

LIFT & Illuminate

Rising Higher.
Shining Brighter.

Meet the Moderators



LIFT Council Chair
Bernie Aja
Business Development Exec.
ESC



Facilitator & Speaker
Lynne Marie Finn
President
Broadleaf Results



Megan Andrews
Director
Child & Family Services



Dr. Allison Brashear
Dean
UB, Jacobs School of Medicine



Jody Briandi
President, Managing Partner
Hurwitz Fine



Mindy Cervoni
President
Community Services
for Every1



Jessica Cox
President
Highmark Western
& Northeastern NY



Sara Dayton
CPA, Managing Partner
Lumsden & McCormick



Laura Dolan
Sr VP, Buffalo Market
Bank of America



Kim Dunlop
Chief Operating Officer
Seneca Resorts
& Casinos



Patti Green
Founder
Healthy Living



Leah Halton-Pope
Majority Leader
Buffalo Common Council



Amy Hemenway
Partner in Charge
Harter Secrest & Emery



Patty Kaminski
Sr VP Buffalo Division
Wegmans



Allanna Kelly-Beaton
Founder
Kelton Enterprises



Mary Kate Loftus
President
Impressia Bank Connect



Sheri Scavone
President
WNY Women's Foundation



Dr. Adiam Tsegai
President
SUNY Erie

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Meet the Moderator



Bernie Aja

Business Development Executive
ESC



Bernie is a Business Development Executive with Employer Services Corp (ESC), a family-owned, Buffalo based Human Resources solutions firm after a 40-year career in the banking industry at both KeyBank and Evans Bank. She led the Retail Bank in areas of Customer Experience, Branch Banking, Call Center, Operations, Wealth Management and Mortgage originations.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Bernie dedicated her time at the SBDC, guiding businesses through the pandemic.

She earned her bachelor's degree in business from Medaille University, a Banking School Graduate Certificate from University of Wisconsin and her certification in Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) at the US Chamber in Washington, D.C.

A Class of 2013 Leadership Buffalo graduate, Bernie has maintained a steadfast commitment to the community. Bernie is the Chair of the Amherst Chamber LIFT Council. She was a founding member of United Way's Women United and also served on a number of Chamber boards, Leadership Buffalo, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and NYS Women's Inc Buffalo/Niagara Chapter.

Bernie is a life-long Buffalo resident and lives with her husband, Manny, in East Amherst.

She is most proud of her two married children and four amazing grandchildren.



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Meet the Moderator



Facilitator & Speaker

Lynne Marie Finn

*President & CEO
Broadleaf Results*



Lynne Marie Finn is President and CEO of Broadleaf Results, Inc., a global workforce solutions company headquartered in Buffalo, NY and a member of the Aleron Group of companies (which also includes Acara Solutions, Lume Strategies, TalentRise, and Viaduct).

Broadleaf, a certified WBE, delivers total talent acquisition and management solutions to clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to mid-size businesses.

Prior to joining Broadleaf, Lynne was the General Counsel for Aleron (formerly Superior Group), served as an Assistant District Attorney for Erie County, and was in private practice specializing in corporate and employment law.

She received her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was Executive Editor of the Law and Policy in International Business Journal. She also received her Bachelor's degree from SUNY Buffalo, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Lynne is a fierce advocate for advancing women in business and has served on the Boards of various national women's organizations (WBENC, WBEC-NY, WIPP and C200), and served on the Regional Advisory Board of The Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Currently, Lynne serves on the Boards of the Burchfield Penney Art Center, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and The Buffalo Club.

Some of her recent honors include being a 10-time honoree of the Buffalo Business First Power 200 Women; 2025 Woman of Distinction Award, Amherst Chamber of Commerce; 2022 Influential Women in RPO Award, Recruitment Process Outsourcing Association (RPOA); 2021 "Businesswoman of the Year," Buffalo Business First; and 2021 HRO Today Provider Superstar.



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Meet the Moderator



Megan Andrews *Director* *Child & Family Services*

Megan Andrews is the Director of the Child and Family Services Employee Assistance Program (C+FS EAP).

A clinical social worker, she has helped lead the program's growth over the past decade.

Megan brings experience in private practice, agency leadership, and 25 years as an adjunct faculty member at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work.

