



CHRO FALL FORUM – WASHINGTON, DC

Imagine Forward

September 9–10, 2026

This two-day event brings CHROs, policymakers, and experts together in the heart of Washington, DC, for timely, strategic conversations on practice, policy, and executive leadership in a dynamic landscape.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

(Foyer and Salons II-III)

7:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(Salons II-III)



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jacqueline R. Williams-Roll

Board Member

Chief Human Resources Officer

General Mills

Welcome Reception & Dinner

Brought to you by Goldman Sachs Ayco

The States Take the Lead: Policy, Politics, and the Future of the American Workforce

Brought to you by Goldman Sachs Ayco

As Washington gridlock persists, state governments are playing an increasingly influential role in shaping the policies that affect employers and workers. In this bipartisan conversation, two prominent governors discuss the economic, workforce, and technology challenges facing the states—and the decisions leaders must make to remain competitive in a rapidly changing environment. CHROs will gain insight into how state-level policy is evolving and what it means for organizations operating across the country.



Larry Hogan

Governor of Maryland (2015–2023)



Janet Napolitano

20th President of the University of California (2013–2020);

Secretary of Homeland Security (2009–2013);

Governor of Arizona (2003–2009)



Timothy J. Bartl *MODERATOR*

Chief Executive Officer

CHRO Association

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
(Check-In: Event Lobby)
Breakfast: Plaza Ballroom)

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.
(Salons II-III)

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
(Salons II-III)

Check-In & Breakfast

Brought to you by UnitedHealthcare

Pick up your name badge and meeting materials, grab a coffee, and ease into the day with breakfast and informal conversation among fellow attendees.

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Timothy J. Richmond
Chair, CHRO Association; Former Executive Vice
President, Chief Human Resources Officer, AbbVie



Timothy J. Bartl
Chief Executive Officer
CHRO Association

The Strategic CEO–CHRO Partnership

Brought to you by Spencer Stuart

As organizations adapt to technological disruption and evolving workforce expectations, the CEO–CHRO partnership is becoming a central driver of enterprise strategy.



Timothy J. Bartl *MODERATOR*
Chief Executive Officer
CHRO Association

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10*9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**(Salons II-III)***Leading the Workforce Through the AI Transformation***Brought to you by Guild*

Artificial intelligence is accelerating changes in how work is performed, how skills are developed, and how organizations prepare their people for the future. In this discussion, leading experts and corporate leaders explore how AI is reshaping jobs, how companies are approaching reskilling and workforce readiness, and what leaders must do to ensure their organizations remain adaptable in an era of rapid technological change. They will also examine how HR organizations themselves must evolve—developing new competencies, operating models, and leadership capabilities to support AI-enabled enterprises.

**David Autor**

Professor of Economics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Becky Schmitt**

Executive Vice President, Chief People Officer
PepsiCo

**Val Pitteroff**

Chief Human Resources Officer
Cardinal Health

**Ani Huang** *MODERATOR*

President, Policy and Practice, CHRO Association
CEO, Center on Executive Compensation

*10:15 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.**(Foyer)***Morning Break**

Recharge with coffee and light refreshments in the foyer while connecting with peers between sessions.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

10:35 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.
(Salons II-III)

AI, Innovation, and the Future of American Competitiveness: A Keynote Conversation

Brought to you by Deloitte

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the global economy, the workplace, and the pace of technological innovation. Taylor Stockton shares the U.S. Department of Labor's perspective on AI policy, digital innovation, and the strategies needed to ensure the United States remains a global leader in the age of intelligent technology. For CHROs leading workforce transformation, his insights will illuminate the policy and economic forces shaping the future of work.



Taylor Stockton
Chief Innovation Officer
U.S. Department of Labor



Gregory C. Hoff *MODERATOR*
General Counsel, Senior Director, Practice and Policy
CHRO Association

Thank you to the following partners for supporting our 2026 CHRO Fall Forum:

SpencerStuart



THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

11:10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
(Salons II-III)

Breaking the Healthcare Cost Curve: Employer Innovation and the Future of Healthcare Purchasing

Brought to you by Maven Clinic

Healthcare costs continue to be one of the largest and fastest-growing expenses for employers. In this panel discussion, senior HR leaders from major companies examine how large employers are rethinking healthcare purchasing, pharmacy benefits, and the role of employer purchasing power in shaping the future of healthcare markets. The conversation will explore emerging strategies to improve transparency, leverage innovation, and deliver better outcomes for employees while controlling costs. Beyond immediate cost-control tactics, this panel will also tackle a provocative strategic question: As costs climb and market power consolidates, should employers double down on aggressive active management, or is it time to rethink whether traditional health insurance remains a meaningful competitive advantage?



Natalie Rothman
Chief Human Resources Officer
The Hershey Company



Jade Kas
Vice President, Total Rewards
Eli Lilly



Simon Camaj
Senior Partner, US Health Leader
Mercer



Dr. Chris DeCou
Director of Amazon Health Benefits, Clinical Psychologist
Amazon



Chatrane Birbal *MODERATOR*
Senior Vice President, Practice, Policy and Government Relations
CHRO Association

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
(Plaza Ballroom)

Networking Luncheon

Brought to you by PwC

Get to know or reconnect with fellow attendees over lunch during this informal networking luncheon—an easy opportunity to make connections and ease into the afternoon's discussions.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
(Salons II-III)

Capital, Geopolitics, and the Forces Shaping the
Global Economy

Brought to you by Egon Zehnder

In a period defined by AI-driven technological disruption, geopolitical tension, and rapid economic change, business leaders must navigate an increasingly complex global landscape.



Dr. Timothy Naftali

Adjunct Professor, School of International and Public Affairs,
Columbia University
Presidential Historian, CNN

2:15 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.
(Foyer)

Afternoon Break

Brought to you by Navigate Forward

Grab a beverage and a quick snack in the foyer as you pause and reconnect before the final session of the day.



THURSDAY, SEPT. 10*2:35 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.**(Salons II-III)***Closing Conversation: Culture as a Strategic Advantage***Brought to you by Sharecare*

As organizations navigate AI-driven transformation, geopolitical uncertainty, and evolving workforce expectations, culture has emerged as a defining factor in long-term success. In this closing conversation, members from diverse, mission-driven companies discuss how they have reinforced and evolved their cultures in a profound time of change.



Dina Barmasse-Gray
Chief People Officer
The Cheesecake Factory



Laura Fuentes
EVP, Chief Human Resources Officer and Head of Hilton Supply Management
Hilton



Marvin Boakye
Chief Human Resources Officer
Cummins



David Reimer, moderator
CEO
The ExCo Group

*3:35 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**(Salons II-III)***Final Reflections and Concluding Remarks***Special thank you to our Platinum Sponsor:***SpencerStuart**