

2026 ERO WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



LISA BARTON, PRESIDENT & CEO, ALLIANT ENERGY

Lisa Barton is President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Alliant Energy Corporation (NASDAQ: LNT). In addition, she is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the two utility subsidiaries, Interstate Power and Light and Wisconsin Power and Light. Lisa joined the company in February 2023, following her role as Executive Vice President and COO of American Electric Power (AEP).

At Alliant Energy, Lisa and her leadership team are responsible for the advancement of the company's purpose-driven strategy, including operations in Iowa and Wisconsin, as well as customer experience, supply chain, human resources, finance, responsibility and regulatory strategy. Her deep industry knowledge, strong leadership abilities and proven operating expertise guide the company's efforts to deliver safe, reliable and cost-effective renewable energy to its customers and communities.

In her more than three decades in the energy industry, Lisa has focused on growth, execution, culture, building strong teams and talent development. She has advocated for responsible energy policy and actively participated in the industry, holding various leadership positions in organizations such as Wires, ReliabilityFirst, GridWise Alliance and the Electric Power Research Institute, where she served as Vice Chair and member of the executive board.

Lisa began her career at Northeast Utilities (now Eversource) and rejoined the company in 2002 after working with consulting firms where she developed power procurement and power market strategies. She also served as a lobbyist and senior counsel to clients across the gas and electric utility sector. She joined AEP in 2006 and held leadership roles in numerous areas, including transmission and utilities.

At work and home, Lisa is an advocate for strong communities. She has long supported the arts and recognizes the value the arts bring to the quality of life in a community. A former International Women's Foundation (IWF) Fellow and member of G100 Next Generation Leadership, Lisa is a member of IWF and C200. She also serves as a Board Member of the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce.

Lisa earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a Juris Doctorate degree from Suffolk University Law School.

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JOANNA BURKEY, FOUNDER, FLAT ROCK ADVISORY, AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR, RF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanna Burkey is a corporate director, former cybersecurity executive and the founder of Flat Rock Advisory.

She serves on the boards of Beyond Inc (NYSE: BYON), CorVel Corporation (Nasdaq: CRVL), and ReliabilityFirst Corporation.

In her role as Principal at Flat Rock Advisory she provides strategic consulting services to multiple global enterprises.

Her three-decade career in cybersecurity and technology spanned engineering, strategy, and digital transformation, most recently as the CISO for HP Inc.

She holds NACD Directorship Certification from the National Association of Corporate Directors, is a certified Qualified Technology Expert with the Digital Directors Network, and was previously a fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC.

She is based in Austin, Texas, and serves locally on the NACD Texas TriCities Chapter board.



MÈLIKA CARROLL, VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY, COHERE, AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR, RF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mèlika Carroll is Head of Global Government Affairs and Public Policy for Cohere. Prior to joining Cohere, Mèlika built and led Sonder's corporate affairs functions as a member of the senior leadership team that took the company public on Nasdaq.

Earlier in her career, Mèlika established a track record in leading the public policy strategy for several Fortune 500 technology companies including Intel, Micron, HP and Salesforce. In these roles, she helped position companies, CEOs and other C-level executives with policymakers in North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

In addition to her experience in the private sector, Mèlika has worked for national elected officials in Canada and the U.S.; has guest lectured at Harvard Law School, Georgetown University and The Washington Campus; and co-founded the Global Women's Innovation Network, www.globalwin.org.

Mèlika holds a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from the University of Ottawa in Canada and a masters of European Affairs from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

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SARAH EPPINK, LEADERSHIP COACH AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT, AND PRINCIPAL AND FOUNDER, AISLING GROUP

Sarah Eppink is the principal and founder of Aisling Group. Sarah has over 20 years of experience as a talent development expert supporting various industries - including, but not limited to, serving as the Associate Vice President Training Manager at KeyCorp, Senior Organization Development Consultant for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, and an adjunct professor at Bowling Green State University teaching Managing Change in Organizations and Organizational Behavior/Leading for Organizational Success in the Department of Management in the College of Business.

