



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events will take place at The Palmer House Hilton in Chicago

### Monday, April 3

9-10AM

#### OPTIONAL PRE-FORUM FUN WALK

**Location:** Street Level Lobby, Near Starbucks, Monroe Street Side

*(pre-registration required; limited to 25 attendees)*

Bundle up take in some local Chicago sights on an invigorating morning walk. We will depart from the hotel lobby at 9am and return by 10am.

10:30-11:30AM

#### REGISTRATION

**Location:** Adams Foyer, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

11:30AM-12:45PM

#### WELCOME NETWORKING LUNCH

**Location:** Adams Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

12:45-1PM

#### TRANSITION

1-2PM

#### ADVICE TO MY YOUNGER ME:

#### CAREER LESSONS FROM 100 SUCCESSFUL WOMEN

**Location:** Red Lacquer Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Sara Holtz, a former Fortune 500 vice president, is the author of *Advice to My Younger Me: Career Lessons from 100 Successful Women* and the host of the podcast "Advice to My Younger Me." She has interviewed hundreds of successful women about what they wish they had known earlier in their careers, has coached thousands, and has received the American Bar Association's prestigious Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award in recognition of the impact that her work has had on helping women succeed.

In this session, Sara will discuss key themes that came out of her conversations with accomplished women. She'll share their hard-earned advice so you can put their lessons into action to propel your career forward and achieve the rewarding career you deserve. This session will include audience participation.

CO-MODERATORS:

**Michelle Speranza**, Chair, ELFA Women's Council and SVP, Chief Marketing Officer, LEAF Commercial Capital Inc.

**Jennifer Fanz**, Immediate Past Chair, ELFA Women's Council and National Sales Manager, Healthcare, PEAC Solutions

PRESENTER:

**Sara Holtz**, Author of *Advice to My Younger Me*, Host of "Advice to My Younger Me" Podcast and Career Coach

2-2:15PM

#### REFRESHMENT BREAK

**Location:** Red Lacquer Foyer, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

2:15-3:15PM

#### EXECUTIVE LEADERS PANEL: LEADING WITH YOUR WHOLE SELF

**Location:** Red Lacquer Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Hear directly from equipment finance industry leaders and discover insights that you can apply to your own career. In this moderated discussion, a panel of top executives will share personal stories from their paths to success. What lessons have they learned? What mistakes have they made? Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions!

MODERATOR:

**Sara Holtz**, Author of *Advice to My Younger Me*, Host of Advice to My Younger Me Podcast and Career Coach

PANELISTS:

**Deb Baker**, Head of Worldwide Leasing and Financing, HP Inc.

**Lisa Fleischer**, Chief Legal Officer, DLL

**Melinda Haynes**, President, Onset Financial

**Amrita Patel**, Head of Equipment Finance, Wells Fargo Equipment Finance

3:15-3:30PM

### REFRESHMENT BREAK

*Location: Red Lacquer Foyer, 4th Floor*

3:30-4:30PM

### INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

*Location: Red Lacquer Room, 4th Floor*

PRESENTER:

**Esu Ma'at**, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at Orlando Magic NBA Team and Adjunct Professor, Columbia University

4:30-5PM

### BREAK

5-6:30PM

### COCKTAIL RECEPTION

*Location: Honoré Ballroom, Lobby Level*

7:00PM

### DINE AROUND

*Location: Street Level Lobby, Monroe Street Side*

Have dinner on your own or join a community table dinner group. We'll connect you with a group and an opportunity to meet new people and build relationships. To join a dinner group, please select "Dine Around" when you register for the Forum.

## Tuesday, April 4 -----

6:15-7:15AM

### OPTIONAL YOGA CLASS

*Location: Millennium Parlor, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor*

*(pre-registration required; limited to 24 attendees)*

One-hour class includes yoga mat and water for each participant.

7:30-8:15AM

### OPTIONAL BUFFET BREAKFAST

*Location: Adams Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor*

Stop by the informal breakfast to grab a bite to eat and network with other attendees.

8:15-8:30AM

### BREAK

8:30-9:30AM

### KEYNOTE: LEADING WITH EMPATHY & ALLYSHIP

*Location: Red Lacquer Room, 4th Floor*

**A roadmap for all of us to lead with empathy and become better allies for each other.** Based on Melinda Briana Epler's popular TED talk and book, *How to Be an Ally*, this session provides actionable steps anyone can take to be a better ally and advocate for women and all people with underrepresented identities in the workplace.

In this interactive keynote session, Melinda will share research, stories and key frameworks to help us move from learning to action. We will learn ways to avoid unintentionally offending or harming people, identify key biases and microaggressions and their effects, develop a deeper understanding of how to lead with empathy, learn several examples of allyship and advocacy, and come away with some tangible and actionable steps we can take to be a better ally and advocate for each other.

Through interactive chats and word clouds, we will share our own experiences and personally commit to each other to taking specific actions. There will also be time for Q&A at the end of the session.

PRESENTER:

**Melinda Briana Epler**, CEO of Change Catalyst, author of *How to Be an Ally* and host of “Leading With Empathy & Allyship” podcast

9:30-10AM

### REFRESHMENT BREAK

**Location: Red Lacquer Foyer, 4th Floor**

10-11AM

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CHOOSE ONE):

#### BREAKOUT #1: LEADING THE CHANGE THROUGH ALLYSHIP

**Location: Red Lacquer Room, 4th Floor**

Join our keynote speaker Melinda Briana Epler to deepen our understanding of the role of empathy and allyship in driving inclusion across teams and organizations. Allyship is essential to creating a more engaged and productive workforce where everyone can lead with their whole self. Melinda will share ways we can lead the change to deepen our own work as inclusive leaders and to activate more allies in our workplaces. In this safe learning space, Melinda will guide us in breakout groups to put what we’ve learned into practice. We’ll discuss how we build allies around us and better support one another in our workplaces.

PRESENTER:

**Melinda Briana Epler**, CEO of Change Catalyst, author of *How to Be an Ally* and host of “Leading With Empathy & Allyship” podcast

#### BREAKOUT #2: NAVIGATING WORK/LIFE INTEGRATION: REAL-LIFE INSIGHTS FROM ACROSS EQUIPMENT FINANCE

**Location: Adams Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor**

In this candid conversation, a diverse group of equipment finance professionals—from emerging leaders to industry veterans—will discuss their experiences juggling competing demands in their personal and professional lives and leading with their whole selves. What challenges have they faced? What strategies have they adopted? How did they achieve personal goals without sacrificing professional ones—and avoid burnout? How can employers support work-life integration? Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions!

MODERATOR:

**Catherine Roddick**, Chair-Elect, ELFA Women’s Council and Lead Relationship Manager, Farm Credit Leasing

PANELISTS:

**Jerrie Carter**, Retail Credit Manager, Volvo Financial Services

**Jennifer Fanz**, National Sales Manager, Healthcare, PEAC Solutions

**Kirsten Hawkins**, Director of Marketing, SCJ Commercial Financial Services

**Michelle Speranza**, SVP, Chief Marketing Officer, LEAF Commercial Capital Inc.

**Donna Yanuzzi**, SVP - Director of Equipment Finance, 1st Equipment Finance

11:05–Noon

### **CLOSING SESSION: RECAP AND WRAP-UP**

***Location: Red Lacquer Room, 4th Floor***

In this interactive session, we'll review key takeaways from the Forum and identify next steps you can take to put what you learned into action.

**PRESENTER: Jennifer Fanz**, Immediate Past Chair, ELFA Women's Council and National Sales Manager, Healthcare, PEAC Solutions