MISSOURI CHAMBER FOUNDATION

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2026

TUESDAY, JULY 21 | DAY 1

1:30PM WELCOME | ***Kara Corches**, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry* Taneycomo A

1:35PM KICKOFF KEYNOTE **DON'T JUST MEET THE MOMENT…MAKE THE MOST OF IT**

***Leigh Anne Taylor Knight,** The DeBruce Foundation*

In 2026, each day brings new challenges, choices and opportunities. The question isn't whether change is happening—it's how you'll lead through it. Harness your strengths and navigate an ever-evolving world of work with clarity and confidence.

Gain practical tools and research-backed strategies to strengthen yourself, empower your team and build careers with intention, so you're not just responding to the moment, but truly making the most of it, now and into the future.

2:15PM BREAK

2:30PM WORKSHOPS *(CHOOSE ONE)*

FINANCIAL FITNESS | ***Lindsey Shockley,** Edward Jones* Cooper Creek

Women control more than $10 trillion in U.S. household financial assets, and that number is expected to triple by 2030. Yet many women report feeling less confident about investing and personal finance, despite being the primary financial decision-makers in their households.

The Edward Jones Financial Fitness program will help you gain a solid understanding of the basics of personal finance and investing. Leave with the ability to more confidently apply financial lessons in your everyday life. Don't miss out – financial confidence is one of the most powerful investments you can make in yourself.

OWN YOUR STRENGTHS: DiSC ASSESSMENTS | ***Tammy Long**, Missouri Chamber* Short Creek

Understanding your personality is a powerful step toward stronger leadership and personal growth. In this interactive session, participate in a guided DiSC Assessment and explore how different personality styles influence communication, collaboration and decision-making.

Attendees will work together to better understand their individual strengths and how those strengths can be applied in the workplace. Participants will leave with greater self-awareness and practical insight into how to lead, communicate and grow with intention.

4:00PM BREAK

5:00–6:45PM **WELCOME RECEPTION** 📍 Convention Center Lobby



MAHJONG & MINGLING 📍 Taneycomo A

***Grace Mauzy**, Jeff City Mahjong*

Connect, unwind and try your hand at one of today's fastest-growing social games during this lively networking reception. Whether you are new to Mahjong or already love the game, this relaxed event offers a fun way to build relationships, share conversation and close the day with energy.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 | **DAY 2**

📍 All sessions will be in Taneycomo A

8:00AM BREAKFAST

8:45AM WELCOME | ***Kara Corches**, Missouri Chamber*

8:55AM

NEGOTIATE LIKE A LEADER

***Elizabeth Haberberger**, Dale Carnegie Missouri*

Negotiation isn't just for boardrooms—it's happening every day. Whether you're pursuing a promotion, expanding your role or navigating everyday conversations, this interactive session will help you recognize opportunities and advocate with confidence.

You'll learn how to spot hidden moments of negotiation, engage effectively—even when others don't see it coming—and silence self-doubt so you can show up with clarity and impact.

10:00AM BREAK

10:15AM

PANEL WOMEN'S VOICES IN MALE-DOMINATED FIELDS

***Stephanie Bell**, Ellinger Bell (moderator); **Stephanie Garrett**, Nucor Steel Sedalia; **Tina Shannon**, Ameren Missouri; **Amber Stevens**, Prost Builders*

Women are driving change in industries where they've long been underrepresented. This panel brings together leaders from manufacturing, government affairs, utilities and construction to share insights on navigating challenges, building influence and advancing in traditionally male-dominated fields.

11:00AM

BRANDING WITH PURPOSE: *Shaping your business or professional identity*

***Katlin Owens**, CPKC*

Standing out in today's content-saturated world takes more than just another message. Learn how to define your brand in context with what your audience wants to know without losing yourself in the process. Join Katlin Owens, director of brand strategy at CPKC, as she reveals how to distill feedback into a powerful brand foundation.

Decide what to evolve and what to preserve as you build your messaging strategy. Walk away with tools you can use immediately, whether you're shaping communications for your organization or elevating your own professional reputation.

11:45AM LUNCH

12:30PM

SPEED NETWORKING

***Crystal Narr**, Missouri Chamber*

Join us for a fast-paced speed networking session designed to help attendees make meaningful connections with fellow women leaders. Through brief, structured conversations, participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas and expand their professional network in an energizing and supportive environment.

1:15PM **NAVIGATING CHANGE AND FINDING RESILIENCE**

***Flavia D'Souza**, Sentio BioSciences*

As co-founder of Sentio BioSciences in St. Louis, Flavia D'Souza knows a thing or two about innovation and perseverance. Under her leadership, the company has taken two drug products to commercial manufacturing, helping ensure lifesaving medicines are produced right here at home.

Flavia will discuss navigating change with confidence and building resilience through periods of uncertainty. Learn how to tackle challenges, stay focused and lead with strength in evolving environments.

2:00PM BREAK

2:15PM PANEL **LEADING MISSOURI: *Women at the Cabinet Table***

***Kara Corches**, Missouri Chamber (moderator); **Karla Eslinger**, Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education; **Michelle Hataway**, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development; **Val Huhn**, Missouri Dept. of Mental Health; **Angela Nelson**, Missouri Dept. of Commerce and Insurance; **Sarah Willson**, Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Services*

Join Missouri's top women leaders as they share what it takes to lead at the highest levels of state government. This dynamic panel features cabinet-level voices shaping policy, driving economic growth and impacting communities across the state.

From navigating high-stakes decisions to balancing leadership and life, panelists will offer candid insights and advice for women ready to lead and make an impact.

3:15PM CLOSING | ***Kara Corches**, Missouri Chamber*

MISSOURI CHAMBER
FOUNDATION

GOLD SPONSOR

chamber benefit plan

SILVER SPONSOR

Leggett & Platt®

BRONZE SPONSORS

CPKC

HUBER & ASSOCIATES
Smarter IT Solutions

Ozarks Coca-Cola
DR PEPPER BOTTLING COMPANY

SUPPORTER SPONSORS

SAK™
Pipeline Infrastructure. Solved.™

Branson™
MISSOURI

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP!