

2026 KWB Summit Agenda

October 22-23, 2026 | All times Arizona (Phoenix) time

DAY ONE - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Opening Session: Keynote Address by Dr. Scott McCalla

Session 1

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Juana Lang

Presentations

Understanding Meaningful Work: Perspectives and Implications for Generation Z

Presenters: Alisa Fleming

Virtual Distance and Leadership Competencies: Reducing Disconnection in Multigenerational Remote Workforces

Presenters: Cynthia Simon; William Kerstetter; Gilbert Franco

Leadership Approach to Retain Gen Z in Organizations: A Qualitative Narrative Inquiry

Presenters: Curtishia Williams

Session 2

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Pamayla Darbyshire

Presentations

Making Sense of Uncertainty in the Metaverse: Leadership Narratives of Virtual Reality Training Implementation in Municipal Public Safety

Presenters: Amanda Markham

Arete: Achieving Elite Academic Performance Excellence Through Javelin Coaching Within a Community of Practice

Presenters: Robert King

Presentations

Beyond Smart Cities: Designing Urban Resilience in Times of Economic, Energy, and Climate Uncertainty

Presenters: Sai Raghav; Ion Jauregui

Session 3

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Jaime Davis

Presentations

Promoting Workplace Wellness: Practical Strategies for Success

Presenters: Carla Harris

Research as Sense-Making: Effective Career Mentoring in Times of Uncertainty

Presenters: Louise Underdahl; Myrene Magabo; Shawishi Haynes

Leading Without a Map: Wellness-Centered Transformational Leadership in Uncertain Times

Presenters: Kristina Kalb

Session 4

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Marlene Blake

Presentations

What Can We Learn About AI from Entrepreneurs

Presenters: Janice Cardwell; Bonnie Ellis

Counseling in the Age of AI: A Pilot Study on Human Empathy Expansion Through Facilitated AI Persona Engagement

Presenters: Rodney Luster

The Retention Mandate: Bridging the AI Fluency Gap to Secure the 2026 Workforce

Presenters: Wayne McCoy

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch

Session 5

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Crystal Adams

Presentations

Exploring Managerial Support for Teleworkers in Healthcare Administration: A Phenomenological Study

Presenters: Aaron Menz; Anastasia Metros

Exploring Organizational Strategies for Black Women in Healthcare Leadership: A Qualitative Narrative Inquiry

Presenters: Ashley Meredith

Using Research to Navigate Uncertainty in Online Nursing Courses: A Faculty Model for Civility and Synchronous Engagement

Presenters: Barbara Welcher; Karen Myers; Margaret Kroposki

Session 6

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Leonidas Maganares

Presentations

Psychological Safety and Belonging in K-12 Educational Workspaces

Presenters: Christa Banton

Effective Inclusive Education for Special Educational Needs Students

Presenters: Heather Saks

The Constructivist Approach to Building Inclusive Futures: Empowering Early Childhood Educators to Support Children with Developmental Delays and Autism

Presenters: June Cade

Session 7

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Carla Harris

Presentations

Making Sense of Secondary Datasets and Online Data Tools

Presenters: Jeffrey Rhoades

Presentations

The Micromanager's Mirror: A Reflection in Microaggression in Leadership

Presenters: Jesse Garza; Kumiko Yamada-Yuge

Astrological Research as a Lens for Meaning-Making in Life Narratives

Presenters: Regina Sadono

Session 8

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Patricia Battson

Presentations

Enhancing Best Practices: MBA Professional Development and Career Advancement

Presenters: Ed DeJaegher

Foundations for Flourishing: Support for First-Generation Non-Traditional Students

Presenters: Marlene Blake; Christine Marquis; Jaime Davis

Navigating the Unknown: Research Practices During Crisis, Disruption, or Transition

