

Program Schedule

March 23, 2021 (Eastern Standard Time)

9:00 am

Welcoming Remarks



Joyce Kulhawik
Emmy Award-Winning Journalist



Susan MacKenty Brady
Deloitte Ellen Gabriel Chair for Women and Leadership
CEO, Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership

Our esteemed co-hosts kick things off, offering personal and professional insights into this year's theme – Resilience and Authenticity – setting the stage for the exceptional women's leadership lectures, events and workshops ahead.

9:15 am

INSPIRING AUTHENTICITY

Live Your Story, Discover Your Leadership



Tiffany Dufu
Founder and Author

Tiffany Dufu has relentlessly pursued one goal in every job she's had, regardless of sector, industry, or job description: manifest a world in which women's gifts and voices are fully harnessed for the benefit of all. In our opening session, Tiffany explores the correlation between passion, purpose and leadership success. She will guide us on how to discover our own purpose and why it's critical to leading with authenticity and resilience.

9:45 am

INSPIRING RESILIENCE

Achieving Dreams Against All Odds



Tererai Trent
Author and Educator

Dr. Tererai Trent is a woman who grew up in rural Africa and overcame great obstacles to achieve her own success. Tererai's story is a striking example that anything in life is possible. In this morning inspiring keynote session, Tererai will share her personal journey of perseverance and remind us to believe that we can always achieve, even if against all odds.

10:30 am

BUSINESS PANEL

Unpacking Authenticity at Work



Rhonda Henley

Senior Director, Global Partner Organization, Cisco Systems



Millette Granville

Vice President, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 2U, Inc.



Stephanie Georges

Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Mercury



Kerry Seitz MODERATOR

Vice President, Women's Leadership, Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership

What does it mean to be authentic? And how does authenticity impact your professional identity, success and sense of fulfillment? In this moderated discussion, women business leaders will share their own personal stories and unpack authenticity at work.

11:00 am

EXPLORE AND CONNECT

Visit the Exhibit Hall and Networking Lounge

Visit our Exhibit Hall, where you can learn more about our incredible sponsors at their virtual booths and have opportunities to claim special offers. In our Networking Lounge, gain insights and tips from the 5000+ leaders at this year's conference.

11:15 am

FIRESIDE CHAT ON RESILIENCE

Disrupt Yourself



Lynn Perry Wooten

President, Simmons University



Whitney Johnson

Award-Winning Author, Speaker and Executive Coach

We are living in an era where the entire world has been disrupted and new ways of working, thinking and living are required. Leading well by managing a collective new learning curve is now a vital skill. In this fireside chat, Dr. Lynn Perry Wooten and Whitney Johnson, both experts on resilience, will guide us on how to persevere—and seize unexpected opportunities—in our own disrupted paths.

12:00 pm

BUSINESS PANEL

Unpacking Resilience at Work



Caitlin Gordon

Vice President of Product Management for Integrated Solutions, Dell Technologies



Jean Guan

Senior Vice President, Manager for Medical and Siu Claims Operations, Liberty Mutual



Kim Ernzen

Vice President, Naval Power, Raytheon Missiles and Defense



Elisa van Dam MODERATOR

Vice President, Allyship and Inclusion, Simmons University Institute for Inclusive Leadership

Over the past year, the global pandemic has hijacked business—and life—as we know it. We have had to find new ways of communicating, working and integrating our personal and professional worlds, prompting a tremendous amount of focus on what it takes to persevere. In this moderated discussion, women business leaders will share their own personal stories of resilience.

12:40 pm

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1:00 pm



Helen G. Drinan Visionary Leader Award



Helen G. Drinan

President Emerita, Simmons University



2021 Award Winner

President Drinan presents the inaugural recipient of the award named in her honor to an inspiring woman leader who embodies the values of inclusive leadership in her personal and professional life.

1:15 pm

INSPIRING RESILIENCE

The Power of Compassion



Jenna Bush Hager

Co-Host of TODAY with Hoda & Jenna

Everyone has the ability to make a profound impact on the lives of others. Jenna Bush Hager will inspire us in this powerful keynote to be a catalyst of positivity for others. Drawing from her own lifelong career as a devoted humanitarian, Jenna will show us that the impact of actions both big and small—especially in these challenging times—can be enormous.

1:30 pm

A Conversation about Resilience and Authenticity: Why Not Me?



Mindy Kaling

Writer, Producer and Actor



Jenna Bush Hager MODERATOR

Co-Host of TODAY with Hoda & Jenna

Mindy Kaling asserts that her achievements as an award-winning actor, writer and producer and New York Times bestselling author required perseverance motivated by the internal challenge of “why not me?” In this candid and heartfelt closing conversation, Mindy and Jenna will share the impact that authenticity and resilience have had on their very different journeys to success.

2:15 pm

Program Ends

April Signature Sessions

April 6
12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Leading Bravely Through Change and Uncertainty



Margie Warrell

Best-Selling Author, Founder Global Courage, Women's Leadership Advocate

No one is immune to fear. Yet in the midst of uncertain times, only those who've learned to rise above it and lead with courage can unlock the potential in themselves – and others – to seize the opportunity that adversity always holds. In this keynote session, Margie will share proven resilience rituals that expand bandwidth and behavioral agility to thrive under pressure.

April 13
12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Resilience and Self-Care for High-Performing Leaders



Dr. Neha Sangwan

Physician, Communication Expert and Author, Talk Rx

Have you ever noticed that when communication breaks down, your heart rate speeds up? In this thought-provoking keynote on the effects of stress, Dr. Sangwan will show us how physical health intersects with mental, emotional, social and spiritual health. She will also provide practical tools for empowering healthier communication, more collaborative workplaces, higher productivity and improved health.

April 20
12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance



Angela Duckworth

New York Times Bestselling Author, Ted Speaker, CEO Character Lab

Why do some people succeed and others fail? Through her research, Angela Duckworth has found that grit—a combination of passion and perseverance for a singularly important goal—is the hallmark of high achievers in every domain. In this keynote session, Angela will share insights into this research and powerful scientific evidence that grit can be nurtured and grown.

April 27
12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Bossing Up



Ally Love

Founder and CEO of Love Squad, Peloton Instructor, and Host of Brooklyn Nets

Ally Love's mission is to empower, encourage and uplift. As CEO of the Love Squad, host of the Brooklyn Nets and renowned Peloton instructor, Ally encourages women to push their limits and step into their power. In this energizing keynote, Ally will motivate us all to Boss Up.