

October 2, 2026
Gerri C. LeBow Hall
Drexel University

PROGRAM

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.
Check-In and Light Breakfast
LinkedIn headshots offered during this time

9:30 a.m.
Welcome
from Drexel President Antonio Merlo, PhD

9:45 a.m.
Creativity is Good for Business

10:45 a.m.
Break

11 a.m.
Leading Early: Building Leadership Skills in Your First 10 Years

12 p.m.
Lunch

12:30 p.m.
Leading in Philadelphia: Lessons from the C-Suite

1:30 p.m.
Conference Wrap-Up

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Optional Networking Reception
at Landmark Americana

Creativity Is Good For Business

Kick off the conference with this hands-on session that proves creativity isn't fluff — it's a business advantage. Discover what fuels creativity, what kills it and how it can help teams thrive. Through real-world insights and LEGO Serious Play, **Will Ramey, DBA '21**, will show you how to tap into creativity in yourself and your team. Experience the power of play and problem-solving and leave energized, equipped and ready to turn imagination into action starting today.

Session Speaker:

Will Ramey, *DBA Business Administration '21, Owner, Shared Leadership, LLC*

Leading Early: Building Leadership Skills In Your First 10 Years

Drexel alumni who are 15 to 20 years into their professional journeys will discuss how to build leadership skills in your first decade in the workforce, navigate career pivots and position yourself for long-term success. Panelists will share candid insights on mistakes they've made, the importance of giving and receiving feedback, adapting when your first job isn't the right fit and advocating for yourself both in and out of the workplace.

Session Speakers:

Benjamin Baker, *BS Business Administration '06, MS Museum Leadership '16, Senior Project Manager, Design Communication Ltd.*

Dan Conway, *BS Music Industry '11, SVP, Head of Operations at Famehouse*

Jamie McDonald, *BS Architectural Engineering '10, MS Construction Management '15, Co-Founder and Partner, Enliven Construction and KMC Partners*

Evan Urbania, *BS Business Administration '06, Co-Founder & CEO, ChatterBlast Media*

Chris Finnin, *EdD '16, Clinical Professor, General Business, Deans Fellow, and Academic Director, First Year Experience, LeBow College of Business, Drexel University (Moderator)*

Leading In Philadelphia: Lessons From The C-Suite

Join **Angela Val, BS '94**, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia, in conversation with **Jennifer Kebea, EdD '16**, president of Campus Philly, for a dynamic fireside chat on leadership, place and possibility. Angela will share her journey from the front desk to CEO, her decision to build a career in Philadelphia, and the transformative impact of the country's 250th in 2026.

Expect candid insights, practical advice, and an inside look at what's next for Philadelphia — and for the next generation of leaders shaping its future.

Session Speakers:

Jennifer Kebea, *EdD Educational Leadership and Management '16, President, Campus Philly*

Angela Val, *BS Hotel and Restaurant Management '94, President and CEO, Visit Philadelphia*

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