She partners with organizations to expand access to mental health resources, strengthen workplace resilience, and support leaders through critical incidents, substance use concerns, and high-risk employee situations.

Megan is a frequent speaker on workplace mental health.

**Child
Family
Services**



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Meet the Moderator



Dr. Allison Brashear Dean UB, Jacobs School of Medicine

 Jacobs School of Medicine
and Biomedical Sciences
University at Buffalo

Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, is an internationally distinguished neurologist, researcher and transformative academic leader whose vision is reshaping the University at Buffalo's health sciences enterprise.

As vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she oversees a comprehensive educational continuum spanning undergraduate biomedical programs, graduate research, medical education and postgraduate training. Since joining UB in 2021, she has advanced research excellence, strengthened clinical partnerships, enhanced educational innovation and fostered a culture focused on collaboration and community impact.

A national leader in academic medicine, Dr. Brashear helps shape the future of medical education, biomedical research and health policy through prominent leadership roles with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). She serves on the AAMC Board of Directors and as chair-elect of the AAMC Council of Deans Administrative Board. She also serves as a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and previously served on the governing board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2025, Dr. Brashear was recognized as a "values-oriented,

mission-driven leader" who has championed diversity in health care and reimagined how academic medicine can improve the health of communities.

A world-renowned neuroscientist, Dr. Brashear is a leading authority on ATP1A3-related neurological disorders. Continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2008, her research has transformed the understanding and treatment of spasticity and dystonia, contributing to the development and approval of therapies used by patients around the world.

Under her leadership, the Jacobs School has expanded its faculty, strengthened research programs, improved national rankings and broadened access to care across Western New York, reinforcing UB's role as a leader in medical education, scientific discovery and community health.



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Meet the Moderator



Jody Briandi
President/Managing Partner
Hurwitz Fine



Ms. Briandi is President/Managing Partner of Hurwitz Fine P.C. She leads the firm's Board of Directors and chairs the firm's Premises Liability, Retail & Hospitality Liability, and School District Litigation practice groups. She has extensive experience representing retail, corporate, insurance, commercial transportation and municipal clients in the full range of litigated matters and liability claims. She also represents a number of self-insured corporate clients for whom she handles all of their litigated matters ranging from premises and product liability to transportation negligence and for whom she has conducted extensive in-house training on litigation preventative measures, strategies, and legal updates. She has significant experience in professional liability, most specifically in the area of legal malpractice.

An experienced trial attorney who regularly handles cases in state, federal and appellate courts across New York State, she has experience in Indian Law and is admitted to the Seneca Nation of Indian Courts. Ms. Briandi also perfects, writes and argues all of her own appeals. Ms. Briandi helped develop the Firm's 24-Hour Emergency Response Team, where she developed a protocol to rapidly respond to vehicular and industrial accidents to promptly investigate the causes of the accident, put forensic experts on the scene to preserve and analyze evidence, and lay the foundation to mount the best possible defense.

Ms. Briandi is an advocate on diversity, equity and inclusion. She is a member of the firm's DEI committee and the Forum for Women Lawyers, an employee resource group intended to provide the firm's women lawyers with social and professional opportunities to build sustaining careers and strengthen relationships among colleagues and peers in the community. She previously led the firm's national Midsize Mansfield Rule Certification program, in which Hurwitz Fine was the first Western New York-based law firm to participate. Ms. Briandi is a frequent diversity panelist and has presented with Business First and at the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's DEI Symposium. In 2024, she was honored as a Business First IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Awareness) Award Winner. In 2023, she was awarded the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's Woman of Distinction.



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Meet the Moderator



Mindy Cervoni

President & CEO

Community Services for Every1

Mindy Cervoni is the President and CEO of Community Services for Every1, where she has dedicated over 25 years to advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is a passionate leader committed to fostering inclusive communities and expanding opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

Mindy serves on several boards, including Chair of the Developmental Disability Alliance of Western New York, Vice Chair of Hilbert College, Vice Chair of Person Centered Services of WNY, Crisis Services, New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation, Community Services Housing Corporations, Community Services Support Foundation, and The Luca S. Calanni Foundation.

Beyond these roles, she is an active member of various advisory councils and task forces, including the Department of Health Disability and Health Advisory Board, Governance Committee for the WNYICC 1115 Waiver SCN, the NY START Advisory Council, OPWDD Data Community of Practice and the East Delevan Advisory Committee.

