

# HOP INTO THE HERE AND NOW...

## The Everchanging Face of HR

### April 1–2, 2026

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#### Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 HR Conference! Over the next two days, we will explore the evolving landscape of Human Resources, highlighting innovation, compliance, wellness, talent strategy, and the future of work in higher education.

We are grateful to our sponsors, presenters, and attendees for making this event possible.

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#### DAY ONE - Wednesday, April 1, 2026 – *Business Casual or Casual*

##### 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration & Networking Breakfast - **Sponsored by LinkedIn**

*LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network and leads a diversified business with membership subscriptions, advertising sales and recruitment solutions.*

##### 9:00 AM – 9:20 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks - Sonya Holley

##### 9:20 AM – 9:45 AM\*

Annual Board Meeting

##### 9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Quick Game/Ice Breaker

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##### 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

**CUPA-HR - Heather Butterfield**

*Your Partner for the Present and the Next Leap*

##### 10:50 AM – 11:00 AM

Quick Stretch Break

##### 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Jackson Lewis – Nicholas A. Simpson**

*Legal Updates*

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**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**

Lunch

**1:00 PM – 1:50 PM**

Sponsor Expo

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**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Segal**

*Topic Title – Coming Soon*

**3:00 PM – 3:10 PM**

Break

**3:10 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Cornerstone – Mike Siano**

*The Skills-First Campus: Unboxing Talent Agility Across Illinois Higher Ed Ecosystem*

**4:05 PM – 4:50 PM**

**USI – Derek Duncan**

*Are your Benefit Costs Crazy? Some Colleges Haven't Seen Any Increase A Decade....How do Your Benefits Compare to Theirs and 141 Other Peers?*

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**4:50 PM – 5:00 PM**

Day One Wrap-Up - Conference Updates & Day Two Preview

**5:00 PM**

Sip into the Now HOPpy Hour (*Responsible for own tab*)

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**NO PEANUTS (*of any kind*) ALLOWED IN THE ROOM(s)**

## **DAY TWO - Thursday, April 2, 2026 – Represent your school colors - GROUP PHOTO**

**8:00 AM – 8:50 AM**

Sponsor Expo, Networking & Breakfast

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**9:00 AM – 9:50 AM**

**Illinois Human Resources Matrix Team**

*Breaking Down Silos: Transforming HR Service Delivery with Matrix Teams*

**9:50 AM – 10:00 AM**

Break

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**AON – Paul Fruhwirth**

*Total Rewards: People Strategies for an Ever-Changing Environment*

**11:00 AM – 11:10 AM**

Quick Stretch Break

**11:10 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Julie Birky**

*Wellness: Mental Strength & Fortitude*

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**12:00 PM – 12:30 PM**

Conference Wrap-Up

Board Members

**12:30 PM**

Conference Concludes

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**We sincerely thank our conference sponsors  
for their valued partnership and generous support**