



Organizational and Leadership Excellence Conference

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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Speakers *(In Alphabetical Order by Last Name)*

Sherrie Barch.....	2
Jay Behel	2
Heather Brace	3
Heather Buck	4
John Brady	4
Steve Gross	5
Dr. Veronica Harvey.....	5
Jennifer Havens.....	6
Mara Hoffert	7
Terri Howard	7
Beverly Malone	8
Esther Margalit	9
Jessica Melton.....	10
Kaitlyn Nease	11
Jennifer Newman.....	11
Jarvis Racine.....	12
Duane Reynolds	12
Melissa Riffe-Guyer.....	13
Marguerite Samms	14
Jill Schwieters.....	14
Marymargaret Sharp-Pucci.....	15
Janet Shlaes	16
Ted Witherell	16



Sherrie Barch
CEO, Furst Group & NuBrick Partners

When it comes to identifying great leaders, Sherrie Barch believes that leaders are all around us and by recognizing patterns we can spot those who transform and inspire while avoiding the toxic, performance-draining ones. After sitting across from, both virtually and in person, more than 50,000 leaders in her career, she is energized by working with Boards and CEOs to find the right talent who will move their organizations forward toward continued, long-lasting success. Legacy is built not by what we achieve, but through those we inspire to achieve.



Jay Behel
Associate Dean, Medical Student Affairs, Rush University Medical Center

Jay Behel, PhD is an associate dean at Rush Medical College where he oversees the strategic planning and implementation of co-curricular programming in the college. Jay also is a clinical psychologist and directs Geriatric & Rehabilitation Psychology at Rush. He is the project coordinator for *Rx for RJ*, an international collaborative working to bring restorative justice practices to academic healthcare. He also is the LGBTQ education director for *Affirm: The Rush Center for Gender, Sexuality & Reproductive Health*. He is an author and faculty member in multiple leadership programs in the Center for Innovative Lifelong Learning (CILL) at Rush. Jay completed his PhD in clinical psychology at Auburn University and then, completed his residency and fellowship at Rush where he has been a faculty member since 2004. His areas of expertise include adjustment to chronic illness, provider-patient communication, restorative justice, and medical education.

Resilient Leadership grew out of Jay's commitment to practices and processes that facilitate personal, institutional, and societal healing and change. Outside of work, Jay's passions include music, vegan cooking, and travel. He lives in suburban Chicago with his husband, children, and cats.



Heather Brace

Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer, Intermountain Healthcare

Heather Brace is the Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer for Intermountain Healthcare, an integrated, not-for-profit health system in Utah. She is responsible for Intermountain's culture of engagement for more than 41,500 employees spanning across three states. Heather has strategic oversight for talent management and development, recruitment, Human Resources service delivery, total rewards, culture enhancement, learning and development, and integrating diversity and inclusion.

Heather joined Intermountain Healthcare in 2000 and has had a successful leadership journey. She is a consummate healthcare executive with more than 20 years of leadership and human resources experience in all areas of the field. She has fulfilled such roles as HR Executive Partner, HR Regional Director, HR Director for Homecare & Hospice, HR Manager for Intermountain Medical Center, Sr. Consultant, and Senior Recruiter. Since assuming the role of Chief People Officer in August 2018, Heather has overseen large-scale reorganizations of departments and service lines, benefit additions and transformations, and enhancing the employee experience. Most recently, she played a vital role in a cross-country partnership to support two New York health systems surging with COVID-19 patients.

Heather is recognized as a thought-partner and professional speaker on local and national levels, and networks with healthcare Human Resource/People officers around the country. Heather is passionate about empowering leaders and employees at every level to meet their full potential on behalf of Intermountain's mission of helping people live the healthiest lives possible.

In 2002 Heather led the medical volunteer program for the Salt Lake City Olympic and Paralympics Games and was responsible for recruiting and implementing the volunteers. She received both her master's degree in Health Services Administration and Health Promotion and Education and her bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from the University of Utah. Heather and her husband, Matt, are the proud parents of two boys.