Mindy holds a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Carolina. She is certified in Lean Processing, holds a Yellow Belt in Six Sigma, and has a certificate in Administrative Management from the University at Buffalo.



Community Services
FOR EVERY1

Her leadership has been widely recognized. She has received a C-Level Executive Award for Excellence in the nonprofit sector and has been named to the Business First Women of Influence, Power 150 Women, Power 200 Women, and Power 250 of Western New York's most influential business leaders. In 2025, Mindy received the New York State Woman of Distinction Award. Her commitment to the Buffalo community is reflected in her creation of a career center, development of affordable housing, and provision of free healthy cooking classes and meals for those in need.

Mindy resides in Western New York with her husband and sons.



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Meet the Moderator



Jessica Cox
President

Highmark Western & Northeastern NY



Jessica Cox is President, Highmark Western and Northeastern New York. She is responsible for leading the overall strategy, performance, and growth of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in the Western New York market and Highmark Blue Shield in the Northeastern New York market.

Jessica, a seasoned healthcare executive, with over two decades of experience in the New York market, was appointed to her current role in August 2024. Her extensive experience, deep understanding of the New York healthcare landscape, and commitment to driving positive change and fostering strong partnerships position her to lead Highmark Western and Northeastern New York into a successful future.

She brings 23 years' experience from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, where she held various leadership roles across commercial sales, provider relations, and corporate development. Most recently, Jessica served as senior vice president for corporate development and strategy and chief risk officer and previously served as regional president for the Southern Tier Region for the company. She began her career as a medical technologist.

Jessica serves on the Board of Directors for several organizations including the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Invest Buffalo Niagara, New York State Business Council, the Health Plan Association for NY, The Life and Health Insurance Company Guaranty Corporation of New York, New View Alliance and is a member of the Dean's Council for the Jacobs School of Medicine.

Jessica is a resident of Western New York. She received a bachelor of science from Upstate Medical University, an associate of science from Alfred State College and completed an executive education program from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business Executive Education.



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Meet the Moderator



Sara Dayton *CPA, Managing Partner Lumsden McCormick*

Named Managing Partner in 2023, Sara leads Lumsden McCormick's strategic direction, operational performance, and long-term growth initiatives.

She oversees firm management and profitability while working closely with leadership teams to implement initiatives that support the Firm's future vision, talent development, and client service goals.

Sara also monitors changes across the accounting profession and broader business landscape to help position the Firm for continued growth and evolving client needs.

In addition to her leadership responsibilities, she provides audit and advisory services to governmental entities and public sector organizations, with experience in financial reporting, internal audits, and operational consulting.

Lumsden 
McCormick LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



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Laura Dolan *Sr VP, Buffalo Market Bank of America*

Laura Dolan serves as the Buffalo Niagara Market Executive for Bank of America's Local Markets organization. In this role, she partners with the local president and leadership team to develop and execute strategic initiatives that drive market growth, strengthen employee engagement and development, and advance the bank's commitment to the communities it serves.

Laura joined Bank of America through a predecessor institution in 2003 as a Community Relations Manager, supporting markets throughout the Northeast and Ohio.

Prior to joining the bank, she held marketing leadership roles within the telecommunications industry.

Meet the Moderator



BANK OF AMERICA

A passionate advocate for women's advancement and community development, Laura serves as Executive Sponsor of the Bank of America LEAD for Women Employee Network's Greater Buffalo chapter. She is a member of the Board of Directors for United Way of Buffalo & Erie County and previously served as Co-Chair of its Women United Advisory Board.

Laura also serves as First Chair of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where she helped develop the LIFT Women's Professional Development Council, and is a member of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) New York Local Advisory Committee.



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Meet the Moderator



Kim Dunlop Chief Operating Officer Seneca Resorts & Casinos



Kimberlee M. Dunlop is currently the Chief Operating Officer at Seneca Resorts & Casinos where she oversees the operations of its three properties at Seneca Niagara, Seneca Allegany and Seneca Buffalo Creek.

She previously served as Counsel to the Board of Directors.

A member of the Seneca Nation of Indians (Snipe Clan), Ms. Dunlop is an attorney admitted to practice in New York and the District of Columbia.

