

# TOGETHER *We* ACHIEVE MORE

NWIIWA LATE-SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING NWIIWA EVENTS

### NETWORKING WITH HEART: A DIFFERENT KIND OF CONNECTION

HOSTED BY LERNER & ROWE | BENEFITING PHIL'S FRIENDS | AUGUST 13TH



This isn't just networking—it's Networking With Heart. On August 13, we're inviting NWIIWA members and guests to take part in something truly special. This edition of Network & Chill goes beyond the usual handshakes and business cards. We'll be coming together to support Phil's Friends,

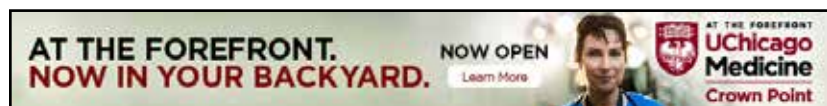
an inspiring nonprofit that delivers care packages and hope to individuals battling cancer.

Together, we'll assemble care packages filled with cozy socks, lip balm, journals, puzzle books, and messages of encouragement—simple comforts that mean everything to someone in treatment. And while we pack, we connect. We share stories. We build relationships that go deeper than business.

Networking With Heart is about leading with purpose and showing up for your community while expanding your circle in the most meaningful way possible.

Spots are limited—sign up now and join us in making a difference.

[Click Here to Register!](#)



## A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION

INFLUENTIAL WOMEN AWARDS BANQUET | MERRILLVILLE, IN | SEPTEMBER 25

The most anticipated celebration of the year is almost here. On September 25, over 900 professionals will gather to honor the women and companies leading change in Northwest Indiana. The Influential Women Awards highlight leadership, resilience, and impact across 13 industries—from business and law to education and healthcare.

Whether you're cheering on a finalist, representing your company, or simply passionate about the advancement of women in our region, this evening promises powerful inspiration and unmatched connection. Tables and sponsorships are nearly sold out, so don't wait—secure your spot now.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

## PARTNER & MEMBER NEWS

### NEW PARTNERSHIPS & MEMBERSHIPS

PREMIER CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

K2 Industrial Services

Moving Sales Forward

ASSOCIATE CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Generate, LLC

Latitude Commercial

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Carrie Greer

Ed Kasza

Gretchen Mercer

Jamie Bump

Janet M Sienicki

Jennifer Cosenza

Jennifer Miga

Jinai Gordon

Lauren Mink

Lydia Kafader

Noemi Adame

Patty Stovall

Teresa Wallace

Whitney Flores

## NWIIWA EVENTS



## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

### MENTORSHIP IN ACTION: MID-PROGRAM REFLECTIONS

This year's NWIIWA Mentorship Program is already making waves. With a dozen mentor and mentee pairs meeting regularly, the connections being built are leading to powerful shifts—career clarity, increased confidence, and invaluable support. From navigating workplace challenges to setting long-term goals, participants are leaning in—and lifting each other up.

### MEET THE MENTEES

Jinai Gordon, Shelby Case  
Theresa Reinholtz, Megan Swick  
Randi Webber, Patricia Martinez,  
Stephany Leonard, Abigail Sikma  
Melissa Bohacek, Jessica Brannagan,  
Mya López Aguayo, Beatriz Herrera

### MEET THE MENTORS

Marisa Valdez, Jeny Burkhart  
Anna Gomez, Michelle McManus,  
Amy Henningfield, Diane Oprea  
Penny Schlyer, Teri Healy  
Lisa Fronek, Julie Wendorf  
Valentine Torres, Mary Wright



## 2025 PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

### WHERE POWER MEETS PURPOSE



It's back—and bolder than ever. The 2025 Professional Women's Conference will deliver real-world tools, unfiltered wisdom, and fresh strategies from some of the fiercest voices in leadership, branding, and growth.

### KEYNOTE SPOTLIGHTS

#### ELYSSA SMITH | PERMISSION TO BE YOU

From people-pleasing to powerful, Elyssa challenges attendees to stop shrinking and start showing up—authentically, boldly, and with intention.

#### SHEREEN THOR | REVOLUTIONARY WOMAN

With humor and heart, Shereen breaks down what it means to lead in a world that wasn't built for us—and how to rewrite the rules without losing yourself.

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS TO ATTEND

**PURPOSEFUL PRODUCTIVITY** - Align your time with what truly matters

**YOU BELONG AT THE TABLE** - Career visibility and brand-building power moves

**POWERFULLY ALIGNED** - When “no” becomes your most strategic “yes”

**STOPPING STRESS IN ITS TRACKS** - Tools to protect your peace and prevent burnout

**BOSS BRAND, QUEEN CONTENT** - Build a bold brand that commands attention

**AGELESS IMPACT** - Thrive at every stage of your career

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### FALL PLANNING TIP: LEAD WITH INTENTION

As we head into Q4, revisit your calendar. What do you want to protect—your time, your focus, your energy? Schedule your priorities before your obligations fill the space. Block a day for deep work. Reserve a lunch for mentorship. Plan one event that stretches your network. Leadership doesn't just happen in big moves—it shows up in how we manage our week.



## MEMBER NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### HOW TO NETWORK LIKE A PRO

Networking is about making authentic, intentional connections. These strategies will help you navigate any event with confidence and purpose.

**DO YOUR HOMEWORK:** Review the attendee list (if available). Having a list of people you want to meet gives you direction—and eases anxiety.

**GO IN WITH A GOAL:** Your goal could be as simple as:

- Meet 3 new people
  - Reconnect with someone you admire
  - Share your current project or role
- Setting a small, achievable goal creates focus and momentum.

**DITCH THE SALES PITCH:** Networking isn't about closing a deal—it's about starting a conversation. Ask open-ended questions like:

- "What brought you to this event?"
- "What projects are you most excited about right now?"

Listen more than you talk. People remember how you made them feel more than what you said.

**WORK THE EDGES, NOT JUST THE CENTER:** Introverts and first-timers often gather along the edges of a room. That's a great place to start a one-on-one chat before easing into larger groups.

**ALWAYS FOLLOW UP:** The real magic happens after the event. Send a short email or LinkedIn message. Mention something you discussed. It's what turns small talk into opportunity.

**BONUS TIP:** Don't try to meet everyone. Focus on meaningful over many—two quality conversations are better than 10 business card swaps.

Do you want to bring the NWIIWA community to your company's space? We're now accepting interest forms for our 2026 Network & Chill events. Whether you'd like to host or have a venue you'd like to offer, this is your opportunity to put your organization at the center of meaningful connection and professional growth.

[Click Here if You're Interested](#)

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Networking Committee

#### HELP US CREATE THE CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

If you love bringing people together, this is your space. The Networking Committee helps plan and support events that foster relationship-building and collaboration among NWIIWA members. From casual mixers to themed professional gatherings, you'll play a key role in designing experiences that connect women in powerful ways.

**GREAT FOR:** Social connectors, event planners, and those who love a good follow-up email

### Ambassador Committee

#### BE A WELCOMING FORCE WITHIN NWIIWA

Our Ambassadors are the heartbeat of our community. This committee helps welcome new members, represents NWIIWA at events, and ensures everyone feels seen, included, and connected. You'll be the friendly face people remember—and the one who makes sure no one sits alone.

**GREAT FOR:** Natural connectors, positive energy bringers, and anyone who believes in the power of a strong first impression

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have professional updates, team wins, or exciting milestones to share? We'd love to feature your news in a future NWIIWA newsletter.

[Submit Your News Here](#)

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

### Elite Partners



### Premier Partner



### Core Partners

