

# 2026 Leadership Symposium

2:00-5:00pm Registration

5:30 - 7:00pm Welcome Reception  
Black + White Theme  
with DJ Bill



## Day 1 - Monday, April 13

6:15 – 7:00 am Yoga Sponsored by BAC



7:45 – 8:15 am Registration & Breakfast Buffet Opens

8:15 – 10:00 am Opening Session



### Keynote 1: Designing for People & Planet

**Gail Brager Ph.D**, Distinguished Professor of Architecture at UC Berkeley Building Science, Technology & Sustainability program



### Keynote 2 – Innovators Born or Bred

**Amy Marks**, EVP of Global Strategy at Symetri, a global leader in digital BIM, product design, and lifecycle solutions. Known widely as the “Queen of Prefab,” she has been a driving force in modernizing the built environment through industrialized construction and transformational methodologies.

10:00 – 10:15am Morning Coffee Break + Sponsor Tables

10:15 – 11:15am Breakout Sessions



### Session 1A - Building Future Makers: How to Inspire the Next Generation into the Trades

Discover how to turn leadership legacy into a movement empowering young people—especially women—to pursue careers in the trades.

**Speaker: Angie Simon, Heavy Metal Summer Experience**



### Session 1B - Smarter Buildings Start with You: Real-World AI and IoT in HVAC/Commissioning in AI

What every engineer needs to know about smart tech’s impact on design and controls.

**Speaker: Tracey Jumper, Microsoft**



11:15–11:45am Networking Break

11:45am–12:45pm Breakout Sessions



**Session 2A - Executive Presence Without Pretending: Find Your Voice in Any Room**

Public speaking, presenting to C-suite, and showing confidence authentically.

**Speaker: Jane Sidebottom, President/Founder of AMK, LLC**



**Session 2B - Inside the Walls of Net-Zero: Women Designing the Future**

Case studies from women leading decarbonization and electrification projects.

**Speaker: Shona O'dea, SOM**

12:45–1:45pm

Buffet Lunch

1:45–2:45pm

Breakout Sessions



**Session 3A - Burnout-Proof: Energy Management for Women Who Do It All**

Self-care, time boundaries, and saying no — not optional skills.

**Speaker: Cherish Samuels, Amazon**

**Session 3B - FIRECHAT: What's New in the Code: 2026 Updates That Matter for Women in HVAC**

An update-heavy, info-packed session on what's changing in ASHRAE standards, IAQ, and building codes.

**Speakers:**



**Laura Petrillo,  
Daikin**



**Emily Lorenz,  
PG&E**



**Kelly Cunningham,  
PG&E**



**Kelly Seeger,  
Signify**



**2:45–3:15pm**

Coffee Break + Sponsor Tables

**3:15–4:15pm**

Breakout Sessions

**Breakout 4A - Influence Over Authority: Leading Technical Teams**

How to motivate, lead, and influence — even without direct authority.

**Speakers:**



**Calina Ferraro,  
Norman Wright**



**Hetal Lee, JLL**



**Breakout 4B - Designing for Resilience: HVAC Strategies in a Climate-Changing World**

How climate change is impacting system design, redundancy, and long-term planning (wildfires, floods, heatwaves).

**Speaker: Kelly Cramm, Henderson Engineers**

**7:10pm**

Optional Evening Activity - Dodgers Game



## Day 2 – Tuesday, April 14

8:00–8:45am

Breakfast Roundtables

### **Breakfast Roundtable #1-Leading with Confidence: Owning Your Voice in a Technical World**



**Jenn Leach**

**Cindy Cogil**

### **Breakfast Roundtable #2-Work–Life Flow, Not Balance: Thriving in a 24/7 Industry**



**Tiffany Abruzzo**



**Karine Leblanc**

### **Breakfast Roundtable #3-Building Belonging: Mentorship, Allyship, and the Power of Connection**



**Nancy Kohout**



**Jennifer Mott**

### **Breakfast Roundtable #4-The Power of Authenticity: Leading Without Pretending**



**Kellie Huff**

**Marie Vanderviet**



9:00-10:00am

Opening Keynote



### Opening Keynote - Climb Your Everest, Lead Your Team to Their Mountain Top Experience

**Speaker:** Sara Safari, *Avalanche Survivor, Empowerment Activist, Author "Follow My Footsteps"*

10:00-10:15am

Morning Coffee Break

10:15-11:15am

Breakout Sessions

### Session 5A - Her Company, Her Rules: Women Who Launched Their Own HVAC Firms

Tactical advice, legal basics, and mindset shifts for building your own thing.

**Speakers:**



**Brittany Dianat**  
iFactor



**Victoria Garcia,**  
Airzone Control



### Session 5B - More Than a Seat at the Table: Building Truly Inclusive Project Teams

From executive leader to entrepreneur, revealing how inclusion, courage, and intentional leadership can transform organizations—and the people within them.

**Speaker:** Dr. Giovanna Bradsfield, *Brasfield & Associates LLC*

11:15-11:45am

Morning Coffee Break

11:45am-12:45pm

Breakout Sessions

### Session 6A - Rising Voices: YEA Shaping the Future of HVAC

Meet the recipients of ASHRAE's 2026 Women in ASHRAE Student Travel Grants as they share their stories, insights, and aspirations for shaping the future of the industry.

**Speakers:**



**Marya Thawer,**  
Introba



**Jill Warabak, BR&A**  
Consulting Engineers



**Mamta Chauhan,**  
Jones Lang LaSelle Inc.



### Breakout Sessions

#### **Session 6B - From Set Backs to Come Backs**

Stories of women who changed roles, industries, or locations — and how they did it.

#### **Speakers:**



**Grace Pan,**  
Hensel Phelps



**Amanda Brathwaite,**  
Control Air EVP

**12:45 - 2:00pm**

#### **Lunch + Panel Discussion: From Technical Expert to Strategic Leader: The Hidden Leap women don't talk about**

How to pivot from project work to people and vision management. Real stories, real roadmaps.

#### **Speakers:**



**Megan Fellingner,**  
Morrison Products



**Sarah Matson,**  
ASHRAE



**Angie Simon,**  
Heavy Metal  
Summer Experience



**Alicia Chan,**  
University of  
California San  
Diego

**2:00–2:45pm**

Wrap-Up & Farewell Celebration

### **For more information and questions:**

visit [ashrae.org/conferences/topical-conferences/2026-wia-leadership-symposium](https://ashrae.org/conferences/topical-conferences/2026-wia-leadership-symposium)

Email contact: [meetings@ashrae.org](mailto:meetings@ashrae.org)

### **Women in ASHRAE Steering Committee:**

Karine Leblanc, Chair  
Nancy Kohout, Co-Chair  
Tiffany Abruzzo

Kellie Huff  
Jennifer Leach  
Elyse McBride

Jennifer Mott  
Heather Schopplein



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