Kim previously served on the Board of Directors from 2013-2016 and brings experience from Holland & Knight LLP, Nordhaus Law Firm, and the Smithsonian Institution.

She holds a BA in Biology/Anthropology from Bucknell University, a JD from the University at Buffalo School of Law, and executive education from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Actively involved in the community, Ms. Dunlop serves on the Aquarium of Niagara Board of Trustees as Secretary and member of the Executive Committee; Constitution Committee at Park Country Club of Buffalo; and as a 43 North Ambassador.

She previously served as a Board member and volunteer coach for Amherst Youth Basketball and Full Court Hoops Girls AAU Basketball.

She also spearheaded efforts to incorporate Tuscarora Athletics, Inc. as a not-for-profit Native youth athletics and lacrosse organization.



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Meet the Moderator



Patti Green *Founder* *Harvest Kitchen*



Patti Green is a television host, culinary lifestyle expert, product development curator, and founder of Harvest Kitchen, bringing together food, farming, design, and gracious living. As host of Farm to Fork Fridays on WIVB's Daytime Buffalo, Patti introduces viewers to the farmers, artisans, chefs, and seasonal ingredients shaping the region's food story.

Before launching her culinary and wellness ventures, Patti began her career in product design, creating lifestyle goods carried by Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Barneys New York, Wegmans, Starbucks, and retailers in London. Her work attracted national attention from Bon Appétit, the TODAY Show, Food Network, Martha Stewart Living, the New York Post, the Chicago Tribune, and other leading media.

Today, Patti brings that same creative vision to new product development and to Harvest Kitchen, her community education initiative dedicated to giving children and families lifelong skills through cooking, farm-to-fork education, healthy living, etiquette, and the art of conversation.

Patti holds a B.S. from Northeastern University in Boston and earned her C.H.C., AADP through the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, with studies through SUNY Purchase. She has also completed advanced training through Harvard Medical School's CHEF Coaching program, accredited through ACCME.

Her philosophy remains at the heart of everything she creates: Make every meal a celebration.



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Meet the Moderator



Leah Halton-Pope *Majority Leader* *Buffalo Common Council*



Leah M. Halton-Pope serves as Majority Leader of the Buffalo Common Council and represents Buffalo's Ellicott District.

A seasoned public policy professional and government leader, Halton-Pope brings more than two decades of experience in government, legislative affairs, community engagement, and public policy.

Before joining the Common Council, she spent more than a decade working alongside New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, ultimately serving as Senior Advisor.

During her tenure in state government, Halton-Pope helped develop and advance significant policy initiatives, including New York's Community Schools legislation, the Fruit Belt Parking Permit Program, and the historic Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act.

Her work required navigating complex policy issues, building coalitions, and bringing together government, community, business, and advocacy leaders to move ideas from concept to implementation.

Since taking office on the Buffalo Common Council in 2024, Halton-Pope has emerged as a leading voice on fiscal responsibility, housing and neighborhood development, economic opportunity, government accountability, and policies affecting working families.

She was elected Majority Leader by her colleagues and has helped lead the Council through consequential policy and budget decisions affecting the future of Buffalo.

Throughout her career, Halton-Pope has remained grounded in a simple belief: good public policy begins by listening to the people most affected by it and bringing the right voices to the table to find solutions.

She brings that same approach to today's conversation.



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Meet the Moderator



Amy Hemenway
Partner in Charge
Harter Secrest & Emery



Amy is a trusted advisor and fierce advocate for her clients. She brings equal measures of experience and creativity as she counsels employers on a broad range of issues to assist them in complying with the various laws and regulations impacting the employer-employee relationship.

Amy has experience working with and leading individuals from all levels of an organization including C-Level executives, senior managers, human resource professionals, line managers and third party service providers to achieve the desired results. She represents non-union and union employers and management in all aspects of employment and labor law, including developing and administering workplace policies, providing advice regarding discrimination and harassment, ensuring compliance with wage and hour laws, managing leaves of absence and requests for accommodation, implementing discipline and termination decisions, and conducting workplace investigations. She also counsels clients regarding employment contract disputes, including confidentiality, non-compete, and non-disclosure issues.