Heather Buck

Senior Director of Food & Nutrition Services, OhioHealth

Heather Buck is the Senior Director of Food & Nutrition Services at OhioHealth. Heather is accountable for foodservice, vending, and gift shops for OhioHealth. She also leads the food and nutrition support for recovery and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her role focuses on implementation of a strategic roadmap for food and nutrition services for OhioHealth including patient experience, enhanced retail offerings, and community outreach. Heather received her Bachelor of Arts in History with a concentration in Secondary Education from Eastern Illinois University. She has served as an Advisory Board member of the Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA) and a lecturer at The Ohio State University College of Education & Human Ecology, Department of Human Sciences.



John Brady

MHA Program Director and Assistant Professor, Loyola University of Chicago

Dr. John Brady is the Program Director for the Master of Health Administration program and an Assistant Professor in the Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health at Loyola University Chicago. Over a 25+ year career as a senior healthcare operations and business development Executive he has worked across a wide variety of healthcare settings including acute and post-acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, physician groups, ambulatory care centers, and pharmaceutical brand development. During this time, he gained significant experience in change-management, service line leadership, financial oversight, community and legislative advocacy, and a variety of other skills which have served to improve financial, operational, and market performance of the organizations where he served. He is a proven effective senior leader and strategic thinker with the ability to achieve results across a broad range of clinical and nonclinical operating units and departments. Dr. Brady has served on the Quality Committee of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMPRA) where he led a group tasked with defining how to objectively define the value of inpatient medical rehabilitation within the context of a value-based payment system, and as member of the National Board of Case Management with oversight responsibility for a Case Management certification. He has advanced training in Lean/Six Sigma methodologies, is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), and the recipient of the 2021 Glandon Family Scholarship from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.



Steve Gross

Founder & Chief Playmaker, Life is Good Kids Foundation

Steve Gross - Founder and Chief Playmaker of the Life is Good Kids Foundation - has spent his career spreading the power of optimism to people who need it most. Steve's teachings have been utilized across the world to help inspire joy and resilience in communities impacted by war, natural disaster, poverty, violence, and illness.

At the heart of Steve's work is the belief that optimism is the single most important trait that a person can have in order to overcome life's greatest challenges. Steve often says that outstanding human services require outstanding humans. And that when we are able to tap into our best, most optimistic selves, all of us - regardless of our occupation - have the potential to be in the life-changing relationship business.

In 2010, Steve partnered with the original positive lifestyle brand, Life is Good® to scale the work of the Life is Good Kids Foundation and help over 1 million kids each year.



Dr. Veronica Harvey

Senior Consultant, NuBrick Partners

Veronica S. Harvey, PhD, is an industrial organizational psychologist who has partnered with hundreds of organizations to translate organizational strategy into talent management and leadership development processes. She has a passion for building strong, healthy organizations and leadership pipelines through the application of her deep expertise in assessing and developing the learning agility.

Veronica brings more than 30 years of experience in leadership assessment and development and is a strong advocate for the science of executive development, using data and evidence to support leadership solutions for senior executives. Her focus is on increasing organizational effectiveness through competency modeling, talent and organizational assessment, identification of high-potential leaders, leadership development, and succession planning.

For 18 years Veronica served as a Partner in the Leadership Services Practice with Aon Hewitt, where she directed and executed large-scale, high-impact talent management initiatives in Fortune 500 companies. Her clients have included Lurie Children’s Hospital, Johns Hopkins, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Merck, Procter & Gamble, University Health Systems, St. Francis Health System, Murata, Nestle, Syngenta, The FBI, Underwriter Labs, Union Pacific, ExxonMobil, United Airlines, FedEx, and many others.

She is a frequent conference speaker and has been published in journals such as the Journal of Applied Psychology, HRMagazine, and Personnel Psychology. And recently co-edited the book - The Age of Agility: Building Learning Agile Leaders and Organizations, published by Oxford University Press. She is certified to use multiple assessment instruments including the TALENTx7 assessment of learning agility, the Hogan suite of personality assessments, Facet5, and ADEPT15.

