

May 27, 2026

Edition 12



Union County **WOMEN** Mean  
**BUSINESS**

**WORKING WOMEN'S SUMMIT**

Galloping Hill Golf Course • Kenilworth, NJ

**Schedule & Breakout Sessions Inside**





# A Note from the Commissioner Chair

## Joseph C. Bodek



Welcome to the 2026 Union County Women Mean Business Summit! Now in its 12th year, this annual event continues its tradition of uplifting, educating, and connecting women across Union County. Founded in 2013 by then-Freeholder and now Assemblywoman Linda Carter, the Summit was created to provide women with the tools, resources, and connections needed to grow and succeed. Whether you're a small business owner, entrepreneur, professional, or just beginning your career, today is an opportunity to learn, network, and be inspired by dynamic speakers and meaningful conversations.

We're honored to welcome our keynote speaker, Acting Secretary Margo Chaly of the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. Through her leadership and commitment to expanding opportunity and student success, she continues to help shape the next generation of leaders throughout New Jersey. This Summit is more than a day of learning—it's a celebration of resilience, leadership, and possibility. On behalf of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, thank you for being part of this important event and for helping strengthen our businesses, communities, and Union County as a whole.

*Joseph C. Bodek*

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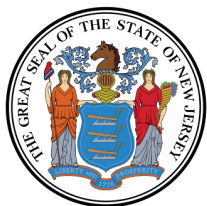


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# Keynote Speaker

## Margo Chaly Esq.



Margo Chaly Esq. serves as the Acting Secretary of Higher Education and was appointed by the Sherrill Administration in January 2026.

As Acting Secretary of Higher Education, she is responsible for statewide higher education policy coordination and planning. Ms. Chaly brings extensive experience from her five years with the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) under the Murphy Administration, where she advanced efforts to make college more affordable and accessible for residents. She served as Chief of Staff from February 2021 and was later appointed by Governor Phil Murphy to lead the Authority as Executive Director in March 2024.

Under her leadership, HESAA awarded close to \$1.4 billion in financial aid through grants and scholarships to eligible students attending colleges and universities across the Garden State. She also advanced targeted strategies to strengthen workforce pipelines and retention in high-need career fields.

Between 2024 and 2026, the Authority committed \$19.9 million to student loan relief and helped students finance training in critical fields with zero-interest, fee-free loans offered by the first-in-the-nation Pay It Forward program. During her tenure at HESAA, New Jersey remained a national leader in FAFSA completion and in the amount of need-based aid it awards to students.

Ms. Chaly dedicates her personal time to uplifting and empowering communities. She is a founding member of AMIGAS, Inc., an organization that supports women through networking and service opportunities.

She also serves on the Board of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, where she co-chaired the statewide Women's Empowerment Leadership & Law Conference and volunteers with the American Dream Pipeline mentorship program for high school students.

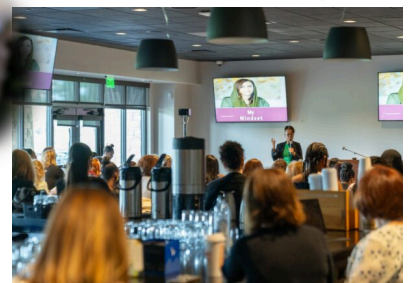
In recognition of her contributions, Ms. Chaly was named a Top Lawyer Under 40 by the Hispanic National Bar Association in February 2025. Her commitment to public service was sparked while participating in the New Jersey Governor's School scholars program as a rising high school junior.

Prior to her service in state government, Ms. Chaly was Manager of Litigation and Operations at a law firm and spent more than a decade working for multinational insurance companies.

Ms. Chaly, a first-generation Guatemalan-American and lifelong New Jersey resident, holds a Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Ithaca.

# A Look Back...

## At 10 + Years of Union County Women Mean Business





# Breakout Session | 9:40AM- 10:40AM

## Authentic Communication: Finding Your Voice & Using AI Thoughtfully

Authentic communication is not about saying more, it is about saying what matters in a way that reflects who you are.

This session explores how women can identify and strengthen their natural communication style while adapting to different audiences and professional settings.

Participants will also examine how AI can be used thoughtfully as a tool to enhance clarity, refine messaging, and support confidence without replacing authenticity.

The focus is on communicating with intention, building trust, and maintaining a strong, consistent voice in both traditional and evolving communication environments.

**Presenter :** Latisha Gaither, MBA, CPCC

Founder, hiFelicia | Executive & Career Coach, Abundance IQ

## Leading the Narrative: Reputation, Risk & Communication

In today's fast-moving environment, leaders must navigate visibility, perception, and risk in real time.