Her practice includes representing management in collective bargaining and defending grievances and arbitrations. Additionally, Amy works closely with the Firm's federal contractor clients to develop affirmative action programs and provides counsel on compliance with Executive Orders and OFCCP regulations.

In addition to providing day-to-day counsel, Amy represents clients in civil litigation in federal and state courts, as well as administrative proceedings and audits before federal and state agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights, the U.S. and N.Y.S. Departments of Labor, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and the National Labor Relations Board.



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Meet the Moderator



Patty Kaminski
Sr VP Buffalo Division
Wegmans Food Markets



Patty leads the Buffalo division of Wegmans, with more than 6,000 employees.

The division is comprised of 13 stores: 10 in the Buffalo area, one in Jamestown and two stores in Erie, PA.

Starting as a part-time cashier in high school, Patty has been with Wegmans for 38 years, 18 of those years working at the corporate headquarters in Rochester.

She has held positions in many areas of the business, including Director of Marketing and Advertising, Director of Human Resources and Group Manager of Produce Merchandising, where Patty was recognized as a "40 Under 40" by the Produce Marketing Association.

Before returning to Buffalo, Patty served as the Vice President of Operations for Wegmans Rochester and Southern Tier stores.

Patty serves on the board of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County as Secretary, and on the advisory board of Women United (for United Way), Buffalo Niagara Partnership and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership Women's Exchange group.

Patty also sits on the Business Leaders Task Force, an initiative of the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable.

Patty is a graduate of Leadership Buffalo class of 2020.

Patty graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a BA in Accounting.

She returned to her hometown of Buffalo in 2019.



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Meet the Moderator



Allanna Kelly-Beaton *Founder* Kelton Enterprises



Allanna Beaton is a founder of Kelton Enterprises, LLC, and Kelton Group, LLC. Along with her husband, she launched their journey in 1999 with a single Tim Hortons in Lockport, New York. Through hard work, a commitment to people, and a passion for service, their company has grown to 47 locations and over 1,100 team members, making Kelton Enterprises the largest Tim Hortons franchisee in New York State.

Their impact extends beyond business, earning recognition such as the 2023 Buffalo Niagara Business Association Ethics Award (large companies category), Buffalo Business First's 2020 Family Business of the Year, and—most recently—2025 Business of the Year by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

Allanna's leadership is widely recognized. Allanna has earned a spot on the Power 200 Women in Business and Community Leaders list (2022-2026), most recently at #92. She was also honored with the 2022 Women of Influence Award for her entrepreneurial contributions.

Beyond business, the Beatons are deeply committed to giving back and shaping the future. Allanna lends her leadership to Niagara University's College of Business, Maria Love Convalescent Fund, and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps. Allanna is past Board of Director of Tim Hortons Children's Foundation (now Tim Hortons Foundation Camps) and Big Brothers Big Sisters Erie, Niagara, and Southern Tier.

At Kelton Enterprises, community involvement is at the heart of everything they do. From sponsoring Timbit sports teams, local schools, and hospitals to supporting impactful initiatives like the YMCA Turkey Trot, Walk to End Alzheimer's, and Smile Cookie campaigns, they believe in growing together and making a difference—one neighborhood, one family, and one cup at a time.



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Meet the Moderator



Mary Kate Loftus
President
Impressia Bank Connect



A strategic leader, Mary Kate brings deep expertise in bank strategy, customer experience, digital transformation and market expansion with an ability to mobilize teams and organizations around a bold vision. She is equally at home in the boardroom or working closely with customers to develop relationships, repeatedly tapped to lead newly created roles and bring first-to-market solutions to life.

Selected by CNB Bank as the founding President of Impressia Bank in 2023, a de novo bank division created to expand credit access to women business owners, Mary Kate has been responsible for the divisional P&L, customer experience and brand development of the bank.

Mary Kate Loftus is now President of Impressia Connect at CNB Bank, expanding access to the Impressia experience to all local bank branches throughout the footprint of CNB Bank. Impressia Connect is a community of bank clients focused on advocating for the advancement of professional women and women-led businesses.

Mary Kate's journey in the financial world began in 1999 after graduating from the State University of New York at Binghamton with a degree in Management. Mary Kate holds an MBA from Canisius College in Buffalo and is a 2013 graduate of the Consumer Bankers Association Executive Banking School.