Veronica earned a Doctorate in Industrial Organizational Psychology, a Master’s in Counseling Psychology, and a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology, all from Iowa State University.



Jennifer Havens

Senior Director, Institute for Leadership Effectiveness, Carilion Clinic

Jennifer Havens’ primary focus is to foster an environment of innovation and collaboration where the ILE team can create and launch forward-thinking methods of proactive and response-oriented leadership content, services and partnerships. Jennifer feels this is her most important role because she values lifelong learning and seeing others live and work at the top of their game.

She holds a master’s degree in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Marketing Management. She is also an Associate Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation, Six Sigma Greenbelt and Professional Behaviors Analyst.

Because of her love of learning, Jennifer can always recommend a podcast, book, TED Talk and more on a range of topics. Learning from and sharing with others is perhaps her greatest joy. She is also a runner and abstract artist who enjoys landscaping and home improvement projects.

Jennifer’s favorite book to read annually and that she recommends to everyone is “The Four Agreements” by Don Miguel Ruiz. She feels following these values help us all be our best and extend love to each other.

The Four Agreements are: Be impeccable with your word, Don’t take anything personally, Don’t make assumptions, and Always do your best.



Mara Hoffert

Director, GME Instructional Design, Learning Systems, and Resources, Henry Ford Health System

Mara has aligned her career with cultivating socially responsible individuals who have a passion for humanistic, communicative interactions in the world. She fosters the development of empowered leaders who can meet the challenges of a rapidly changing global society, and who are characterized by curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and the ability to communicate and collaborate. Mara is an educational and instructional leader and has expansive experience in public, private and higher education as well as in the political arena and healthcare field.

Mara currently works as the Director of Medical Education Instructional Design and Learning Systems & Resources at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan. She supports over 50 accredited residency and fellowship programs. She excels at cultivating empowerment, participation, inclusion and partnerships with faculty, administrators and trainees to form institutional strategies and initiatives that are sustainable and effective. Her passion includes a focus on curricular design and application-based practice. Every day she has the honor to create and implement innovative curriculum, programs and tools that aid our physicians in all non-clinical aspects of patient care. Mara has presented on leadership, feedback, coaching and mentoring and curricular development and health and wellness.

Mara earned her PhD in Administrative Leadership and Education as well as her Specialist degree, central leadership and building leadership certifications from Eastern Michigan University. She received her Emotional Intelligence certification from Case Western University's Weatherhead School of Management, her certification in individual and group crisis intervention training from CISM, and participated in the LENS Coach Academy Training Program. Mara is an internationally certified coach through ICF.



Terri Howard

Associate Vice President, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, Herzing University

As an Associate Vice President with Herzing University, Terri Howard is responsible for the strategic and operational planning of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives across the central office, online, and ten campus locations.

Prior to joining Herzing University, Terri served in several key DEI roles including the Sr. Director of Organizational Development and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for FEI Behavioral Health, Inc. where she was responsible for coordinating the people support and psychological first aid services for those impacted by a crisis. She also contributed to several international standards and guidelines on crisis management and workplace violence prevention. Terri has also served as Vice President for the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) and focused on crisis management and workplace violence prevention. While at CPI, Terri assessed the needs of hundreds of companies in their policy development, best practice, and training.

Terri has over 20 years of expertise in management consultation, coaching, training and has been responsible for managing numerous corporate and government accounts focused on DEI. She is a passionate subject matter expert in DEI training and consultation and has designed and delivered sensitive, people-focused training on topics including implicit bias, leadership development, microaggressions, teamwork, building shared vocabularies and workplace violence prevention. She is a certified assessor for the Intercultural Developmental Inventory tool and has used it with many of her clients.