This session explores how reputations are built, challenged, and shaped, and how women leaders can proactively define their narrative while managing public scrutiny.

Participants will examine the dynamics of public response and strategies for communicating thoughtfully under pressure, while learning to align messaging, protect credibility, and lead confidently in environments where perception often moves faster than process.

**Presenter:** Hope M. Field, M.S.

Community Impact Leader | Strategic Partnerships & Civic Engagement Expert

# Breakout Session | 10:50AM- 11:50AM

## **Happiness by Design: Wellness, Whole-Being & Success**

In today's busy world, many women are balancing careers, family, and personal responsibilities while dealing with stress and burnout. This session will focus on simple, practical ways to reset, recharge, and create a healthier balance between personal well-being and professional success.

Using the SPIRE wellness model—Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Relational, and Emotional—participants will learn easy, evidence-based strategies to reduce stress, improve focus, strengthen resilience, and build habits that support long-term wellness and success.

**Presenter:** Angie Devanney, M.A.H.S

Founder of Happier By Design, LLC | Mayor, Township of Berkeley Heights

## **From Pressure to Possibility: Becoming the Leader Your Future Requires**

Christina Langdon explores how leadership is evolving in today's fast-changing world and how growth begins with mindset and identity. This session will focus on building resilience, embracing change, and learning how to lead with greater confidence, creativity, and intention.

Using her Human A-I™ framework (Awareness + Imagination), Christina will share practical insights on turning pressure into opportunity, expanding your vision for the future, and becoming the kind of leader who not only adapts to change—but helps shape it.

**Presenter :** Christina Langdon

The Resilience Advantage Expert & High Performance Coach

# Meet Your Presenters

## Authentic Communication: Finding Your Voice & Using AI Thoughtfully



Latisha Gaither, MBA, CPCC is a New Jersey native, executive coach, speaker, and tech entrepreneur who has worked with industry leaders including Google, Apple, and Cisco. With more than 18 years of experience spanning Big Tech, leadership development, and global entrepreneurship, she has built her career around one core belief: your voice, when used with intention, is your greatest professional asset.

As the founder of Abundance IQ, she has coached hundreds of executives, entrepreneurs, and emerging leaders, helping them communicate with clarity, lead with confidence, and show up as their most authentic and powerful selves.

After winning first place at Techstars NYC, she went on to become the co-founder of hiFelicia, an innovative tech startup redefining hiring through warm referrals and trusted human connection — proving that even in an AI-driven world, relationships still matter most.

Known for her dynamic energy, relatable storytelling, and practical insights, Latisha empowers audiences to find their voice, own their value, and lead with greater purpose both personally and professionally.

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# Meet Your Presenters

## Leading the Narrative: Reputation, Risk & Communication



Hope M. Field is a nationally and locally recognized leader with more than 21 years of experience advancing community impact through strategic partnerships, civic engagement, and collaborative leadership. She is known for bringing together corporate, nonprofit, and public-sector stakeholders to create innovative solutions that strengthen communities.

Hope serves as Chairwoman of the Corporate Advisory Council for the Morris County Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce and previously served as Chairwoman of the Board. She has also served on the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Senior Executive Corporate Advisory Board. In her role as Director of Community Affairs at Healthfirst, Hope led community relations and engagement initiatives focused on partnerships, outreach, and meaningful local impact.

She has also held senior leadership roles at The Coca-Cola Company in National Partnerships, Public Policy & Government Relations, and Latin Affairs, where she led national and regional partnerships and served as a spokesperson. Hope also served as Director of Public-Private Partnerships for South-South News, a United Nations global media platform, where she fostered partnerships across the public and private sectors. She has also held positions with other corporate and consulting firms, including BlackRock, Inc., GTS Consultants, Inc., Cendant Corporation, and Hopeseasons LLC.

Hope's leadership and service have been widely recognized through numerous honors, including being named a Latinos 40 Under 40 New York honoree, receiving the Rising Star Award from Negocios Now, being ranked in the NJ Latino Leaders Index Top 100, and being recognized as a 2026 Women of Achievement honoree by the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey.

A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hope holds a master's degree in Organizational Behavior and a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business and now serves as Vice President of the Board Governors. Throughout her career, she has remained deeply committed to mentorship, service, and empowering communities and the next generation of leaders.

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# Meet Your Presenters

## Happiness by Design: Wellness, Whole-Being & Success



Angie Devanney brings a rare combination of leadership, lived experience, and science-backed insight to the stage. As Mayor of Berkeley Heights, she leads through real-world challenges while prioritizing community well-being and resilience.

