

# 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 vendors

**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 vendor 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 vendor time

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

- Snap a memory at the Photo Booth
- Get a Professional Headshot
- Visit the Vendor Showcase
- Connect & Network with Peers

**1:15 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Total Rewards in Turbulence:  
Aligning People, Purpose and Performance**

Moderator: Allison Ebner (EANE)

Panelists: Gary Dawson (EANE),  
Katie McDonald (b.nourished),  
Jenny MacKay (Alera Group),  
Elissa O'Brien (WorldatWork)  
Sarah Lee (Jacks Abby)

**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.