Beverly Malone

President & CEO, National League for Nursing

Under Dr. Beverly Malone's leadership, the National League for Nursing (NLN) has advanced the science of nursing education by promoting greater collaboration among stakeholders, increasing diversity in nursing and nursing education, and advancing excellence in care for patients. Dr. Malone's distinguished career has mixed policy, education, administration, and clinical practice, including as federal deputy assistant secretary for health under President Bill Clinton.

As a reviewer, she contributed to the groundbreaking IOM report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," and served on the Minority Health Federal Advisory Committee, a federal panel established to advise the US Secretary of Health and Human Services. Dr. Malone has been ranked among the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare magazine, which also honored her on their biennial list of Top 25 Women in Healthcare and in 2020 named her to the inaugural list of five Minority Healthcare Luminaries. In the same year, Dr. Malone was honored by the University of Cincinnati with the Linda Bates Parker Legend Award, which recognizes alumni for their professional accomplishments and active development of those around them. She was also named an Honorary Member of the Philippine Nurses Association of America.

In 2019, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alpha Omega Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau and the College of Nursing of Adelphi University, Long Island. In 2018, Dr. Malone was presented with a citation from the American Psychological Association for her outstanding leadership in advancing excellence in healthcare for the nation and global community, was named one of the Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare magazine and received the 2018 Nursing Outlook Excellence in Research Award.

Dr. Malone has earned additional accolades, including the Florence Nightingale Award and induction into the Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) Hall of Fame and the Nursing Hall of Fame from Tuskegee University in Alabama. She also received the Fellowship Ad Eundem of the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery from the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland. Dr. Malone has received more than 20 honorary doctorates, including from Georgetown University.

Dr. Malone first entered the field of nursing with a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. She combined further study with clinical practice, earning a master's in psychiatric nursing, and later a doctorate in clinical psychology. Dr. Malone has worked as a surgical staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist, director of nursing, assistant administrator of nursing and in the 1980s, she was dean of the School of Nursing at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. In 1996, she was elected to two terms as president of the American Nurses Association (ANA), representing 180,000 nurses in the US.

Dr. Malone served as deputy assistant secretary for health within the US Department of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton and earlier as a member of his Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Healthcare Industry. She is frequently called on by congressional leaders and policymakers to offer her expert perspective and public testimony on increasing support for nurse workforce development and education for nurse educators to address the persistent shortage of nurses, which threatens health care delivery across the United States, from inner cities to suburbs to rural communities.

A global leader as well, Dr. Malone served as general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), the United Kingdom's largest professional union of nurses. She leveraged her experience and influence in that position to serve as a member of the UK delegation to the World Health Assembly; the Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF); and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). During that time, Dr. Malone was also vice chair of the Brussels-based European Federation of Nurses Association (EFN).



Esther Margalit

AVP, Career & Performance Development, Northwell Health

Esther Margalit is a passionate, results driven, visionary thinker who has applied her skill set to various successful organizations through genuine collaboration and trust with all.

Esther is currently the Director of Talent Development for Consumer Reports. The scope of this team is to develop the Learning & Development strategy that is in alignment with the business strategy, vision, marketplace, and employee needs.

Prior to Consumer reports, Esther led the Avon North America Talent & Learning organization. The scope of this team was to assess and develop associates professionally, functionally, and from a leadership standpoint. Esther's expertise resides in the areas of Performance Management, Instructional Design & Delivery, Leadership Development, Team-building, and Succession Planning. Prior to Avon, Esther devoted 6 years at PepsiCo in the area of organization and management development. Earlier in her career, Esther was a Management Consultant for various Fortune 500 Corporations.

Esther is certified in the following programs: STAR Strategic Thinking, LHH Coaching Practices for Leaders, 360 Coaching, Lominger Leadership Architect, Kotter Change Leadership, DISC assessment, Hogan assessment, Wilson Learning Leading & Working in Challenging Times, CSI "Satisfaction Power", CSI "Love 'Em or Lose 'Em", Franklin Covey "Speed of Trust", Management Development Program design and delivery, process improvement facilitation, Team building design and facilitation.

