

The Best and Brightest National Summit Agenda

DAY 1 • SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

NOON - 4 PM **Summit Attendees Registration and Welcome Packet Pick-up – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom Lobby**

6 PM - 8 PM **Opening Night Illuminate Social – 2nd Floor Explore**

Just as you celebrate your Best and Brightest Employees, we want to celebrate you – rub elbows, relax, enjoy food and drinks and let us entertain.

DAY 2 • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

6:00 AM **Wellness Morning Activity – Yoga – 3rd Floor Looking Glass Ballroom**

7:00 AM **Summit Attendees Registration and Welcome Packet Pick-up
2nd Floor, Top of the Escalator**

For those attendees that weren't able to pick up their packets on Sunday.

8:00 AM **Illuminate 2019 Kickoff Celebration – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom**

Be prepared to be invigorated and engaged to take on the day and get the most out of the Illuminate 2019 experience!

8:30 AM **Breakfast and Presentation – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom**

A Deep Dive into the Best Practices of the Best and Brightest Companies To Work For

This distinguished national panel of multi-year winners from across the country will share their best practices and strategies for continued success. The Best and Brightest program will share areas of concern and focus for the coming year and interesting facts and data that can help provide insight on your Human Resource strategic planning.



Jennifer Kluge
President & CEO
Best & Brightest



Heather Baker
COO & Managing Partner
Southwest Michigan First



Tony Chimino
CEO
Assurance



Jennifer Dean
President & CEO
Dean's Professional Services



Tracy Hagen
HR Director
Turner Construction

9:30 AM **Ignite Keynote Speaker**



Dr. Gustavo Grodnitzky
Culture Trumps Everything

10:15 AM **Networking Break – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom**

10:30 AM **Chicago Best and Brightest Companies To Work For Gala – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom**

OR

ILLUMINATE Session 1

Radiate Track – 3rd Floor Cloud Gate Ballroom

How to Drive Culture and Organizational Buy-In Through C-Suite Collaboration



**Ted Gaty, Senior Vice President of
Product & Technology, Paylocity**



**Cheryl Johnson
Chief Human Resources Officer, Paylocity**

Collaboration between Leadership and Human Resources is essential to an organizations growth in helping to build and maintain a company's culture of engaged employees. When HR has a seat at the table, it ensures they have a full understanding of leadership's vision. The sessions will include insight into the successful workings of the CEO and lead HR executive and how they've built a relationship of trust and respect when handling their greatest asset...their people.

OR

Ignite Track – 3rd Floor Looking Glass Ballroom

Creating and Leading Accountable Teams



Eric Coryell, Core Connections

Eric will command the discussion around his non-traditional approach to leading teams.

Building a team of trust and accountability creates a healthy team that feels confident to make statements and speak on their own behalf. When they do that, real data is brought to the table, real issues are addressed, and most importantly, judgment is eliminated.

11:30 AM

Snack Break

The Best and Brightest National Summit Agenda (Day 2 continued)

11:45 AM

ILLUMINATE Session 2

Radiate Track – 3rd Floor Cloud Gate Ballroom

War for Talent – Overcoming the Talent Shortage and Tapping the Untapped



Tom Coffey, Managing Director, Total Rewards & People Analytics, Vista Consulting Group

Across the nation we are seeing the talent gap continue to increase to widespread proportions in some regions, the low supply in skilled trades climbing and tech firms continuing to struggle to fill vacancies. Tom will address the current skill gap and share new ways to address this gap such as engaging untapped talent and helping leadership manage talent with mismatched skill sets.

OR

Ignite Track – 3rd Floor Looking Glass Ballroom

Guided Conversations with the C-Suite

Become Unmistakable: Start the Journey from Commodity to Oddity



Mike Novakoski, CEO, Elzinga & Volkers Construction

No two companies operate the same way and neither should their styles of leadership. Unfortunately, many corporations use the same leadership methodologies and are afraid of deviating from the status quo. Mike will examine how business leaders can tap into their “right-brained leadership” to foster a creative and employee-centric culture.

