

**Women's Leadership Conference presented by PNC**  
***Champions of Change***  
**Agenda with Breakout Sessions**

*\*Additional information will be submitted as breakout sessions and speakers have been confirmed.*

**Event Agenda**

8 – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Registration Opens, Networking, and Sponsor Tables</b>
8:45 – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Opening Session: Championing Change from Within</b>
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Transition to Breakout 1/Networking
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Breakout Session 1</b> (See Descriptions Below)
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Transition to Breakout Session 2/Networking
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Breakout Session 2</b> (See Descriptions Below)
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Transition to Breakout Session 3/Networking
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session 3</b> (See Descriptions Below)
12:15 – 12:30 p.m.	Transition to Lunch/Networking
12:30 – 1 p.m.	<b>Lunch Service</b>
1 – 1:10 p.m.	Intro to Keynote Speaker/Presenting Sponsor Remarks
1:10 – 1:55 p.m.	<b>Keynote Address by Jess Ekstrom</b> , Founder of Headbands of Hope and Mic Drop Workshop, Author, and Speaker
1:55 – 2 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b>



## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Success in Succession** sponsored by **Clancy & Theys Construction Company**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

**Panelists:**

- **Matt Chambers**, Vice President of Project Development at Clancy & Theys Construction Company
- **Laura Goode**, Commercial Real Estate and Land Use Attorney at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
- **Katherine Peele**, Chief Practice Officer at LS3P Associates
- **Amy Carroll**, President at Trademark Properties (*Moderator*)

This breakout will provide a fresh perspective on leadership development and explore tools and frameworks to help you build a pipeline of capable leaders. The panel will also focus on ways to foster a culture of growth and continuity, ensuring your organization is ready to thrive in the future.

### **Demystifying AI: Practical Tools for the Professional Toolbox** sponsored by **FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

**Panelists:**

- **Angela Doughty**, IP Attorney at Ward and Smith, P.A.
- **Ada Lopez**, Senior Manager of Product Diversity Office at Lenovo
- **Dirk Nicol**, Founder at My AI Transformation
- **Rod Ellis**, Vice-President of Technology Strategy at MetLife (*Moderator*)

Explore the essentials of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and learn how different industries are harnessing AI tools to boost efficiency and innovation. Learn from industry experts how AI can enhance decision-making, elevate productivity, and drive transformative change for career progression and workplace evolution.

### **The Talent Spectrum: Building a Team Beyond the Checklist** sponsored by **Dean Dorton**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

**Panelist:**

- **Becca Egger-Alley**, Associate Director, Data Insights & Tooling, at UBS and Founder & CEO of Neuroinclusion Hub
- **Allison Manning**, Recruiting Manager at Dean Dorton
- **Lindsay Wrege**, Co-Founder & CEO at 321 Coffee
- **Cristina Colón**, Director of HR at Habitat for Humanity (*Moderator*)

Join a dynamic panel discussion focused on building teams that excel. This session aims to empower leaders to identify and leverage a wide range of skills within their teams to drive organizational success, fostering a high-performance culture.

**Frustration to Freedom: Dismantling Workplace Barriers** sponsored by **Vaco**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

**Panelist:**

- **Creighton Blackwell**, Chief Community and Public Affairs Officer at Coastal Credit Union
- **Kristen Englehart**, Senior Director of Account Services at Brasco Marketing
- **Rebecca Troyer**, Editor in Chief at Triangle Business Journal (*Moderator*)

Learn strategies to empower women in leadership roles by addressing and dismantling the internal and external barriers they face. This session will create a safe, empowering environment where women can explore their challenges, build resilience, and leave with practical strategies to drive their leadership growth.

**Building Financial Confidence** sponsored by **Marsh McLennan Agency**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

**Panelist:**

- **Che-Che McCrimmon**, Vice President, Senior Retirement Plan Advisor at PNC Bank
- **Sandra Stowe**, Owner of White Owl Financial Advisors
- **Erica Vazquez**, Executive Director of The Women’s Business Center of North Carolina at National Institute
- **Jessica Wisniewski**, Vice President of Finance & Administration at RTP (*Moderator*)

Join an engaging conversation that will empower women with the knowledge and tools to take control of their personal and professional financial futures. This session will foster financial confidence and equip women to make informed decisions, take proactive steps toward financial independence, and navigate the financial landscape with confidence in both their personal and professional lives.

**Mastering Difficult Conversations** sponsored by **Duke Energy**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

**Panelists:**

- **Nicole Blake-Crigler**, Senior Vice President, People and Culture at North Carolina Football Club
- **Josh Stimpson**, Senior Director of HR for Transformers North America at Hitachi Energy
- **Erica DeLong**, Host with iHeartMedia (*Moderator*)

Join a dynamic discussion that will unpack the essential skills needed for difficult conversations. This session will help you handle challenging workplace interactions with confidence and effectiveness and empower you to improve communication and build stronger relationships within your teams and organizations.

## **Community Engagement: A Catalyst for Change** sponsored by **Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina**

**Type:** Panel Discussion

### **Panelists:**

- **Sarah Crawford**, NC Representative and CEO of TLC
- **Gary Greene**, Founder of Greene Resources
- **Shinica Thomas**, Wake County Commissioner for Wake County Government
- **Lori O’Keefe**, President & CEO of Triangle Community Foundation (*Moderator*)

Engaging in public and local service goes beyond making a difference - it’s a powerful way to grow personally and professionally. This session will explore how community involvement can enhance your skills, expand your network, and create meaningful change in your career, organization, and beyond. Discover how service-driven leadership fosters innovation, strengthens workplace culture, and builds stronger connections within your community. Whether you're looking to supplement your career with volunteer work or integrate service into your professional path, this discussion will provide valuable insights on why giving back is essential for long-term success.

## **Networking With Purpose**

### **Facilitator:**

- **Meredith Pasekoff-Dinitz**, Founder of Your Career Happiness Professional Coaching

This facilitated and interactive session will help attendees refine their networking skills and make meaningful professional connections. After a brief introduction covering key networking strategies, participants will practice elements of effective networking with fellow attendees. This session will provide hands-on experience, actionable takeaways, and ensure new professional connections in a supportive and engaging environment.