She founded Aisling (ASH-LING) Group LLC, where she partners with large and small organizations to create talent strategy, develop their leadership pipeline through engaging programs, and support individual leaders one-on-one through coaching. She is a dynamic, engaging professional who exudes passion for supporting others and organizations as they reach their goals.



LESLEY EVANCHO, CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER, EQT CORPORATION, AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR, RF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Evancho is the Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) for EQT, which is one of the largest natural gas producers in the country. In her current role, Ms. Evancho's responsibilities include HR strategy and innovation, total rewards, employee/labor relations, organizational transformation, mergers and acquisitions, culture, talent, HR Operations, risk, and compliance. She also serves as the Management lead for the Compensation and Development Committee at EQT.

Ms. Evancho has extensive experience in human capital planning, total rewards, talent management, and culture. Since joining EQT, her accomplishments include dramatically improving employee satisfaction scores, helping the company create its new values statement, and navigating the current "war on talent" through improvements in leadership capability and overhauling goals and reviews.

Ms. Evancho previously served as the Vice President, Global Talent Management and Corporate Human Resources, at Westinghouse Electric Company and prior to that she held a variety of human resource roles at Thermo Fisher Scientific, Rice Energy, and MSA Safety. Ms. Evancho holds a bachelor of science in human resources from Florida State University. Ms. Evancho also serves in leadership roles at Pittsburgh CLO, a nonprofit centered around the city's performing arts community, while also participating in the diversity and inclusion and Covid-19 sub-committees.

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CHRIS GUINEY, PARTNER, PRACTICE LEADER - ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, CARTERBALDWIN EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Chris joined CarterBaldwin in 2016 and leads the firm's energy and infrastructure practice. Chris's clients include energy, power, utilities, communications, and infrastructure businesses as well as professional services firms. For more than 30 years, Chris has assisted companies with critical team-building initiatives including executive search, succession planning, executive effectiveness, and organizational design. Previously, Chris led global executive search consultancies and founded and led his own executive search and leadership consulting firm - The Guiney Group, LLC. Earlier in his career, Chris served as the Coordinating Partner for the North American industrial consulting practice at Ernst & Young LLP and the National Managing Director of KPMG's North American energy and technology practice.

Chris graduated from the State University of New York College at Oneonta with a BA in psychology. He teaches graduate courses on a variety of topics including executive and organizational leadership and executive relationship development and is a guest lecturer at the University of Georgia Terry College of Business and Emory University's Goizueta Business School. He is active in the local community, serving on the boards of ToolBank USA and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He is also the Founder and Executive Chairman of ShamRockin' for a Cure, a national charitable benefit serving the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Chris lives in Alpharetta and enjoys spending time with his three sons in his free time.



HOLLY HAWKINS, VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL & CORPORATE SECRETARY, SERC

Holly is the Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary for SERC and oversees the legal team, along with providing strategic advice and counsel to the President and CEO. She also interfaces with NERC legal and Regional legal representatives to develop new initiatives, review and advise on incoming FERC orders, and many other duties and responsibilities consistent with the position.

Prior to joining SERC, Holly served as Associate General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel with NERC in Washington, D.C., where she was employed for eight years. During her NERC tenure she provided advice and legal input to NERC's Chief Executive Officer and NERC's Senior Vice-President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary on corporate governance matters for the NERC Board of Trustees and its committees. She also served as a member of NERC's management team, advising and supporting the executive management team on legal and regulatory matters, and was responsible for modifying governing documents, including the Rules of Procedure and bylaws, and internal procedures and corporate policies. She also served as a lead attorney on NERC's matters pending before FERC.

Holly received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the American Bar Association - Section on Environment, Energy and Resources, the Energy Bar Association, and the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment.

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DIANE HOLDER, VICE PRESIDENT OF ENGINEERING & STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT, RF

Ms. Holder is responsible for RF's outreach to utilities, government officials and the public, as well as for RF's engineering and event analysis work. In this role, she leads the External Affairs, Entity Engagement, Engineering & System Performance, and Operational Analysis & Awareness teams.

