

EMPOWER, The Leadership Experience 2026 Conference Agenda

7:30 AM	Registration, Vendor Marketplace, Highmark Wellness Studio and Johnson College Leadership Lounge Open
7:30 AM to 7:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Mary McDermott: Beginner's Yoga
8:00 AM to 8:20 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Edna Cementina, EHealth Wellness and Fitness Studio: Pilates
8:00 AM to 8:40 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:40 AM to 9:45 AM	Breakfast Keynote, Sponsored by Peoples Security Bank & Trust: Rooted & Rising: The Power of (Un)Learning in Leadership, Katie P. Desiderio, PhD, Moravian University
9:45 AM to 10:00 AM	Reset and recharge in the Johnson College Leadership Lounge
9:45 AM to 10:00 AM	Book Signing, Katie P. Desiderio, PhD. - Near EMPOWER Bookstore
9:30 AM to 9:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Dawn Marino, Heal By Dawn: Crystal Energy Healing
10:00 AM to 10:20 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Lacey Cook, Move with Intention: The Mind-Body Reset™ Activate Your Energy and Lead with Intention

10:00 AM to 10:45 AM	Professional Development	Personal Development	Leadership Development	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s):	Sharla McBride	Susan Unvarsky	Janna Genzlinger, Settlers Hospitality	Moderator: Elizabeth Nagy, The Honesdale National Bank Panelists: Dani Ruhf, CHOP Out Hunger, Kathleen Pearage, Tri-star Academy, Stephanie Mercado, Farm Box Fitness
Topic:	Speak Up! How to be a Fearless Female Force in the Workplace	Trust as a Superpower: The Invisible Force that Shapes Relationships and Success	Value Centered Leadership	Unplug to Recharge: Reclaiming Your Peace in a Connected World

10:30 AM to 10:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Kailin Bouse, Kailin of Earth Wellness Studio: The Healing Power of Sound
10:45 AM to 11:00 AM	Reset and recharge in the Johnson College Leadership Lounge
10:45 AM	Leadership Micro-Chat with Dr. Katie Pittelli, President of Johnson College in the Johnson College Leadership Lounge
11:00 AM to 11:20 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Katie Hoban, Hoban Wellness: The Art of Rest

11:00 AM to 11:45 AM	Professional Development	Personal Development	Leadership Development	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s) :	Maria Conigliaro, Inspired Studio	Julia Senchak, Prudential	Myriam 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:	The Hidden Drivers of Success: How to Transform Blocks into Breakthroughs	Leading With Your Full Plate	Now What? Navigating Transitions with Purpose, Faith, and Courage	Imposter Syndrome: Owning Your Success

11:30 AM to 11:50 AM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Edna Cementina, EHealth Wellness and Fitness Studio: POUND® Fit
11:45 AM to 12:00 PM	Reset and recharge in the Johnson College Leadership Lounge
12:00 PM to 12:45 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM to 1:45 PM	Lunch Keynote, Sponsored by PNC Bank: Presentation and Fireside Chat with 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
1:45 PM	Reset and recharge in the Johnson College Leadership Lounge
2:00 PM to 2:45 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Dr. Katie Shvartsman, Geisinger: Menopause Unfiltered: How to Feel Like Yourself Again

2:00 PM to 2:45 PM	Professional Development	Personal Development	Leadership Development	Track 4 -Panel Discussions
Speaker (s):	Adrienne Pierangeli, Esq. CaliLaw	Holly Pilcavage, Luzerne County Community College	Mary Kate Loftus, Impressia Bank	Moderator: Laura Gillette-Mills, AIA Panelists: Sara Peperno, United Way of Wyoming Valley, Mary Kolessar, Discover NEPA, Chrissy Manuel, United Neighborhood Centers
Topic:	Negotiating with Purpose	From Momentum to Meaning: Inside a Pivot Year	TBD	Get Involved and Get Out There: Leading Through Community Engagement

3:00 PM to 3:20 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Tara Grossi, Tara Grossi, LLC: Moving Through Grief: Emotional Healing When You Feel Stuck
3:00 PM to 3:45 PM	MicroChat in the Johnson College Leadership Lounge: Building Confidence and Planning Your Financial Future: Megan Alpert, Joy World Wealth Partners and Amy Branning, Peoples Security Bank & Trust

3:00 PM to 3:45 PM	Professional Development	Personal Development	Leadership Development	
Speaker (s):	Dr. Stephanie Gresh, Future Proof Career Coaching	Talia Walsh, Quest Studio	Linda Rowe	
Topic:	The Power of You: Harnessing AI to Amplify Your Soft Skills and Unleash Human Potential	Strength Behind the Smile	Authentically Leading With Presence and Purpose	

3:30 PM to 3:50 PM	Highmark Wellness Studio: Jeannine Luby, Laugh to Live: Recharge Your Soul Battery with Laughter
3:45 PM to 5:30 PM	Networking Mixer: Sponsored by ESSA Bank (In The Vendor Marketplace)