Angie holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in Happiness Studies, with plans to continue her academic journey in a Happiness Studies PhD program beginning August 2026. Her work is grounded in the research of leading positive psychology experts—including concepts inspired by Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar—and she translates these into practical, everyday strategies.

She is also the creator of the “5-Minute Happiness Boost,” and the owner of Happier By Design, LLC, where she focuses on helping individuals build more balanced, fulfilling lives. Mayor Devanney made history as Berkeley Heights’ first elected female mayor, sworn in on January 1, 2019. Her career in public service includes serving as Township Administrator, where she oversaw key municipal operations including public works, finance, engineering, and public safety. Her leadership has been recognized with honors such as Business Administrator of the Year and the Women of Excellence Award in Environmental Advocacy. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Angie is deeply rooted in her community—as a former PTO President, current Secretary of the Berkeley Heights Police Athletic League, and small business owner. Her work reflects a commitment to building stronger, more connected communities.

*Connect*  
WITH YOUR  
**PRESENTER**

Scan to **connect** with your presenter,  
ask questions, and continue the **conversation**.

A graphic with a white background and pink and green accents. At the top, the word "Connect" is written in a green script font, flanked by pink radiating lines. Below it, "WITH YOUR" is in pink, and "PRESENTER" is in large, bold, green block letters. A small pink icon of two hands shaking is centered below the text. Underneath is the instruction: "Scan to connect with your presenter, ask questions, and continue the conversation." At the bottom, there are three circular icons: a pink one with a person at a desk, a green one with a QR code, and a green one with two people and speech bubbles. The graphic is framed by pink and green curved borders and has decorative pink swirls on the left and right sides.

# Meet Your Presenters

## From Pressure to Possibility: Becoming the Leader Your Future Requires



Christina Langdon learned leadership and resilience in real time alongside global icon Martha Stewart—through layoffs, an IPO, and relentless media and technology disruption.

After finishing her media career as Chief Revenue Officer of Fast Company, she now brings those hard-won lessons to stages and leadership teams as a sought-after keynote speaker—helping leaders see possibilities they couldn't access from inside the status quo.

That perspective was sharpened by a diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in 2019, clarifying her belief that adversity is not an obstacle, but an invitation.

Today, Christina helps leaders and organizations turn pressure into power, uncertainty into strategic advantage, and constraints into breakthroughs.

She is the creator of Human A-I™, an action-backed framework blending Awareness and Imagination to help high achievers lead with intention, navigate disruption, and reimagine what's possible without burning out. Drawing from her book, *For Success Sake!*, Christina helps high-performing women and leaders redefine success—and discover that doing what once felt impossible doesn't require sacrificing health, happiness, or meaning.

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# Raffles



## **OneHope In-Home Wine Tasting Experience**

Host an in-home wine tasting for up to 8 guests featuring 6 curated wines. Courtesy of OneHope.

**\$200 Gift Card – Zappia’s (Summit, NJ)** Enjoy delicious homemade specialties at this beloved family-owned deli and caterer. Courtesy of Zappia’s.

**McKenzie-Childs Tea Pot** –Add charm and elegance to your kitchen with this signature designer tea pot. Courtesy of Williams Sonoma (Montclair, NJ).

## **Adler Jewelers Gift Basket & Engravable Heart Necklace (Westfield, NJ)**

Enjoy a beautiful gift basket, engravable heart necklace, and gift certificate toward custom engraving. Courtesy of Adler Jewelers.

**Tea & Oranges Raffia Handbag (Summit, NJ)** Step into summer with this stylish raffia handbag featuring a shoulder strap. Courtesy of Tea & Oranges Boutique.

**\$150 Gift Card – Chit Chat Diner (West Orange, NJ)** Enjoy brunch, lunch, dinner, or dessert at this popular local diner. Courtesy of Chit Chat Diner.

**\$200 Harvest Restaurants Gift Certificate** Enjoy exceptional dining at one of the acclaimed Harvest Restaurants locations. Courtesy of Harvest Restaurants.

## **Elite Full Detail Service Package – Top Elite Auto (Springfield, NJ)**

Treat your car to an exceptional detailing service valued at \$299.99. Courtesy of Top Elite Auto.

**3-Month Family Membership – Summit Area YMCA (Summit, NJ)** Enjoy access to fitness, swimming, and family activities. Courtesy of Summit Area YMCA.

**Galloping Hill Golf Foursome & \$50 Gift Card (Kenilworth, NJ)** Enjoy a complimentary golf foursome plus a \$50 gift card to The Hill Tavern. Courtesy of KemperSports.

**First-Class Roundtrip Airline Tickets for Two-** Enjoy first-class roundtrip airfare for two valued at \$10,950. Courtesy of United Airlines.

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