



2025 Emerging Leaders Conference

July 23-24, 2025

Viceroy Hotel in Chicago, IL



DETAILED AGENDA

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

11:00 am – 12:15 pm CT

LinkedIn Masterclass: Building Your Network & Expertise

Presented by Brittany Neish, Career Strategist and Founder of What You Do Matters

New in 2025! Pre-Event Virtual Session to give you access to more leadership tools and meet fellow attendees before the live conference! This session will be held via Zoom and included in your conference registration.

In today's professional landscape, LinkedIn can be a powerful kingdom – or an untapped resource. We'll show you how to optimize your profile, connect with the right allies, and contribute valuable content that positions you as an expert in your field. Think of this as your hero's guide to conquering the digital realm. The focus of this program is: profile optimization, strategic networking, content creation, and personal branding.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn how to create a polished, professional LinkedIn profile that reflects your strengths & expertise.
- Gain actionable strategies for building a high-quality network of peers, mentors & industry leaders.
- Review frameworks for creating thoughtful content that builds credibility and sparks engagement.

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Pizza & Pub Trivia Networking Event (Optional Event)

Kickstart your Emerging Leaders experience with a fun and casual evening of pizza and pub trivia! Indulge in Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria, then have a few laughs with fellow attendees with trivia that celebrates pop culture and camaraderie. This is an optional event you won't want to miss!



Thursday, July 24, 2025

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Breakfast & Registration

Stop by the registration desk for your name badge then enjoy a healthy breakfast fueling you for a day of leadership learning.

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Communication Strategies for Impact & Influence

Presented by Ryan Avery, Organizational Psychologist and Keynote Speaker

This high-energy, results-driven keynote is designed for leaders who are engaged, eager, and excited about the future. Through interactive exercises, and powerful discussions, you will develop the communication skills, leadership strategies, and personal growth techniques necessary to become THE leaders in your organizations.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn how to communicate with clarity, confidence, and conviction.
- Master the art of persuasive storytelling to inspire teams and drive action.
- Develop strategies to handle difficult conversations and navigate workplace conflicts effectively.
- Refine your communication skills to lead meetings, influence stakeholders, and present ideas with impact.

9:30 am – 9:45 am

Break

Enjoy refreshments, stretch your legs and network with fellow attendees during the break!

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Leadership Tools for Long Term Success

Presented by Ryan Avery, Organizational Psychologist and Keynote Speaker

Gain practical, immediately actionable tools to elevate your leadership presence, empower your team, and execute strategic growth within your career.

Key Takeaways:

- Gain tools to strengthen your ability to inspire and lead teams in our evolving industry.
- Learn how to set and achieve career goals that align with personal and company growth.
- Develop time and energy management strategies to avoid burnout and increase productivity.



10:45 am – 11:00 am

Break

Enjoy refreshments, stretch your legs and network with fellow attendees during the break!

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Roundtable by Role: Discuss Material Handling Business Trends

Participate in roundtable discussions with your industry peers. Tables will be organized by different roles and careers in the industry. You will have the opportunity to select the type of table you would like to sit at, volunteer to be a table leader and submit potential discussion questions.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Enjoy a delicious lunch and continue the conversations with fellow attendees.

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Give Back Activity – Cards of Support

Attendees of Emerging Leaders will put their strengthened communication skills to meaningful use by writing heartfelt cards of support. These cards will be included in care packages sent to deployed service members around the world and personally delivered to veterans in VA Hospitals across the country. This card-writing initiative is part of a larger effort led by Soldiers' Angels, an organization dedicated to providing aid, comfort, and resources to military personnel and veterans.

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Maximize Your Association Membership

Learn about MHEDA, MHI and WERC Member programs, resources and more during this information packed presentation.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

The Power of TRUST: A Blueprint for Excellence

Presented by Pamela Barnum, Former Undercover Police Officer and Federal Prosecuting Attorney

Trust is in crisis, and earning trust has never been more imperative than it is now. Trust reduces risk, improves culture, and increases innovation to prepare for an uncertain future. Master the five qualities that set trusted leaders apart from the rest.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn how to establish stability and security in times of uncertainty without overcommunicating or micromanaging.
- Discover how to leverage intentional cues for increased collaboration and improved results.
- Uncover proven strategies to take you and your team from chaos to cohesion.
- Gain tools to elevate emotional intelligence and transform teams.



2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Break

Enjoy refreshments and networking with your peers.

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Strategic Negotiations: Innovative Approaches to Enhance Trust

Presented by Pamela Barnum, Former Undercover Police Officer and Federal Prosecuting Attorney

This interactive session will give you tools for advanced communication and negotiation skills by decoding body language, speech patterns, and emotional intelligence. We will explore neuroscience-backed techniques, practice interactive methods, and dive into 3D negotiation strategies to enhance trust, detect deception, and influence outcomes.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn to influence negotiations with verbal and nonverbal cues while leveraging emotional intelligence to uncover underlying needs and foster trust.
- Participate in interactive visual examples, games, and partner exercises to strengthen memory retention, helping you apply skills effectively in real-world negotiations.
- Gain tools such as mirroring, active listening, decoding speech patterns, and detecting deception to help manage conflicts effectively.

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Break

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

Leadership Lessons & Roundtables

Facilitated by Jim Ripkey, President - Industrial Equipment, Hy-Tek Intralogistics

Join us for an engaging roundtable discussion at the Emerging Leaders Conference, where tomorrow's leaders gather to exchange ideas, share experiences, and explore the essence of impactful leadership. This interactive session dives into topics like overcoming challenges, learning from mistakes, the value of relationships and building resilience in a rapidly changing world.

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Happy Hour Networking Reception

End your Emerging Leaders Conference experience with a fun Happy Hour networking reception. After a busy day of learning, relax with your industry colleagues by enjoying drinks, appetizers and beautiful views of Chicago. Included with your conference registration.

5:30 pm

Conference Ends



Thursday, August 28, 2025

11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT

Applying What I Learned in the Real World

Facilitated by Ryan Avery, Organizational Psychologist and Keynote Speaker

New in 2025! Post-Event Virtual Session. Your opportunity to come back together and participate in a virtual discussion with fellow attendees and share how you applied what you learned in the real world. This session will be held via Zoom and included in your conference registration

MHEDA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our event sponsors for their generous support. Their commitment helps make this event possible and ensures a valuable experience for all attendees. Please join us in recognizing their contributions.

