



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Women's Leadership Forum

Hilton Cleveland Downtown – Cleveland, OH

September 27-28, 2026

- Daily Schedule of Events -

Sunday, September 27

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Opening Remarks and Leadership Panel <i>This panel will feature current leaders of A/E firms who will discuss not only the journey to running their firms, but also current obstacles and the direction they see the industry going</i> Joy Lanham, Lanham Engineering, LLC Jackie Larocque, Atwell, LLC Monica Mosure, ms consultants, inc. Moderator: Wendy Holiday, ACEC
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Break
9:45 am – 10:05 am	Sponsor Presentation <i>Mary Erchul, ACEC Business Insurance Trust</i>
10:05 am – 12:05 pm	Leadership Workshop: Strategic Leadership and Career Navigation in High-Performance Environments <i>This workshop explores how professionals can strengthen their leadership influence and navigate career growth beyond technical expertise. Participants will consider practical strategies for building visibility, relationships, communication, and organizational influence while preparing for future leadership opportunities.</i> Laurie Foster, Foster Group Strategies
12:05 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Open Roundtable Brainstorming and Discussions <i>An open conversation about the challenges women encounter as they advance in leadership, as well as strategies and experiences that have helped create stronger career pathways, greater flexibility, and opportunities for continued growth.</i>
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break

**The Women's Leadership Forum encourages open discussion, so exact topics and times are subject to change.*

2:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Navigating Menopause at Work

Menopause affects nearly half the workforce and can significantly influence employees' well-being and performance during critical career years. This session offers practical guidance for managing symptoms at work, supporting colleagues and employees, and creating workplace policies that promote retention and inclusion.

Dr. Victoria Verlezza, People & Culture Strategist

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Roundtable Discussions

More intimate table discussions building off topics from the wider Forum open discussion that may include:

- *Strengthening leadership pipelines*
- *Building more adaptive, inclusive, and high-performing firms*
- *Retaining mid-career women*
- *Making flexibility work in client-driven environments*
- *Supporting emerging leaders*

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Opening Reception for All Forums

Monday, September 28

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30am – 9:25 am

Mentorship That Works

Take a deeper look at what makes mentoring relationships effective, including the expectations, responsibilities, and practices that help both mentors and mentees build meaningful connections and support long-term growth.

Laurie Foster, Foster Group Strategies

9:25 – 9:30am

Break

Grab a coffee on your way to joining a presentation from the ACEC Research Institute on workforce.

9:30am – 10:30 am

Workforce of the Future

Examine the ACEC Research Institutes latest findings on the demographic, educational, and organizational forces reshaping the engineering workforce over the next decade.

Joe Bates, ACEC Research Institute

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Open Roundtable Discussions and Report Out

11:00 am

Forum Adjourns