



CUPA-HR Southern New England Chapter 2026 Spring Conference

State of the Union for HR: Navigating Change in Higher Education

April 14, 2026

College of the Holy Cross

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Time	Session	Presenter
8:15 - 9:00 AM	Registration & Continental Breakfast Check-in, networking, and light refreshments	Inside & Dunn Lounge - Outside Ballroom
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks – Hilary Clark, SNECUPA Board President CHRO Panel: Perspectives from the Front Lines Senior HR leaders share insights on workforce trends, leadership challenges, and the evolving role of HR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Bowen, UMass Boston • Manuel Cuevas-Trisán, Harvard University • Michele Grazulis, Northeastern University • Lauren Turner, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Moderator: Marymichele Delaney, SNECUPA Past President	Ballroom
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Networking Break & Book Signing – Kelly Jones	Dunn Lounge - Outside Ballroom
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Kindness Advantage</i> – Jamie Graceffa • <i>The Intersection of AI and Mental Health</i> – Beth Hastings • <i>Why We've Drifted Apart</i> – Matt Poepsel 	Hogan A Hogan B/C Ballroom
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Morning Break <i>Visit our sponsors!</i>	
11:45 - 12:45 PM	Keynote: Kelly Jones, Author <i>Unleashed Potential: Life & Business Tips from Baxter and His Best Friend</i>	Ballroom
12:45 - 1:30 PM	Lunch, Networking & Raffle Drawing	Ballroom





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1:30 – 2:30 PM	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rewriting the Meeting Narrative</i> – Karen Pambianchi • <i>Agentic AI: The Future (& Present) of Work</i> – David Shettler • <i>Take a Hike: Unconventional Practices</i> – Mike Sweeney 	Hogan A Hogan B/C Ballroom
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Networking Break & Book Signing – Kelly Jones	Dunn Lounge - Outside Ballroom
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Breakout Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Coaching Skills for People Leaders</i> – Liz Myers • <i>Operationalizing AI in Talent Acquisition</i> – Nancy Gervais • <i>Belonging by Design: Learning & Culture Strategies</i> – Jen Moff 	Hogan A Hogan B/C Ballroom
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Ballroom

