

HR CONNECT

LEADING CHANGE IN A NEW ERA



Sept 25th
2025

MGM Grand
Springfield, MA

EVENT AGENDA

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration, breakfast, meet our exhibitors

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Opening Keynote – **Dr. Melissa Furman**
Future Landscape of Labor and Talent

10:15 am – 10:30 am

Networking and Exhibitor time

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Breakout Sessions

- **Energy Leadership: Transforming Today's Leaders** - presented by Emmy Monticelli
- **ME Management in Uncertain times: Getting Things Done Without Coming Undone** - presented by Katie McDonald
- **Future Ready HR: Building the Critical Competencies for 2026 and Beyond** – presented by Pam Thornton and Kimberly Dunn

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

Lunch, networking and exhibitor time

12:45 pm – 1:15pm Give Yourself a Break

- **Photobooth**
- **Get a Professional Headshot**
- **Visit the Exhibitor Hall**
- **Network**

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

Total Rewards Panel Discussion

Moderator : Allison Ebner (EANE)

Panelists: Gary Dawson (EANE),
Katie McDonald,
Jenny MacKay (Alera Group),
Elissa O'Brien (World at Work)

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Stretch Break

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Closing Keynote – **Jason Kotecki**
Courageous Growth: Leading with Strength and Confidence

FEATURED SPEAKERS



DR MELISSA FURMAN

Future Landscape of Labor and Talent

Workforce challenges aren't slowing down—and neither should your strategy. Dr. Melissa Furman will unpack shifting demographics, evolving employee expectations, and pressing recruitment and retention issues. Gain practical solutions to boost engagement and become an employer of choice in today's competitive talent market.



JASON KOTECKI

Courageous Growth: Leading with Strength and Confidence

Great leaders share one essential trait—and it's one you can build. In this uplifting keynote, Jason Kotecki will show HR professionals how to let go of limiting mindsets, lead with joy and resilience, and reclaim passion for their work. You'll leave renewed, empowered, and ready to lead workplace culture with intention.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Energy Leadership: Transforming Today's Leaders

presented by Emmy Monticelli

Tomorrow's leaders need more than skills—they need Leadership Energy to inspire teams, navigate change, and drive performance. In this session, Emmy Monticelli will demystify Energy Leadership (no crystals required!) and introduce the seven levels of catabolic and anabolic energy. Learn how these energy levels show up in you, your team, and your organization—and how to shift them to lead with greater purpose, resilience, and impact.

ME Management in Uncertain tIMEs: Getting Things Done Without Coming Undone

presented by Katie McDonald

You're a doer—meetings, deadlines, and demands fill every minute. But when the to-do list never ends, it can feel like you have to choose between taking care of business and taking care of yourself. Katie McDonald knows that struggle firsthand—and learned it doesn't have to be that way. In this session, she'll share hard-earned lessons and practical strategies to reclaim the "ME" in time management, shift from human doing to human being, and achieve more without burning out.

Future Ready HR: Building the Critical Competencies for 2026 and Beyond

presented by Pam Thornton and Kimberly Dunn

The HR profession is evolving rapidly—are you ready for what's next? In this forward-focused session, Pam Thornton and Kimberly Dunn will outline the competencies HR leaders need to thrive in the coming years. From leveraging technology and data analytics to navigating complex workplace dynamics, you'll walk away with a roadmap for developing the skills that will keep you and your organization ahead of the curve.