

WELCONNECTED

WOMEN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP | QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1st QUARTER 2026

"The highest calling of leadership is to unlock the potential of others."

- Carly Fiorina, Former CEO, HP



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Cindy Kushner
WEL Founder & President

For this issue, Cindy Kushner, WEL's Founder and President, tackles some questions from our members.

Are organizations like WEL still important today?

Despite many companies rethinking or scaling back their outward support for DEI initiatives, I firmly believe that WEL's mission is as pertinent now as ever. All organizations can benefit from fostering a pipeline of highly qualified women prepared to occupy C-suite and board positions. WEL consistently creates opportunities for networking, training, and peer engagement for individuals, man or woman, aspiring to advance into executive or board roles. Our programs and events are inclusive and accessible to all.

What are you excited about for the upcoming year?

Our Program Committee has put together a fantastic schedule of virtual programs, such as our March programs on incorporating AI into the workplace with strategies for using AI in communications and leadership. Our virtual programs enable us to bring to our members a variety of experts on the topics that are front of mind in a format that is convenient and time-efficient. No need to tackle the traffic to attend!

We also have several in-person events this year, in both South Florida and Tampa. These events range from intimate networking breakfasts to larger events that provide our members with wonderful opportunities to learn, network, and connect.

What we are hearing from members is that they view WEL as an organization that fosters a supportive and safe space for networking, advancement, and impact. WEL aims to foster a supportive community of women leaders across industries, promoting executive advancement, board service, and meaningful impact. Feedback consistently highlights our in-person activities as catalysts for both professional collaborations and enduring friendships.

What else is new at WEL?

We continue to build out our ecosystem to enhance our members' experience. WEL's current ecosystem includes WEL and 3 partner organizations: Athena Alliance (a national community of executives, board directors, investors and entrepreneurs), Leaderboard (includes WEL and 8 other similar member organizations in NY, MI, MD, GA, VA, NC, MA, and PA), and FWOB (Florida Women on Boards). We are currently in discussion with another potential affiliate.

In addition, I am very excited to report that Amelia Waters, Managing Partner at EDSO Edge and WEL President Elect, will assume the role of WEL's President by the end of the year. Amelia has been an enthusiastic addition to our mission with her focus, as Chair of Sponsorship, on increasing our sponsors. In addition, WEL has benefited from Amelia's AI skills, in automating and streamlining our processes, strategic planning, improving our connections with members, and more. Amelia will be a great President, and we look forward to her leadership.

Do you have any favorite spring cleaning hacks?

I'm a big fan of Hanger Strategy: Turn all clothing hangers backward; if you wear the item, turn the hanger around. After six months, donate items still on backward hangers.

You are known for curating and sharing inspirational content. What are some favorites you've shared this quarter?

- *"The more daily intention you have, the more you sense your life is purposeful."* Brendon Burchard
 - *"Fortify your intentions: Your intentions are good, but **good intentions are not enough. They must be translated into specific choices, actions, and priorities.** Find effective ways to keep your good intentions at the top of your awareness. Put them in writing, regularly review them, give time and thought to keep them firmly established within you. **Add small, repeated actions to your daily routines that keep you committed to your intentions.** Feel and express gratitude for where those positive intentions are leading you. It's easy to formulate good intentions in a moment of passion. Yet for those intentions to have any value, they must be integrated into your life. So, refuse to abandon your best intentions. Challenge yourself to put real time and effort into carrying them to fulfillment. Avoid letting distractions and your own rationalizations reduce your intentions to nothing. Fortify them so that you continue to act on them and bring them fully to life."* Ralph Marston
 - *"Sooner or later, those who win are those who think they can."* Richard Bach
-



HERES TO PROGRESS!

THE PIPELINE DETERMINES THE WALLS

As we celebrate **Women's History Month**, it's an opportunity to reflect on the progress women have made—and the work that remains—in the business of the arts.

- As in other industries, **progress in professional advancement often begins with visibility, access, and sustained leadership.**
- The story of women in the arts has long been complex. Today, women represent **more than half of working artists**, yet for many years their work was dramatically underrepresented in the institutions that shape artistic recognition and market value.
- For years, **only around 13% of living artists represented by galleries in Europe and North America were women.** Yet galleries are often where artists gain visibility, build professional networks, and attract institutional attention. Simply put, the pipeline determines the walls.
- Encouragingly, that dynamic is beginning to shift. Today, among the world's highest-spending collectors, **more than half of new acquisitions are works by women.**

[FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)



Please Join Us in WELcoming the Following Members to the WEL Community!

NEWEST SAPPHIRE MEMBERS:

Sam Farrell | CEO, Sam Staff

Harriet Harty | Founder & CEO, Harriet Harty Executive Solutions

Joanne Sullivan | Assistant Vice President for Communications, USF Health



POWERFUL UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



BOCA RATON NETWORKING BREAKFAST

4/22/2026 | 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Don't miss this unique opportunity to build meaningful connections, exchange insights, and enjoy a lively atmosphere with fellow women leaders at SBA Communications' Boca Raton location!

THANK YOU to Our Host Sponsor!



MIAMI NETWORKING BREAKFAST

5/7/2026 | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Don't miss this unique opportunity to build meaningful connections, exchange insights, and enjoy a lively atmosphere with fellow women leaders at Mercer's Brickell Miami location!

THANK YOU to Our Host Sponsor!

