2026 University Summit

SPEAKER BIOS

Mary Imboden, PhD

Research Fellow, HERO

Mary Imboden, PhD is a HERO Research Fellow overseeing development of the HERO Worker Well-Being Clearinghouse, Powered by the NIOSH WellBQ. In her previous HERO role, she led the HERO research agenda and the ongoing development and research of the HERO Health and Well-Being Best Practices Scorecard in Collaboration with Mercer©, and she continues to serve as an advisor for HERO Scorecard best practices.

Mary joined HERO in 2018 after earning her PhD in human bioenergetics from Ball State University, with a focus on clinical exercise physiology. She has authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed publications and presented research at national conferences including AHA, ACSM, and AACVPR. Prior to HERO, she served as a clinical research coordinator at Wake Forest Baptist Health and worked with the CEO Pledge for Physical Activity sponsored by the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity.
An advocate for exercise as medicine, Mary enjoys running and has recently taken up trail running since moving to Portland, Oregon.

Sara Johnson, PhD

Senior Research Fellow, HERO

Sara Johnson, PhD, is the Co-President & CEO of ProChange Behavior Solutions. She is also the Senior Research Fellow for the Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO), immediate past Chair of the Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference, and immediate former Co-Editor of Knowing Well, Being Well. She has been the principal investigator on over $10 million in federally funded research. Sara has been recognized as one of the Top Ten Most Influential Women Scholars in Health Promotion by the American Journal of Health Promotion. Previous honors have included receiving HERO's Mark Dundon Research Award and being named one of the 50 on Fire by Rhode Island Inno and Health Care Services Woman to Watch by Providence Business News, as well as being selected as a Top 10 Health Promotion Professional by the Wellness Council of America. She has more than 40 publications.

Laura Putnam

Bestselling Author of Workplace Wellness that Works

Laura Putnam, global speaker, author of Workplace Wellness That Works, and CEO of Motion Infusion, offers new perspectives on an old topic: wellness. Recognized by national awards and featured in outlets like Forbes and The New York Times, she partners with Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and nonprofits, helping leaders to build healthier, happier, higher-performing workplaces.

Ron Magnuson

Executive MBA Program Director, College of Charleston

Ron Magnuson is the Executive MBA Program Director in the School of Business at the College of Charleston. Previously, he spent more than a decade at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served in administrative and faculty roles, including Director of Administration for the School of Business and Clinical Assistant Professor teaching the MBA Capstone course.

Before entering higher education, Ron built much of his career in the energy industry. He began as an electrical engineer and later moved into executive leadership at Allegheny Energy, serving as Executive Director of Human Resources and Vice President of the Customer Business Unit. He has also held leadership roles with several community and industry organizations and served on multiple boards. Ron holds an electrical engineering degree from Bucknell University and an MBA.

Anna Courie, RN, DPN, PHNA-BC

Chief Well-being Officer, Clemson University

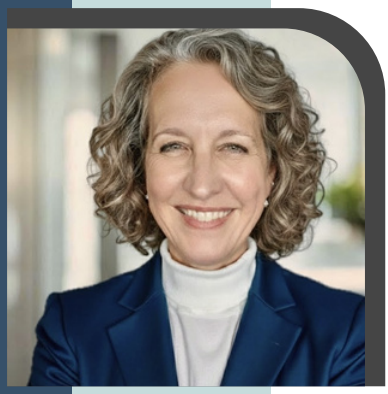
Dr. Anna Fitch Courie, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, is the inaugural Chief Well-Being Officer at Clemson University, where she builds enterprise-level well-being functions — designing the strategic infrastructure, governance policy, and outcomes framework needed to embed well-being as institutional strategy rather than a wellness program. She brings more than 25 years of cross-sector leadership in higher education, public health, military health, and first responder wellness, including nearly two decades with U.S. Army Public Health and leading C-suite strategy for FirstNet, Built with AT&T. A graduate of the Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School, she holds a DNP in Nurse Executive Leadership from Ohio State University, an MS in Nurse Education from the University of Wyoming, and a BSN from Clemson University. Dr. Courie is a sought-after public speaker, writer, and consultant, and has published numerous books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and trade publications on well-being across organizations.

Tiffiny Shockley, PhD MBA CHES

Associate Professor, Queens University of Charlotte

Tiffiny Shockley, PhD, MBA, CHES, CPHIMS, is an Associate Professor of Health Sciences at Queens University of Charlotte with expertise in public health, health administration, digital health, health informatics, and organizational systems. Her work focuses on the intersection of technology, implementation, education, and population health, with interests including artificial intelligence, digital health governance, implementation science, health equity, workforce development, and the use of data to improve health outcomes and organizational decision-making.

