

Empower, The Leadership Experience 2026 Conference Agenda

7:30 AM	Registration Opens, Vendor Marketplace Opens, Highmark Wellness Studio Opens			
7:30 AM to 7:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #1			
8:00 AM to 8:20 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #2			
8:00 AM to 8:40 AM	Continental Breakfast			
8:40 AM to 9:45 AM	Breakfast Keynote, Sponsored by Peoples Security Bank & Trust: Katie Desiderio, PhD, Moravian University			
9:45 AM to 10:00 AM	Book Signing, Katie Desiderio, PhD. - Near EMPOWER Bookstore (Books can be reserved in advance via registration page)			
9:30 AM to 9:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #3			
10:00 AM to 10:20 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #4			
10:00 AM to 10:45 AM	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s):	Sharla McBride	Susan Unvasky	Janna Genzlinger, Settlers Hospitality	Moderator: Elizabeth Nagy, The Honesdale National Bank Panelists: Dani Ruhf, CHOP Out Hunger, Kathleen Pearage, Tristar Academy, Stephanie Mercado, Farm Box Fitness
Topic:	TBD	TBD	TBD	Unplug to Recharge: Reclaiming Your Peace in a Connected World
10:30 AM to 10:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #5			
11:00 AM to 11:20 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #6			
11:00 AM to 11:45 AM	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s) :	Holly Pilcavage, Luzerne County Community College	TBD	Myrian Muniz, Momentum Moves Mountains	Moderator: Jill Valentini, Fidelity Bank Panelists: Olivia Eaddy, Sun Life, Kat Fox, Kat Fox Designs, Patricia Bezerra, Pachee's Spa
Topic:	From Momentum to Meaning: Inside a Pivot Year	TBD	Now What? Navigating Transitions with Purpose, Faith, and Courage	Imposter Syndrome: Owning Your Success
11:30 AM to 11:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #7			
12:00 PM to 12:45 PM	Lunch			
12:45 PM to 1:45 PM	Lunch Keynote, Sponsored by PNC Bank: Jodi Kantor, Pulitzer Prize Winning Reporter, New York Times and Best-Selling Author			
1:30 PM to 2:00 PM	Book Signing with Jodi Kantor - Near EMPOWER Bookstore (Books can be reserved in advance via registration page)			
2:00 PM to 2:20 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #8			
2:00 PM to 2:45 PM	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s):	Dr. Sandra Culbertson, Geisinger	Mary Kate Loftus, Impressia Bank	Maria Conigliaro, Inspired Studio	Moderator: Laura Gillette-Mills, AIA, Panelists: Sara Paperno, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Mary Kolessar, Discover NEPA
Topic:	TBD	TBD	The Hidden Drivers of Success: How to Transform Blocks into Breakthroughs	Get Involved and Get Out There: Leading Through Community Engagement
2:30 PM to 2:50 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #9			
3:00 PM to 3:20 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #10			
3:00 PM to 3:45 PM	TRACK 1	TRACK 2	TRACK 3	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s):	Talia Walsh, Quest Studio	Dr. Stephanie Gresh, Future Proof Career Coaching	Linda Rowe	Moderator: Megan Alpert, Joy World Wealth Planner Panelists: Amy Branning, Peoples Security Bank & Trust
Topic:	Strength Behind the Smile	The Power of You: Harnessing AI to Amplify Your Soft Skills and Unleash Human Potential	Authentically Leading With Presence and Purpose	Smart Money: Building Confidence and Planning Your Financial Future
3:30 PM to 3:50 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Wellness Session #11			
3:45 PM to 5:30 PM	Networking Mixer Sponsored by ESSA Bank (In Vendor Marketplace)			