



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Women's Leadership Forum

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch – St. Louis, MO
September 7-8, 2025

- Daily Schedule of Events -

Sunday, September 7

8:00 am – 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:45 am

Opening Remarks and Emerging Leaders Panel

This panel will feature rising leaders of A/E firms discussing how they created opportunities for growth in their careers as well as the mentors who encouraged them and shaped their journeys. The panel will also share their thoughts on the future of the industry.

Panelists:

Shawwna Erter, SCI Engineering

Alison Graves, Civil Design, Inc.

Koby Wofford, Mendrop

Moderator: Kasey Anderson, ACEC Tennessee

9:45 am – 10:00 am Break

10:00 am – 11:00 am

The Future of DEIB

Moderated by Katharine Mottley, ACEC, this panel will feature ACEC member firms as they discuss the DEIB executive order and what firm leaders can do to protect their culture and talent.

Panelists:

Lalitha Benjaram, Mead & Hunt

Jessica Nyce, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

Chandra Storrusten, Visible Value

Moderator: Katharine Mottley, ACEC

11:30 am – 12:00 pm Open Roundtable Brainstorming and Discussions

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Luncheon

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Change Management Workshop: Part 1

In today's fast-paced environment, the ability to lead and manage through change is more important than ever. Part 1 of this workshop will explore why we resist change, the circle of influence and control, and the phases of change.

Speaker: Melissa Wilcox, KCI

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Change Management Workshop: Part 2

Part 2 of this workshop will focus on the communication skills needed during change and how we become change masters to establish and sustain a culture of continuous improvement.

Speaker: Melissa Wilcox, KCI

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Open Roundtable Discussions

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Opening Reception for All Forums

Monday, September 8

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30am – 10:30 am

Redefining Retention: Supporting Women Through Career and Life Transitions

This session will explore how engineering firms can evolve to better support women navigating career growth alongside family life. We'll discuss the impact of rigid work structures, the lack of part-time opportunities, and how firm culture can either drive or deter retention. Join us for a candid conversation aimed at identifying real solutions to make the industry more flexible, inclusive, and sustainable for women at all stages of life.

Speaker: Chandra Storrusten, Visible Value

9:30am – 9:45 am

Break

10:30 am – 11:00 am ***Open Roundtable Discussions and Report Out***

11:00 am **Forum Adjourns**