



Center for
Women &
Enterprise®

The Business Summit

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 | 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

College of the Holy Cross

AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

7:30 AM	Registration Open & Breakfast		
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Session: <i>Building the Future Together: Entrepreneurs and Policymakers Unite!</i> - Ballroom Featured TBD Facilitator: Sandy Lish, Principal & Co-Founder, The Castle Group		
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Networking Break/Transition Time		
10:15 AM – 11:15 AM	Workshops - Select one of the sessions below to attend		
	<u>Scaling Your Business Without Losing Your Mind: The FARTHER Model for Sustainable Growth</u> – Room 401 Adriana Vaccaro, CEO, Culture Redesigned	<u>Transforming Your Story into Impactful Strategies</u> – Room 402 Zuhaly Ramon, Founder, Chronicles Collective	<u>The Loan Readiness Lab</u> – Suite A East Cambridge Savings Bank Angela Krupica, Senior Credit Analyst Patricia Schiapelli, Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer Lynn Wahlquist, Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer
	<u>Matchmaking: Roundtable Engagement</u> – Room 406 (Must be a WBENC-certified, a certified veteran-owned business, or a service-disabled veteran-owned small business to attend)		
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Networking Break/Transition Time		
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Workshops - Select one of the sessions below to attend		
	<u>What Gets Funded, and Why</u> – Room 401 Civic Innocent, General Partner, Frankenbuild Ventures	<u>From Certification to Contracts: Navigating Massachusetts Procurement with Confidence</u> – Room 402 Maria Gonzalez, Founder and Principal, M&A Supplier Diversity Consultants (M&A SDC)	<u>Shift Happens: Transitioning from Employee to Manager</u> – Suite A Colleen DeVecchio, Chief Maximizer, Maxady
	<u>One-on-One Matchmaking</u> – Room 406 (Invitation only)		
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Networking & Lunch - Ballroom		
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	<u>Pitch it!</u> - Ballroom Meredith Phillips Almeida, Regional Lead: Northeast, LISC/Verizon Digital Ready Emil Farjo, Business Assistance Manager, Common Capital Natalia Urtubey, Foundation Fellow, Eastern Bank Foundation		
	<u>Elevate Your Supplier Engagement Strategy</u> - Room 406 (Supplier Engagement Professionals Only) Deb Thomas, Facilitator		
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Conclusion		

Click on the session title to view the description or click on the speaker's name to read their biography.