Prior to joining RF in 2022, Ms. Holder was Vice President of Operations at Pennsylvania American Water, where she worked to ensure the safe, reliable delivery of clean drinking water for customers. She oversaw operations at more than 25 facilities in western Pennsylvania, ensuring regulatory compliance, managing operations budgets, and providing customer service. She also worked in the electric industry for nearly 30 years between Allegheny Power, FirstEnergy, and Duquesne Light Company. Her roles and experience include engineering, external affairs, operations, distribution, and serving as a chief of staff.

Ms. Holder received her Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the United Way of Washington County, a non-profit that focuses on education, health, and financial stability for citizens of Washington County.



JULIA KIOUS ZABELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WEATHERHEAD EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, WEATHERHEAD SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Julia Kious Zabell is the Executive Director of Weatherhead Executive Education at Case Western Reserve University, where she leads top-ranked programs that transform talent and equip leaders to navigate change and drive success. Under her leadership, Weatherhead has been recognized by the Financial Times as the #3 open enrollment program in the U.S. and #2 internationally for overall satisfaction. Julia oversees a strategic portfolio of open enrollment programs, coaching services, ICF-accredited coach training, signature experiences, and custom solutions tailored to organizational needs. She also serves as an adjunct professor in the Weatherhead Executive MBA program, teaching Teambuilding and is a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach.

Julia founded re:Invigorate, a coaching and consulting practice she led for 14 years, guiding entrepreneurs, executives, and high-performing teams to align values with results. She has worked with hundreds of leaders across sectors through workshops, one-on-one coaching, and speaking engagements, including collaborations ranging from regional institutions, like Tri-C Corporate College, to globally recognized thought leaders such as Margaret Wheatley. Trained in architecture at the University of Michigan, she brings a creative, systems-oriented perspective to leadership, community engagement, and program design. Her expertise spans leadership development, organizational culture, resilience, and strategy alignment.

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CHRISTINE MARTIN, PRESIDENT, PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Christine M. Martin is president of PPL Electric Utilities, the subsidiary that provides electric delivery services to 1.5 million customers in eastern and central Pennsylvania. PPL Electric Utilities operates and maintains a vast electric delivery system that spans 10,000 square miles and serves a population of more than 3 million. Christine Martin joined PPL in June 2003. Prior to becoming president of PPL Electric Utilities in September 2023, Martin was PPL's senior vice president—Public Affairs and chief sustainability officer, overseeing the corporation's advocacy and policy development, corporate communications and sustainability efforts.

Before coming to PPL, Martin was deputy secretary for water management in Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, where she was responsible for statewide water resources management and policy. Martin also served as senior policy manager for environmental, infrastructure, energy and regulatory issues for Governors Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker and as executive policy specialist for Governor Ridge.

Christine Martin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/International Studies with minors in Economics and French from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Administration from The Pennsylvania State University. She also completed studies at the University of Nancy in France. A native of Pennsylvania, Martin is co-chair of the Edison Electric Institute's Operating Company Leadership Work Group. She also serves on the boards for the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, the Pennsylvania Chamber and the Baum School Board of Trustees.



SARA PATRICK, PRESIDENT & CEO, MRO

As president and chief executive officer, Sara Patrick leads MRO in carrying out its critical mission to identify, prioritize and assure effective and efficient mitigation of risks to the reliability and security of the North American bulk power system within the organization's regional footprint. Patrick is credited with developing and strengthening MRO's leadership structure and culture to align with the organization's vision, mission, strategy, and four keys to sustainable success: Connection, Curiosity, Commitment and Competency.

Patrick joined MRO in August 2008 as director of regulatory affairs and enforcement. In 2011, she was promoted to vice president of enforcement and regulatory affairs, and in 2016 she became the vice president of compliance monitoring and regulatory affairs. In June 2018, the board of directors named Patrick president and CEO. Prior to joining MRO, Patrick served as the director of government affairs for Explore Information Services, LLC, a leading service provider to the property and casualty insurance industry. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Arizona under both the administration of Janet Napolitano (D) and Grant Woods (R).

