

CENTRAL ILLINOIS HR CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY:



Conference Agenda

Friday, July 31, 2026

Illinois State University

Bone Student Center, Brown Ballroom

7:45 AM *Registration and Networking*
Continental breakfast provided

Breakout Session Room Location Key:

A = Brown Ballroom II, B = Circus Room, C = Old Main Room

8:45 AM *Welcome - General Session*

Phil Brandt, President and CEO AAIM Employers' Association

9:00 AM *Morning Keynote - General Session*

"Dual Fluency: The Leadership Blueprint for the Human + AI Workforce" presented by Lauren Patel, AAIM Employers' Association

10:00 AM *Networking and Break*

10:15 AM *Breakout Session One* (see room location key above)

- A. "HR's Role in AI-Driven Layoffs and Re-skilling Trade-Offs" presented by Julianne Shields
- B. "The Art of Giving and Receiving Feedback" presented by Amber Johnson
- C. "Jerks at Work" presented by Annie Monyok

11:15 AM *Networking and Break*

11:30 AM *Breakout Session Two* (see room location key above)

- A. "Meeting Employee Expectations in 2026: Smart Benefits Strategies" presented by Heather Zeigler Acerra
- B. "Employment Law Update" presented by Jeff Risch
- C. "From Burnout to Balance: Supporting HR Professionals" presented by Tami Ireland

12:30 PM *Lunch - General Session*

1:00 PM *National SHRM Update - General Session*

1:30 PM *Breakout Session Three* (see room location key above)

- A. "I-9 Compliance and ICE Audits" presented by Katherine Del Rosario
- B. "Employment Law Update" presented by Jeff Risch
- C. "Emotional Wellness & Mental Health in the Workplace" presented by Michael Engelhardt

2:30 PM *Networking and Break*

2:45 PM *Afternoon Keynote - General Session*

"Beyond Incivility: Practical Communication Strategies that Work" / Amber Johnson, Bright Threads Leadership Group

3:45 PM *Closing/Thank You - General Session*

50/50 Raffle drawing with proceeds to benefit the SHRM Foundation
Conference and Exhibitor Door Prizes. Must be present to win!

**Thank you to
our Conference
Partners!**



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3. Fill out the requested information and click “Register.”

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* Your Name:	 Please enter your full name.
* United States Cell Phone Number with area code 555-555-1234 (You will receive your password via SMS. Standard messaging rates apply):	 Enter your cell phone number so you can get your password.
* Confirm:	☐ I accept the terms of use
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Guest Login	
Username:	
Password:	
Terms:	☐ I accept the terms of use
Log In	

If you do not receive a text with your credentials you can try to register again, or you can contact the help desk at (309) 438-4357 ithelp@ilstu.edu for more assistance.