Presenters: Shayanna Mungo; Lisa Langford; Alfreda Goods

Session 9

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Kyla Tennin

Presentations

Nurturing Mental Health in Public Learning

Presenters: Marcia Alexander

Neurodiversity, Neuro-Education, and Sensemaking

Presenters: Pamayla Darbyshire

Self-Regulation of ADHD in the Workplace: A Phenomenological Study

Presenters: RaDenna Cox

Session 10

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Ruth Bundy

Presentations

Effective Practices for Mentoring Professionals

Presenters: Sandra Sessoms-Penny

From Research to Action: The LEAP Framework for Empowering Black Women Project Managers in Times of Uncertainty

Presenters: Stacey Horn

The Leadership Identity Crisis: Why 20 Models are 80% the Same (and What Actually Works)

Presenters: Stephen Notaro; Crina Cotoc

Session 11

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Leonidas Maganares

Presentations

A Systematic Literature Review of Emerging Capabilities to Promote Ethical use of AI in Higher Education

Presenters: Suchitra Veera; Mark Guberman; Michelle Susberry Hill

Making Sense of AI Readiness: Embedding AI-Era Competencies to Navigate Workforce Transformation in AI-Driven Organizations

Presenters: Tiefa Jones; Melisa Hernandez; Sarah Rodriguez

The Foresight Blueprint: Reimagining HBGLO Institutional Longevity Through Grassroots AI and Continuous Strategy

Presenters: Victor Smith

Session 12

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Jaime Davis

Presentations

Valuing Deep Thinking and Reflection Within the Doctoral Journey

Presenters: Scott McCalla; Leslie Huffman

The Relationship Between K-12 Teachers' TAM and TPACK Perspectives and Support Needs for AI Integration in Hawai'i Education

Presenters: Peng Ratchaworapong

Presentations

Life Lab in the AI Age: Using Curiosity, AI Collaboration, and Reflection to Make Sense of What Matters

Presenters: LauraAnn Migliore

4:20 PM - 4:30 PM

Close

DAY TWO - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Opening Session: Award Presentations (President's Awards, Dissertation of the Year, DNP Project Award)

Session 13

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Sandra Sessoms-Penny

President's Award Presentations

Impact of Faculty and Curriculum on Online Doctoral Integration: A Quantitative Perspective

Presenters: Drs. Marlene Blake, Sushil Jindal, Martha Zepeda

Five Years of Insights from the Career Optimism Index: Shifting Sentiments and the Future of Work

Presenters: Drs. Christine Marquis, Marlene Blake, Scott A. McCalla

Exploring Organizational Strategies for Black Women in Healthcare Leadership: A Qualitative Narrative Inquiry

Presenters: Dr. Ashley Meredith

Session 14

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Mansureh Kebritchi

Dissertation of the Year Presentations

Self-Care, Stress, and Burnout among Midwest Middle School Teachers: A Qualitative Narrative Study

Presenters: Dr. Tamara Betz

Trait-Emotional Intelligence (TEI) and Help-Seeking of Jamaicans: A Quantitative Correlational Study

Presenters: Dr. Rosann Hamilton

Rebalancing Employee Monetary Versus Non-Monetary Compensation Packages: A Qualitative Descriptive Case Study

Presenters: Dr. Paul David White III

Dissertation of the Year Presentations

Best Practices and Strategies of Successful VA Prosthetic Leaders: A Qualitative Exploratory Case Study

Presenters: Dr. Sheila-Marie Mofield

Session 15

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Moderator: Patricia Finch Guthrie

DNP Project Presentations

Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit: An Evidenced-Based Practice Project

Presenters: Dr. Brittney Marshall

Impacting Emergency Department Boarding Times with a Designated Holding Pod

Presenters: Dr. Lisa Rodriguez-Aviles

Standardized Nurse-Led Hypertension Management in a Rural Setting

Presenters: Dr. Jill Rose Cariazo

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch

Session 16

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Stephen Notaro

Presentations

AI in Child Welfare: Innovation, Sense-Making, and Future Directions

Presenters: Bridgette Hernandez; Christina Bergren; Louise Underdahl

From Quiz to Cognitive Process: Evolving an Intervention in the Age of AI

Presenters: Jaime Januse; Tammy Woody

Making Sense of AI-Generated Cyber Threats: Information Security Awareness Among Non-Technical Workers