Dr. Shockley also serves on the HIMSS Global Health Education Committee, contributing to global health education and knowledge exchange. She brings an interdisciplinary perspective to organizational well-being by connecting public health, technology, governance, education, and implementation to support sustainable, equitable, and human-centered systems.



Suzy Harrington, DPN, RN, MCHES

Strategic Well-Being Advisor, Author, and Independent Consultant

Suzy Harrington, DNP, RN, MCHES®, is a nationally recognized well-being strategist, speaker, author, and former executive leader who helps organizations integrate well-being into broader institutional strategy. As one of the first dedicated Chief Wellness Officers in higher education, she has led system-wide efforts across higher education, healthcare, government, and national organizations, connecting well-being with culture, engagement, collaboration, and organizational performance.

She has contributed to national initiatives including the Okanagan Charter and the Limerick Framework for Health-Promoting Campuses. Suzy is the creator of the Harrington Well-Being Model and author of Building Health-Promoting Organizations: A Practical Model for Making It Happen. Through consulting, speaking, and teaching, she provides practical frameworks that help leaders align people, purpose, and institutional priorities to create sustainable, organization-wide well-being strategies.

Evan Thoman, PhD, PMP

Chief Well-Being Officer, Emory Healthcare

Evan Thoman, PhD, PMP, is a workplace well-being executive, researcher, and advisor with more than 15 years of experience advancing workforce well-being, population health, and organizational performance across complex organizations. Most recently, he served as the inaugural Chief Well-Being Officer for Emory Healthcare, where he led enterprise strategy for a 41,500-person workforce and helped drive measurable improvements in burnout, professional fulfillment, and intent to leave.

His career includes leadership roles at Emory Healthcare, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and NASA Johnson Space Center, with a consistent focus on moving workplace well-being beyond programs and participation toward addressing the organizational conditions that shape how people experience work. Evan holds a PhD in Healthcare Leadership, is a Project Management Professional (PMP), and completed Stanford Medicine's Chief Wellness Officer Course. He is also a published researcher and national contributor to workforce well-being initiatives, including leadership roles with the American Nurses Association.

Kent Seckinger, BBA, CEBS

Interim Assistant Vice President for Benefits and Well-being Services, University of Michigan

Kent Seckinger, BBA, CEBS serves as Interim Assistant Vice President for Benefits and Well-Being Services at the University of Michigan, providing enterprise leadership for benefits, behavioral health, and employee well-being programs serving more than 130,000 covered lives. He advises university leaders on benefits strategy, plan design, financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, workforce implications, and organizational risk.

With more than 25 years at U-M, Kent has held leadership roles across benefits administration, HR systems, analytics, and process improvement. His work has included overseeing the transition of more than 14,000 Medicare-eligible participants to Medicare Advantage plans and implementing U-M's first Consumer-Directed Health Plan and Health Savings Account. He is a Certified Employee Benefit Specialist and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University.

Julie Chobdee, MPH

Associate Director, Health & Well-being Program,
WorkWell Center, University of Southern California

Julie Chobdee, MPH, is the Associate Director of the Health & Well-being Program at USC's WorkWell Center, where she helps advance a health-promoting university through education, culture-building, and campus practices, policies, and systems. She also chairs USC Healthy Campus, a cross-campus collaboration focused on improving health and well-being.

Previously, Julie led wellness programs at UC Riverside and held several University of California system-wide leadership roles related to healthy campuses, faculty and staff wellness, and tobacco-free initiatives. She also spent 11 years as Wellness Program Manager for Johnson & Johnson Global Health Services and taught Worksite Health Promotion at Cal State Fullerton. Julie holds degrees in Biology and Public Health, as well as a professional designation in Human Resources Management, all from UCLA, and is an ACE-certified Fitness Instructor.

Renee Moorefield, PhD

CEO, Wisdom Works Group

Renee Moorefield, PhD, is CEO and cofounder of Wisdom Works Group, a social enterprise focused on making thriving a core element of effective, sustainable leadership. Over a four-decade career, she has helped leaders and organizations integrate the science of human thriving into leadership, workplace culture, organizational strategy, and brands, working with organizations including the College of Charleston, The Coca-Cola Company, Nike, Roche, and Barilla.

An author, global thought leader, and strategic advisor, Renee works at the intersection of human thriving, leadership, and organizational transformation. She led the development of Be Well Lead Well®, Wisdom Works' framework and assessment system for strengthening leaders' capacity to thrive and build cultures of thriving, and she serves as a Board Advisor for the Global Wellness Institute.