Early in her career, she honed her legal research skills at Thomson West, a leading provider of legal reference materials. She is a graduate of the Lee Honors College of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI, and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) from the Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington, IN. Patrick is licensed to practice law in Minnesota and Arizona, and is a Certified Information Privacy Professional, Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional, and a member of the Energy Bar Association. She has also completed the University of Idaho Utility Executive Course.

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TOD PODL, PHYSICIAN, UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

Dr. Tod Podl, MD, is a family medicine physician in Cleveland, Ohio, with more than 25 years of clinical experience. He currently practices as a UH Select provider, a membership-based concierge program offering highly personalized primary and premium healthcare services to patients in a high-touch practice environment.

Dr. Podl has previously been affiliated with leading medical institutions, including the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center. He earned his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University.



NIKI SCHAEFER, VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL, RF

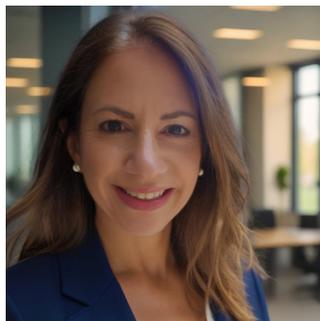
Ms. Schaefer, Vice President and General Counsel, is responsible for providing legal counsel to RF and ensuring that RF effectively executes its Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) functions. In this role, she leads the Legal, Corporate Compliance and Regulatory, Enforcement, and Compliance Monitoring teams.

Prior to returning to RF in this role in 2020, Ms. Schaefer served as counsel to senior leadership teams across multiple business units at Eaton Corporation, supporting more than \$2 billion in revenue. Prior to Eaton, she served as Managing Enforcement Counsel at RF and led the Enforcement team in its work to enforce and ensure the mitigation of violations of the NERC Reliability Standards. Before working in the electric industry, she was a trial lawyer for a large Cleveland law firm litigating commercial and personal injury cases in state and federal courts.

Ms. Schaefer received her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Cornell University, and her JD from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She was named to the 2020 Super Lawyers list by Cleveland Jewish News. Ms. Schaefer volunteers for University Hospital's Partnership for Families and the American Heart Association. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for The Gathering Place, a non-profit that provides free therapeutic services to people with cancer and their loved ones.

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BLUMA SUSSMAN, VICE PRESIDENT, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, NERC

Bluma Sussman is the vice president of the Electricity Sharing and Analysis Center's (E-ISAC) Stakeholder Engagement. In this role, she is responsible for all E-ISAC stakeholder engagement activities, including membership strategy and implementation, engagement programs and activities, communications, products and services, and digital marketing. This includes major E-ISAC events—such as GridSecCon, GridEx, the Vendor Affiliate Program, and industry engagement programs—and sustaining partnerships with stakeholder groups, including the Regional Entities, the Electricity Sector Coordinating Council, trade associations, and other information sharing and analysis centers.

Ms. Sussman is also responsible for overseeing all performance management activities, including E-ISAC Portal maintenance, metrics development and tracking, and budget development and tracking. Throughout her time at NERC, Ms. Sussman has managed and directed the E-ISAC's membership strategy, outreach, and customer experience for the organization's 1,900 member and partner organizations. She joined NERC in April 2018 as associate director of Member Services and also served as director of E-ISAC Membership. Under her leadership, the E-ISAC has seen nearly 100% membership growth and strengthened relations with Canadian and U.S. electricity trade associations. Ms. Sussman was instrumental in implementing stakeholder feedback surveys to inform customer experience enhancements and integral to the creation of the Industry Engagement Program and Vendor Affiliate Program.

Prior to joining NERC, Ms. Sussman was a management consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton, where she led strategy, communications, and change management programs focused on national and homeland security, emergency preparedness, counterterrorism, cyber security, and critical infrastructure protection. Prior to that, Ms. Sussman served at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs, where she conducted media relations and messaging to support international diplomacy efforts.

Ms. Sussman has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Journalism from Brandeis University and a master's degree in Media and Public Affairs from the George Washington University. Ms. Sussman completed the Energy Executive course at the University of Idaho College of Business and Economics and holds a certificate in facilitation from the RIVA Institute. Ms. Sussman is also a founding co-chair of Elevate: The Women's Employee Resource Group at NERC.