate voices, spotlight meaningful partnerships, and share stories that connect people to the impact happening beyond campus.

Colleen is also the Board President of Mental Health Awareness Michiana, a regional organization dedicated to breaking the stigma around mental health and expanding access to resources across the region. Through community events, education, and partnerships with local organizations, the group works to normalize conversations about mental health and ensure individuals and families know they are not alone.

A proud Michiana native, Colleen is deeply invested in the well-being of the region. She serves on the a planning committee at A Rosie Place and recently served on the advisory board for KidsPeace South Bend, supporting foster children and families.

Before her work in higher education, Colleen spent more than a decade as an Emmy Award-winning television news anchor and reporter, telling stories that informed and connected communities across the country. Today she continues that passion by teaching future journalists in Notre Dame's Gallivan Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy program.

She holds degrees from Ball State University and is currently pursuing a Master of Nonprofit Administration at Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

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