Esther is Fluent in Hebrew and proficient in Spanish. Esther holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from St John's University and a Master's Degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Hofstra University.



Jessica Melton
CEO, Suburban Hospital

Jessica T. Melton is the CEO of Suburban Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, a non-profit, 222 bed acute care community-based hospital that has served Montgomery County and the surrounding area since 1943. Prior to her current role, she served as the Chief Operating Officer of Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. In this role, she was responsible for the efficient and effective operations of the 525-bed Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, a regional destination tertiary care center and Level 1 trauma center. Prior to arriving at Sentara in May 2019, Jessica held multiple roles at Duke University Hospital including Vice President of Medical, Surgical, and Critical Care Services, and Vice President of Emergency Services and Patient Flow, Administrative Director of Emergency Preparedness and Trauma, and the Director of the Duke Preparedness and Response Center.

Melton received both her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and her Master of Healthcare Administration with concentrations in Finance and Community Preparedness and Disaster Management from the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill. Additionally, she completed a Hospital Administrative Fellowship at Duke University Hospital and she also completed the Carol Emmott Fellowship. Jessica received her Professional Coaching Certification from North Carolina State University.

Jessica is a member of Women United of South Hampton Roads, the National Association of Health Services Executives, and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Jessica was nationally recognized by Modern Healthcare in 2018 as an Up & Comer, for her distinguished work building high performing teams focused on improving healthcare safety and quality; a passion of hers further supported by her formal training as a certified professional coach. She was also recognized in 2016 by Deloitte as a Woman to Watch in Healthcare Leadership. Jessica and her husband Doug are proud parents of six-year-old twins, Isaac, and Vivian.



Kaitlyn Nease

Manager, Talent Strategy, KSB Hospital (Formerly Assistant Director of Organizational Culture, Cone Health)

Kaitlyn Nease is the Assistant Director of Culture at Cone Health in Greensboro, North Carolina. She actively manages culture curriculum for the organization and leads the *Culture of Safety* body of work, which aims to increase the psychological safety of employees and teams across the enterprise. Prior to her current role, she completed an Administrative Fellowship with Cone Health. Kaitlyn earned a master's degree in Health Administration in 2017 and a bachelor's degree in Management with an emphasis in Human Resources in 2014 from the University of Iowa. She sits on the National Council of Administrative Fellowships (NCAF) Education Sub-Committee and is a Certified Professional Coach through *Coach Academy International*.



Jennifer Newman

Graduate Medical Education Instructional Designer, Henry Ford Health System

Jennifer Newman is an Instructional Designer for Henry Ford Health System. In this role, she develops, implements, and evaluates educational curriculum targeting trainees and faculty with a focus on facilitation skills, instruction, assessment, coaching, mentoring, and understanding physician identity. Jennifer is passionate about

working with adult learners, in addition to creating and sustaining thriving institutional cultures focused on innovation, joy, and caring.

Jennifer is currently piloting programs for Henry Ford Hospital physicians and trainees in the areas of physician identity, communications curriculum and physician communication and coaching.

Prior to graduate medical education, Jennifer spent 25 years in public education as a teacher and as an administrator at the secondary level, last serving as Head of School in an innovative Early College program. Jennifer earned an Educational Specialist degree in Leadership from Oakland University and a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction, along with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Michigan State University.



Jarvis Racine

Vice President Strategic Partnerships, Herzing University

As Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, Workforce Development and Government Affairs, Jarvis Racine's focus is on strengthening and expanding Herzing University's corporate partnerships to help businesses, healthcare providers and community organizations solve workforce challenges and achieve their employee development goals. He also leads the public affairs initiatives for the university, including those focused on increasing access to higher education and meeting workforce demands. Jarvis grew up with deaf parents who taught him to fight passionately for what he believes in and to never doubt the power of persistence! Jarvis earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Human Resources both from Keller Graduate School and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from DePauw University.



