

# THE 2026 CHICAGO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE & EXPO

## Her Voice, Her Legacy, Her Power



SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE  
15800 S. State St.  
South Holland IL 60473

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



8:30 am - 9:00 am		Room
Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking		Cafeteria
9:00 am - 10:00 am		PAC
<p><i>Welcome: : Gervaise Edwards, South Suburban College, Manager, Continuing, Cooperate, and Community Education, Conference Chair</i></p> <p><i>Presentation of Star Awards: Rebecca Garcia, South Suburban College, Project Manager, Highway Construction Careers Training Program</i></p> <p><b>Plenary Panel Discussion: Turning Passions into Profits</b></p> <p><i>Patrice Burton, Moderator, Retired Dean of Student Services, South Suburban College, Director, SSC Foundation, 30th Anniversary Board Member, South Holland School District 151 (1995-2025)</i></p> <p><i>Panelists: Dr. Lisa Cook, Practice Owner/Therapist, Life Impact Circles of Wellness</i></p> <p><i>Felicia Clotworthy, Owner, Felicia Clotworthy Collective (FC C)</i></p> <p><i>Faith Mickley, Career and Life Coach, Faith Mickley Enterprises</i></p> <p><i>Erin Dubich, Registered dietitian and professional speaker, Erin Dubich Nutrition</i></p> <p>Description. Is it possible to turn your hobbies into a money-making venture? Get the information you need to do the same during this powerhouse panel discussion!</p>		

Personal Empowerment	Business & Finance	Health & Wellness
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Our presenters will share their knowledge, experiences and perspectives on aspects of women's issues. Exhibitors will provide attendees with opportunities to shop for jewelry, apparel, cosmetics, accessories, nutritional supplements and learn about financial, health and wellness, social and governmental services.

10:15 – 11:00 am • Session One		Room
<p><b>Breaking the Silent Load</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Cassandra Howard</i></p> <p>Many women silently carry emotional, mental, and societal expectations—this session brings those burdens into the light. Through honest conversation and reflection, participants will explore women's mental health, challenge the "strong woman" stereotype, and learn how to release pressure, embrace vulnerability, and prioritize well-being without guilt.</p>		LHC

Personal Empowerment	Business & Finance	Health & Wellness
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10:15 – 11:00 am • Session One		Room
<b>Servant Leadership Leading with Service &amp; Intention</b> <i>Presenter: Patrice Burton</i> Description: Discover the power of leading from a place of purpose, service, and authenticity. This interactive session explores servant leadership and how leading with intention can elevate your confidence, strengthen relationships, and enhance your professional and personal impact. Walk away inspired, empowered, and equipped with practical tools to lead effectively—without burning out.		MB
<b>Financial Leadership: Mastering Money in Your Career and Beyond</b> <i>Presenter: Fifth Third Bank</i> Presenter Description: Gain practical insight into managing your finances with confidence. This session offers valuable tools, tips, and resources to help you make informed financial decisions, strengthen your financial foundation, and plan for a more secure future—personally and professionally.		PAC

11:15am – 12:00 pm • Session Two		Room
<b>From Idea to Action</b> <i>Presenter: Zkiyyah Ali</i> Description: Have an idea you’ve been sitting on? This hands-on workshop helps women move from inspiration to execution. Participants will gain clarity, identify what’s holding them back, and create actionable next steps. Rooted in leadership, voice, and legacy, this session empowers women to trust their perspective, speak with confidence, and take intentional action toward the impact they’re meant to make.		LHC
<b>Unstoppable Women: Whatever it Takes</b> <i>Presenter: Kashaun Parker</i> Presenter Description: This powerful session speaks directly to women who have carried responsibility, overcome adversity, and learned resilience the hard way. “Unstoppable Women” goes beyond motivation, offering real talk, validation, and strategies for standing strong amid pressure, complexity, and change. You’ll leave reminded of your strength—and ready to claim your next level.		MB
<b>U R Enough</b> <i>Presenter: Kalyah Allison</i> Presenter Description: Step into a space of calm, healing, and renewal. This immersive wellness experience combines soothing sound bowls and instruments to help reduce stress, quiet the mind, and restore balance. Participants will be guided through relaxation practices that nurture mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being—because you deserve rest, peace, and care.		PAC

Room	12:00 pm - 12:50 pm • Lunch
Seating Available in Cafeteria	Pick up your lunch in the cafeteria. Shop! Shop! Shop! Please shop our exhibitors. Raffles will be going on throughout the day. Be sure to check your number in the Cafeteria and Performing Arts Center. Final Raffle numbers will be called before the Fashion Show begins.

