

COE 2026 SUMMIT

EXCELLENCE REWIRED

APRIL 7-9, 2026 | FAWCETT CENTER

Tuesday, April 7 (Optional)

- 7 - 8 AM Breakfast
- 8 AM - 12 PM Workshops*
- 12 - 1 PM Lunch
- 1 - 4 PM Tours*

**Tuesday workshops and tours require advance registration with the purchase of an All-Access Pass or add-on ticket(s).*

Locations

Keynotes & A1, B1, C1, D1, E1 | Conference Theater
 A2, B2, C2, D2, E2 | Clinton
 A3, B3, C3, D3, E3 | Alumni Lounge
 A4, B4, C4, D4, E4 | Hancock
 Meals & Reception | Ballroom
 Quiet Focus Room | Highland

Wednesday, April 8

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9:45 AM Keynote 1
AI-Powered Organizations: Redefining the Future of Work, Dr. Melissa Valentine
- 10 - 11 AM Breakout A
A1 | Driving Strategy as a Leader, Tim Bath
A2 | Waste Elimination by Keeping Improvement Local: Run It Like You Own It, Chad Smith
A3 | Why AI Fails to Deliver ROI: A Practical System for Making It Work, Sandeep Chennikara & Blake Mohseni
A4 | AI Research, Dr. Nate Craig
- 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Breakout B
B1 | The K-Curve Imperative: Why Excellence Is Diverging—and What CI Leaders Can Do About It, Joseph Ours
B2 | Rewiring Excellence: How Process and Data Enable Responsible AI, Adrienne Schmolli, Steve Bartos & Michael Lane
B3 | A Culture of Contribution: Thriving in a Hybrid World, Elisabeth Galperin
B4 | Better Together: Insights from the Future of People at Work Initiative, Rachel Reuter
- 12:15 - 1:15 PM Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:15 PM Breakout C
C1 | Rapid Problem Solving: A Lean Six Sigma-Inspired Hybrid for Fast, Effective Improvement, Brett Wolf & Marcy Arango
C2 | Navigating Transformation, Change, and Disruption, Devon Wood & Lisa Rogers
C3 | Digging Deeper: How Data Mining Fuels Your CI Strategy, Anna Karousis & Heather Perfors
C4 | Scaling Throughput in Physical AI, Mike Renn
- 2:30 - 4 PM Keynote 2
Make Bold Possible™: Building the Bold Net So People and Innovation Thrive, Kathy Klotz-Guest
- 4 - 5:30 PM Reception

Thursday, April 9

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9:45 AM Keynote 3
The Focus Framework: Driving Operational Excellence and Transformation at Huntington, Prashant Nateri with Dr. Aravind Chandrasekaran
- 10 - 11 AM Breakout D
D1 | The ROI of Intelligence: Optimizing Business Processes with Integrated Automation, Holly Uhl
D2 | An OpEx Learning Journey: From Purpose to Self-Sustainment, Nate Greaves & Nathan Thorpe
D3 | Empowering 35,000 Frontline Problem Solvers through Lean Daily Management, Michelle Gauntner & Melanie Yoder
D4 | Responsible AI Management: Methods, Value, and Excellence, Dennis Hirsch & Dr. Aravind Chandrasekaran
- 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Breakout E
E1 | Leading Teams Through Uncertainty and Change, Rick Grambo
E2 | Failure Is Not an Option: Building a CI Culture at NiSource without a Playbook, Abby Lauer, Joe Marinello, & Chelsea Garrett
E3 | The Future of Lean: AI Driven Insights and Operational Excellence at Chase, Stephanie Enarusai
E4 | Designing Persona-Based AI Training: AI Learning Tracks by Role and Level, Dr. Ada Safak
- 12:15 - 1:15 PM Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:30 PM Keynote 4 & Conference Close
The Myth of the Fearless Leader: Exposing a Path Beyond Fight, Flight or Freeze, Dr. Tonya Jackman Hampton