In 2022, Mary Kate received certificates in Blockchain and Digital Assets from Wharton Executive Education and in Disruptive Innovation offered by the Harvard Business School Executive Education.

Mary Kate served in leadership positions at HSBC and M&T Bank with responsibility for transformational change, strategy, and customer engagement through Digital Banking, Branch Management, and Contact Centers. Among her career achievements, Mary Kate was identified by Forbes as one of "6 Women Changing the Face of Leadership in Banking and Finance", and was invited to serve as a Senior Advisor on Plaid's Industry Advisory Board in 2022.

A Buffalo native, Mary Kate is deeply committed to the growth and prosperity of local communities.



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Meet the Moderator



Sheri Scavone

President/CEO

WNY Women's Foundation



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

Sheri Scavone is the President & CEO of the WNY Women's Foundation. In her role, Ms. Scavone uses Foundation research data to educate, convene, advocate and forge collaborations with key community stakeholders to address gender inequities and other issues preventing women from achieving economic self-sufficiency. She leads the Foundation to create opportunities for all women to learn, earn, lead, and thrive. As an extension of her passion to elevate women and a quest for continuous learning, Sheri earned certification as an Executive Coach and formed ElevateU Partners, LLC.

Sheri has over 45 years of experience leading and growing public and nonprofit organizations to achieve strategic goals through collaboration, communication and connections. Ms. Scavone is a tireless advocate advancing policy and driving change towards greater acceptance and tolerance - particularly for women, families experiencing poverty, those living with mental illness, LGBTQ and marginalized youth.

Ms. Scavone is a licensed physical therapist, earned an MS Executive Leader degree in Health Systems Administration and has an advanced post-graduate certificate in Palliative Care. She also is a Certified Executive Coach through the University at Buffalo's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership. Following her relentless advocacy for quality of care and life, Sheri completed a professional certificate as an End of Life Doula at the University of Vermont School of Medicine

and formed Soglia Care, LLC. Ms. Scavone is a Health Foundation of Western and Central NY Health Leader Fellow and a University at Buffalo Advanced Trauma-Informed Champion.

Sheri gives back to her community by sharing her time and resources on the Boards of Broadview Federal Credit Union and Niagara Lutheran Health Services. She is a Governor's appointee to the NYS OCFS Advisory Council and formerly, the NYS Child Care Availability Task Force and Co-Chairs Senator Gillibrand's Child Care Innovation Committee. Ms. Scavone also serves on the University at Buffalo (UB) School of Social Work Dean's Advisory Council, UB Early Childhood Research Center Advisory Board and the Charity Navigator Advisory Council and provides thought leadership on numerous local, NYS and national coalitions and organizations.



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Meet the Moderator



Dr. Adiam Tsegai *President* **SUNY Erie**



With more than 29 years of leadership and administrative experience in higher education, Dr. Adiam Tsegai is a dedicated and accomplished educational leader committed to academic excellence, diversity, equity, and access. Throughout her career, she has successfully advanced institutional goals by fostering high academic standards, cultivating inclusive learning environments, and supporting student success.

Recognized for her ability to engage faculty, staff, and stakeholders in achieving academic objectives and regulatory compliance, Dr. Tsegai has consistently demonstrated a commitment to empowering diverse student populations to excel both academically and personally. Her collaborative leadership style supports alignment across college communities with institutional missions, visions, and values.

Dr. Tsegai is highly skilled in leveraging market, institutional, and economic data to inform strategic decision-making and optimize college operations. This data-driven approach has contributed to improvements in enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and workforce placement outcomes.

She has extensive experience developing strategic initiatives, establishing measurable goals, and ensuring accountability through the effective stewardship of operational, financial, and human resources.

Adept at budget planning, management, and resource allocation, Dr. Tsegai has successfully navigated financial challenges while maintaining focus on institutional priorities and long-term sustainability. Her strong political acumen and diplomatic leadership enable her to effectively represent institutional interests and build productive relationships with internal and external constituencies.

Known for leading diverse teams through periods of change, Dr. Tsegai excels at fostering innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement. Her proven ability to adapt to evolving educational landscapes, inspire organizational excellence, and achieve meaningful results has made her a respected and influential leader in higher education.