1:00pm -1:45pm • Session Three		Room
<p><b>The World is Waiting</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Ansonia Smith-Gibbs</i></p> <p>Presenter Description: Your voice matters—and the world needs to hear it. This inspiring session explores what it takes to share your story through podcasting and publishing. Learn how to get started, understand self publishing versus traditional publishing, and discover why your experiences are valuable. Participants will leave motivated and equipped to begin sharing their voice and building a lasting legacy.</p>		LHC
<p><b>Growing Your Leadership Through Networking</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Octavia Matthews</i></p> <p>Description: Networking is more than exchanging business cards—it's about building meaningful connections. This session provides practical, real world strategies for networking effectively at conferences and within professional spaces. Learn how to build relationships that support leadership growth, career advancement, and long term success.</p>		MB
<p><b>Dance Like There's No Tomorrow! (Line Dancing)</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Dawn Avery</i></p> <p>Description: Back by popular demand! Get ready to move, sweat, and smile. Dawn the Dancing Diva brings high energy line dancing that's fun, inclusive, and uplifting. No experience needed—just show up ready to move your body, lift your spirit, and leave feeling energized and empowered.</p>		PAC
2:00 pm – 3:00pm Fashion Show • Shopping • Wrap-Up		Room
<p><b>Dress for Success Fashion Show</b></p> <p><i>Presenter: Deborah Kimball Crosslin</i></p> <p>The Annual Fashion Show brings together students, staff, and community members for a memorable experience that recognizes achievement, builds confidence, and celebrates the unique style and personality of each participant. This event promises to be an engaging and uplifting occasion for all who attend.</p>		PAC



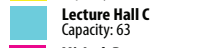



## Women's Conference - March 20, 2026

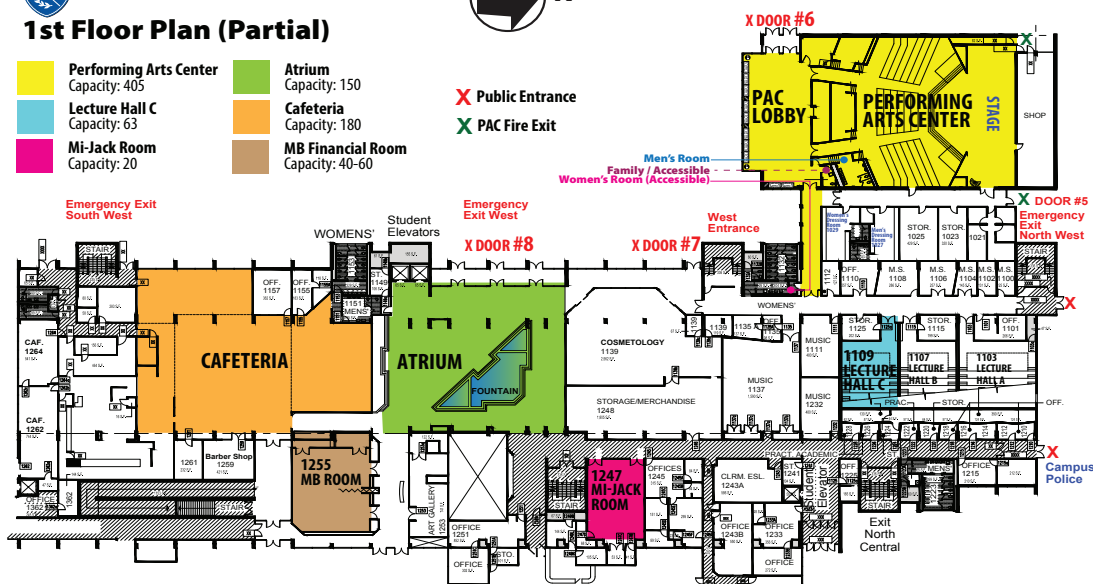



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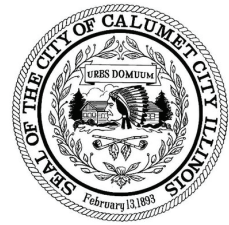


### 1st Floor Plan (Partial)

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|---|--|
|  Performing Arts Center<br>Capacity: 405 |  Atrium<br>Capacity: 150              |
|  Lecture Hall C<br>Capacity: 63          |  Cafeteria<br>Capacity: 180           |
|  Mi-Jack Room<br>Capacity: 20            |  MB Financial Room<br>Capacity: 40-60 |



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Shop! Shop! Shop!		
Angel Avenue Scent Studio	Angie's Traveling Consignment Boutique	Annie's Crafts and Things
Carr & Hill Luxury Property Group	Chic T Boutique	Dorene's Arts & Crafts
Dream Girl Studio Inc.	Embrace You Natural	Fe'tiche Cosmetics
Gift of Hope	Illiana Credit Union	Inpowerimports.com
LGM Publishing	Mary Kay	Nova Path Weight Loss & Wellness Clinics
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