

HR CONNECT

THE SHIFT STARTS HERE

SEPTEMBER 24
2026
MGM GRAND
SPRINGFIELD, MA



EVENT AGENDA

8:00 am - 8:45 am

Registration, breakfast, meet our vendors

8:45 am - 9:00 am

Opening Address, Allison Ebner

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Opening Keynote - Jennifer McClure
HR as Chief Disruption Officer: How HR Leaders Can Drive Transformation and Shape the Future of Work

10:00 am - 10:15 am

Networking and vendor time

10:15 am - 11:15 am - Workshop Sessions

- **From High Potential to High Impact**
Kim Kenney-Rockwal
- **Work Shift: AI & HR**
Mike Lannen, Eternity
- **The Employee Benefit Shift**
Terri Patnode & Jenny MacKay, Alera

11:15 am - 11:30 am

Networking and vendor time

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Workshop Sessions

- **HR Leaders Eat Lunch**
Colleen Delvecchio, Maxady
- **Developing our Leaders for Tomorrow**
Panel Moderated by: Gary Dawson
- **Compensation for Tomorrow's Workforce**
Emily Peavey, WorldatWork

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm

LUNCH

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm - Micro-Session

The Power of Saying No
Kim Kenney-Rockwal

1:45 pm - 2:00 PM

Networking and vendor time

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Workshop Sessions

- **Coaching your Managers on Conflict Resolution**
Kevin Joly
- **The New Recruitment Landscape**
Panel Moderated by: Pam Thornton
- **Rewards & Recognition on Any Budget**
Sandi Mauro, & Sarah Lee, Hendler Brewing Co.
& Janine Taylor, Advocates, Inc.

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Networking and vendor time

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

Hotline: LIVE!
Amelia Holstrom, Vincent Farisello,
Jewel Duberry-Douglas
Moderated By: Mark Adams

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Announcements



Featured Speakers

Opening Keynote, Jennifer McClure

HR as Chief Disruption Officer: How HR Leaders Can Drive Transformation and Shape the Future of Work

The future of work isn't coming—it's already here. HR leaders have an opportunity to move beyond supporting the business to shaping its future. Jennifer McClure shares a practical roadmap for leading through AI, burnout, workforce change, and uncertainty with confidence, purpose, and impact.

Breakout Sessions

— All Levels —

HR Leaders Eat Lunch

HR is always taking care of everyone else—but who's taking care of HR? This session explores what resilient HR leadership really looks like in today's rapidly changing workplace. Leave with practical tools, fresh perspective, and renewed confidence to lead yourself while leading others.

Work Shift: AI & HR

AI isn't coming for your job—but it is changing your job. Explore how artificial intelligence is transforming HR today, where the biggest opportunities and risks exist, and the uniquely human skills that will matter most moving forward.

Rewards & Recognition on Any Budget

Recognition isn't about spending more—it's about making people feel valued. Discover practical, budget-friendly ways to create a culture of appreciation that strengthens engagement, boosts retention, and resonates with today's workforce.

Coaching Your Managers on Conflict Resolution

Managers aren't born knowing how to navigate conflict. Learn practical coaching strategies that help managers address difficult conversations early, build stronger relationships, and prevent everyday issues from becoming HR investigations.

— Mid Level —

The New Recruitment Landscape

Recruiting has changed—and yesterday's strategies aren't enough. Explore what's working in today's hiring market, from candidate expectations and employer branding to technology, speed, and smarter recruiting practices.

— Mid/Senior Level —

Developing Our Leaders for Tomorrow

The leaders you'll need tomorrow may already be on your team today. Hear from a panel of leadership experts as they discuss what it takes to identify, develop, and prepare future leaders for an ever-changing workplace.

The Employee Benefit Shift

Employee expectations around benefits continue to evolve. Explore how organizations are rethinking healthcare, flexibility, financial wellness, mental health, and total rewards to attract, retain, and support today's workforce.

— Senior Level —

From High Potential to High Impact

Leadership potential doesn't always translate into leadership impact. This interactive session explores how HR can help emerging leaders overcome self-doubt, perfectionism, and limiting beliefs so they can lead with confidence, influence, and authenticity.

Compensation for Tomorrow's Workforce

Pay expectations are changing—and employees are paying attention. Learn how organizations are responding to pay transparency, market pressures, and evolving workforce expectations while building compensation strategies that attract and retain top talent.