Duane Reynolds

Founder & CEO, Just Health Collective

Recognized by countless organizations as a change maker within his field, Duane Elliott Reynolds, MHA, has helped to lead the national conversation around health equity and belonging, illuminating new perspectives and helping advance the field. In 2021 Reynolds was the recipient of Diversity Champion Award from The Ohio State University Alumni Association.

As 2018 Modern Healthcare and Business Equality Magazine up and comer, Reynolds’ ideas have led mission-driven organizations to boost consumers’ access to care and have also enabled clients to realize millions of dollars in savings, while driving top-line revenue growth. But more importantly, since the onset of his more than two-decade career, Reynolds has actively created space for DEI and health equity advancement.

As a healthcare consulting leader for The Advisory Board Company, Reynolds developed the division’s first inclusion and diversity department — and served as its first chief executive. Prior to founding Just Health Collective, Reynolds served as the president and CEO of the American Hospital Association's Institute for Diversity and Health Equity and has held leadership positions at other prominent organizations including Johns Hopkins Medicine, Emory Healthcare, OhioHealth and Optum, a United Health Group company. His work for the latter earned the organization recognition as a 2017 and 2018 “Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign.

As founder and CEO of Just Health Collective, Reynolds and his team discover hidden opportunities to drive organizational change and uncover diverse points of view, which lead businesses to breakthroughs once considered out of reach.

Reynolds’ empathy, business savvy and knack for building trust enable him to diagnose cultural blind spots and work fluidly across teams. He passionately makes a case for why organizations must recognize and embrace their roles in battling historical and systemic injustices in order to advance health equity.



Melissa Riffe-Guyer

Executive Director of Culture, Cone Health

Melissa has experience as both an operational and strategic leader for Cone Health and since 2015 has focused on the leadership development, education, structures and processes that support organizational culture. As a part of this work, Melissa co-founded the Cone Health Culture and Inclusion Executive Steering Team, a group designed to provide strategic input and direction to the combined efforts of culture and DEI. Melissa has a background in clinical operations and patient engagement leadership, is a certified management coach, and currently serves on the NCHL Leadership Development Council.



Marguerite Samms

Assistant Vice President, Leadership Development, Intermountain Healthcare

Marguerite Samms, MN, RN, PCC, is the Assistant Vice President for Leadership Development at Intermountain Healthcare. She is a professional leadership coach with extensive healthcare and leadership experience. She is responsible for leadership excellence and development, talent development, talent marketplace, and enterprise-wide caregiver education. Since joining Intermountain in 2014 she has advanced leadership capabilities, managers as coaches, and a people centered culture for the benefit of helping people live the healthiest lives possible. In 2018 she partnered with the President and CEO emeritus to launch the Intermountain Healthcare Leadership Institute and Leadership Simulation Lab in the new Gardner Transformation Center. She is currently leading an organization wide collaboration to create the Center for Learning and Transformation, a hub of learning and career advancement for all caregivers and partners.

Marguerite collaborates nationally with colleagues to learn together and improve the future of work. She is an executive coach, author, and professional speaker. Marguerite began her career as a critical care nurse and for the last 22 years has passionately focused on individual, team and organizational development, coaching, and culture.



Jill Schwieters

CEO, JAS & Associates

Ms. Jill Schwieters is founder and managing partner of JAS & Associates. Previously Schwieters served as president of Cielo Healthcare, the leading provider of talent acquisition and management solutions to healthcare organizations in North America, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Schwieters founded Pinstripe Healthcare in 2006, which became Cielo Healthcare in 2014 as the organization expanded its footprint to serve clients globally.