Presenters: Jasper Green; Jasper Lee Green

Session 17

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Marlene Blake

Presentations

Social and Technical Skills Needed: Post-Pandemic Online Higher Education Student Success Trends

Presenters: Cecilia Gregg

Relationship Abuse Awareness and Prevention Training: Identifying Bystander Intervention Practices for Virtual Higher Education Workspaces

Presenters: Jessica Flores; Carla M. Harris; Patricia Battson

Artificial Intelligence in Mathematics and Data Analytics Education: Enhancing Learning or Enabling Shortcuts?

Presenters: Leonidas Maganares

Session 18

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Patricia Battson

Presentations

Universalism as Erasure: Hegemonic Masculinity and Masculinity Contest Culture in HR Expert Discourse on Workplace Bullying and Heterosexism

Presenters: Scott McCalla; Lisa Langford; Adrian Allen

A Corporate Leadership Study: A Qualitative Exploratory Case Study

Presenters: James Traylor; Cynthia Simon; David Duren

Research as Sense-Making: Understanding Fairness and Opportunity in Federal Merit Promotion Through Employee Narratives

Presenters: Latrina Brunson

Session 19

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Moderator: Jennifer Carriere

Presentations

Workplace Violence Against Behavioral Healthcare Workers: Lived Experiences, Organizational Gaps, and Pathways to Safer Care

Presenters: Ozioma Uwadibie; Charles H. Elliott

Presentations

Epistemology in Nursing: Reflections on Problems of Relevance in Nursing Philosophy

Presenters: Ruth Veling Bundy

Invisible Frontline Workers: Leadership Sense-Making During the Healthcare Workforce Crisis

Presenters: Shawishi Haynes

Session 20

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Carla Harris

Presentations

Strengthening Researcher Self-Awareness and Navigating Discomfort in Qualitative Inquiry

Presenters: Jaime Davis

Making Sense of Uncertainty: Lived Experiences of Communication Breakdowns During Organizational Change

Presenters: Christina Best

Where Meaning Gets Assigned: Performance Calibration as a Leadership Sense-Making System

Presenters: Nigel Pinto

Session 21

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Juana Lang

Presentations

Leading the Caregiver Network: Strengthening Spinal Cord Injury Support Through Leadership Development

Presenters: Crystal Adams; Janice Cardwell

Compensation Disparities Between Male and Female Doctoral Staff Faculty: A Qualitative Narrative Study

Presenters: Destiny Wilson

The Essence of Emotional Intelligence in Neuro Oncology Leadership: A Caretaker Phenomenological Study

Presenters: Simone Arnold

Session 22

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Pamayla Darbyshire

Presentations

Bridging the AI-Clinical Divide: Integrating Advanced Analytics and Ethical Governance in Oncology Research

Presenters: Crina Cotoc; Stephen J. Notaro

Online Doctoral Student Perceptions and Role Expectations Influencing Persistence

Presenters: Marlene Blake; Roxanne M. Williams; Elizabeth Young

Institutional Practices and Artificial Intelligence: Sense-Making in Times of Uncertainty

Presenters: Sherrie Madia; Sisay Teketele; Aamir Khawaja

Session 23

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM

Moderator: Jessica Flores

Presentations

Reflection as a Catalyst for Learning in AI-Assisted Coursework: A Within-Subjects Study Grounded in Deweyan and Mezirowian Theory

Presenters: Jennifer Carriere; Laura Pipoly; L'Tanya Simien-Robnett

Faculty AI Readiness in Undergraduate Higher Education: Predictors of Competency, Institutional Support, and Instructional Integration

Presenters: Kenneth Murphy; Susan Lawrence; Stella Smith

When Learning Feels Uncertain: A Trauma-Informed Framework for GenAI-Supported Persistence in Online Education

Presenters: Melinda Kulick; Jessica Sylvester

4:20 PM - 4:30 PM

Close