Edlong’s Secrets to Success



Laurette Rondenet, President & CEO, Edlong

Elong sets itself apart as a century old family owned flavor company. Laurette began her journey in the family business in 1993, through a customer service and sales positions followed by leadership roles that expanded her experience across the multiple functions within the company until she became CEO in 2008. Under Laurette’s leadership, Edlong has experienced unprecedented growth in the highly competitive flavors category. She leads the organization with a commitment to nurturing long-term, integrated relationships with both customers and employees, and in bringing value to the customer with innovative products and attentive service that truly differentiates Edlong.

12:45 PM

Lunch Served – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom

1:45 PM

ILLUMINATE Session 3

Radiate Track – 3rd Floor Cloud Gate Ballroom

Diversity + Inclusion = Engaged, Productive Workplace



Denise Barreto, Managing Partner, Relationships Matter Now

The Best and Brightest workplaces often have two important elements, a diverse workforce and an inclusive work environment. Easy to say, but tough to build and maintain both a diverse workforce and inclusive work environment. This session will give you practical advice and actions to support your company wherever you are in your journey to a more diverse talent pool and greater inclusive work ambient.

OR

Ignite Track – 3rd Floor Looking Glass Ballroom

Guided Conversations with the C-Suite



**Joe Slawek
Chairman and CEO
FONA International**



**Denise Navarro
President and CEO
Logical Innovations, Inc.**

The Best and Brightest National Summit Agenda (Day 2 continued)

2:45 PM

Networking Break

3:00 PM

ILLUMINATE Session 4

Radiate Track – 3rd Floor Cloud Gate Ballroom

Leading Through Disruption: Anxiety to Adaptability



Dorie Ellzey Blesoff, Chief People Officer, Relativity

No matter the industry or sector, organizations face challenges of constant transformation, disruption from all angles, and different expectations from four different generations in the workforce, to name a few. Dorie will discuss how to identify what can be done to increase organizational agility and the role of HR in helping to do so in addition to identifying what are the tools form making institutional and individual change happen.

OR

Ignite Track – 3rd Floor Looking Glass Ballroom

Building a Great Culture “On Purpose,” While Maintaining Your Roots



Amy Bastuga, Chief People Officer, Radio Flyer

Amy joined Radio Flyer, home of the iconic little red wagon, tricycles and other ride-on toys, in 2007. As Chief People Officer, she brings her HR expertise to a growing organization whose vision is to create an innovative environment where every employee says “I love my job.” She’ll share practical “how to’s” on building and sustaining a high performance culture and company.

4:00 PM

Break Prior to Evening Activities

5:00 PM -

Illuminate Evening Activities – Meet in the Renaissance Chicago Lobby

7:00 PM

- Craft Brews & City Views
- Experience Chicago Food Like a Local
- Architectural River Cruise
- Chicago Art and Architectural Walking Adventure

**Dinner on your own*

DAY 3 • TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

6:00 AM

Wellness Morning Activity – Zumba – 3rd Floor Looking Glass Ballroom

6:30-9 AM

Registration for Day 3 Only Attendees

7:00 AM

Coffee Illumination Networking Hour – 2nd Floor Explore

8:00-10 AM

Breakfast Served – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom

9:00 AM

Radiate Keynote Speaker – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom



John O’Leary

Expected to die. Now teaching others how to truly live. National #1 bestselling author and speaker, John takes his experience from a childhood injury and miraculous recovery to teach others to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life.

10:00 AM

Networking Break

10:30 AM

Featured Illuminate 2019 Keynote Speaker



Patrick Lencioni

The author of eleven best-selling books with over five million copies sold. After sixteen years in print, his classic book, “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team,” remains a weekly fixture on national best-seller lists.

11:45 AM

Networking Break

12:15 PM

Lunch Served – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom

Workplace Mental Health



Paula Allen, Vice President of Research, Analytics and Innovation, Morneau Shepell

Paula will discuss how health and well-being is at the core of business success and share insight on decreasing stigma around mental health in the workplace while stress in general is on the rise.

1:30 PM

National Best and Brightest Companies To Work For Celebration – 2nd Floor Grand Ballroom

Exclusive celebration for our National Winners during the inaugural Best and Brightest National Summit. We will announce the 13 Elite National Winners including the “Best of the Best.”

2:30 PM

Summit Conclusion

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