Prior to founding Cielo Healthcare, Schwieters served as a human resource executive for the Wheaton Franciscan Health System, an organization comprised of over 15,000 employees. In that role, Schwieters pioneered

organization-wide initiatives that enhanced the employee experience, created operational efficiencies and reduced overall labor costs. Schwieters serves on the AHA Coalition to Protect America's Healthcare, the Executive Committee for the Young President's Organization's (YPO) Healthcare Network, the Advisory Board for the Women's Business Leaders, the Board for the National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) and chairs the Board of Garden & Associates, a leading provider of interpretation services to the healthcare industry.

Schwieters earned her Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, her Master of Science in Management in Leadership and Business from Cardinal Stritch University and participates in Harvard's Presidents' Program.



Marymargaret Sharp-Pucci

Associate Dean, Academic Affairs & Chair, Health Administration, Loyola University of Chicago

Dr. Marymargaret Sharp-Pucci is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Chair of the Department of Healthcare Administration in the Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health at Loyola University Chicago. A healthcare analyst with over 35 years of experience, Dr. Sharp-Pucci's career includes senior positions with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and Loyola University Health System. She was accountable for strategic and operational leadership in the areas of outcomes and effectiveness research in emerging technologies, healthcare policy and product development in rehabilitation and geriatric services. Dr. Sharp-Pucci has a rooted interest and expertise in health care accessibility for people with disabilities. In the federal sector, she was an appointee of President George W. Bush advising the White House on health care policy and an appointee of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for coverage policy. Dr. Sharp-Pucci currently serves on the Board of Directors of a privately held healthcare start-up company and Board of Trustees of Aurora University. She is past President of the Board of Directors of the non-profit Anixter Center serving individuals with disabilities, a task force appointee of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker working on disability issues, and fellow of the Institute of Medicine Chicago. Her career has been dedicated to creating high quality systems of care and developing the next generation of healthcare administrators to lead the future.



Janet Shlaes

Director, Center of Innovative Lifelong Learning, Rush University Medical Center

Janet Shlaes, PhD, MBA, MA is the Director of the Center for Innovative Lifelong Learning (CILL) at Rush University Medical Center. CILL, based in the Office of Faculty Affairs in Rush University, offers an extensive range of interprofessional clinical, career advancement, and leadership development continuing education programs. Previously, Janet served as a Leadership Development Consultant for the Rush Leadership and Learning Academy.

Janet is passionate about facilitating transformation in the organizational, career, personal and leadership development realms and has held a variety of leadership roles in the financial and non-profit worlds. Her professional accomplishments include: creating a global recruiting and training program in the future's industry; creating and implementing a micro-enterprise loan center; structuring and staffing an investment-based development department; and, designing, creating, and implementing a variety of leadership development programs and trainings for interprofessional teams, executives and MBA students. Janet earned an MA and PhD in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University and an MBA in Finance from Loyola University of Chicago. Her areas of expertise include transformational leadership, change management, women's leadership, communication, influencing strategies, negotiating and navigating organizational culture. Outside of work, Janet is passionate about theater, film, hiking and transformational travel that involves expansive learning adventures.



Ted Witherell

Faculty, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Ted Witherell is an experienced talent leader, executive coach and facilitator. His practice is shaped by more than 25 years dedicated to developing impactful leaders and cultures as both an executive and consultant. He is a Lecturer at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the principal of Ted Witherell Coaching & Consulting, LLC.

As a business executive, Ted has guided the development of organizations and their most vital assets – their people. In roles like Senior Director of Talent Management for the Mass General Brigham healthcare system (formerly Partners HealthCare), he set strategy, led, and provided advice and counsel on the people side of businesses, including change management, team development, executive coaching, training, facilitation, and leadership development.



Ted consults with organizations like WorldCare International, Contemplative Leaders in Action and the Massachusetts Medical Group Managers Association. He has been a panelist and speaker for Becker's Healthcare Forum, the American College of Healthcare Executives, CoreNet, Gensler Workplace Survey Convention and the NeuroLeadership Institute Annual Summit. He has been a guest lecturer Northeastern University and Boston College. Ted has served on the Healthcare Council of the American Management Association and the Steering Committee of the National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) and chaired the NCHL Coaching Council.