Reserve Your Spot Here

MERCER

A MARSH BUSINESS

Reserve Your Spot Here

WEL is planning an exciting lineup for the remainder of 2026, including more powerful panels and quarterly breakfasts. The calendar will be posted soon.

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON - STAY TUNED!

3rd Quarter 2026 | In-Person | Tampa
Networking Breakfast

3rd Quarter 2026 | In-Person | South Florida
Women Entrepreneur Panel Discussion

4th Quarter 2026 | In-Person | South Florida
WEL Signature Event

And be sure to check out all the events open to our WEL community through our Strategic Alliances with Athena Alliance, Florida Women on Boards, and Leaderboard.



We look forward to connecting with you at an event soon!

RAVE REVIEWS

Living a Whole Life: Becoming the Architect of Your Own Next Chapter - Prepare4Growth Podcast Event
1/27/2026 | In-Person | South Florida [Click HERE to listen to the podcast](#)

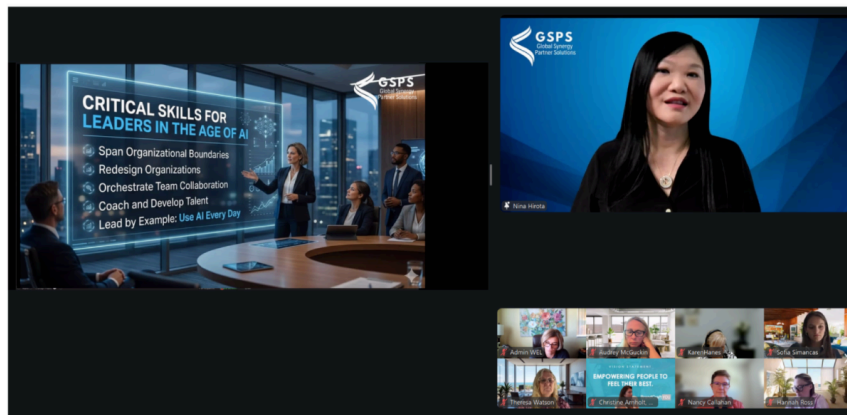
Success isn't just what you achieve. It's alignment, purpose, and impact. At WEL, we explored what it really means to design a life and career that feels authentic, meaningful, and sustainable.





Networking Event hosted by Berger Singerman 1/29/2026 | In-Person | Tampa

An amazing evening of networking and connecting! Thank you to our amazing hostess Jessica Pavlik and Berger Singerman.



VIRTUAL SERIES Shaping Your Professional Profile with AI: Practical Tools for Modern Leadership | 2/5/2026 | Virtual

Rethinking Leadership in the Age of Intelligent Work: Culture, Meaning and Identity | 3/10/2026 | Virtual

From thoughtful discussion to audience engagement and real-time reflection in groups, the session sparked meaningful conversation about how leaders can build AI literacy, embrace an AI-first model, organizational transformation, and the mindset shifts leaders need to navigate what comes next. As AI continues to disrupt the way we work and lead, attendees walked away with greater clarity, practical insight, and renewed confidence in how to move forward.

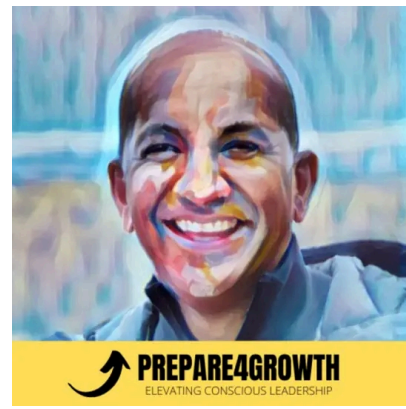
The Power Within: How Leaders Unlock Their Greatest Impact by Feeling Their Best - Prepare4Growth Podcast Event 3/19/2026 | Virtual

Click [HERE](#) to listen to the podcast

This session was a meaningful reminder that our greatest impact starts from within. Through intentionality and self-awareness, even small shifts



to optimize how we feel can create powerful change in how we lead. Participants reflected on the importance of caring for the whole self—mentally, physically, and emotionally—behind the powerful leader. Prioritizing an intentional commitment to healthy lifestyle habits that support quality sleep, exercise, nutrition, stress management, and meaningful relationships, helps create a strong foundation for both personal and professional growth and ensures we show up as powerfully as possible for all that truly matters.



WEL DESERVED APPLAUSE



Congratulations to Harriet Harty and Deborah Shelton for their well-deserved recognitions!

If you have received a promotion, award, or other celebration-worthy recognition, we want to be among the first to congratulate and celebrate YOU!

Please email Admin@WELFlorida.org if you would like to be featured in our newsletter or social media.



A Warm WELcome to Our Newest Silver Partners

We're delighted to recognize three outstanding organizations for their meaningful commitment to WEL Florida and the advancement of executive women throughout 2025. Their support, both financial and in-kind, made a real difference for our members and the work we do together.

Please join us in welcoming our new Silver Partners:

- Berger Singerman
- Mercer
- Right Management

Introducing the WEL Partner Pathway

WEL Florida is pleased to introduce the Partner Pathway, a new sponsorship recognition program launching in 2026.

Organizations that sponsor WEL events throughout the year build momentum toward formal partner status recognition in the following year. This approach allows companies to deepen their engagement with our community over time, with their cumulative support reflected in the partner acknowledgement they receive.

The Partner Pathway is designed to create lasting, meaningful relationships between WEL Florida and the organizations that share our commitment to advancing executive women across Florida.

For information on 2026 WEL event sponsorship opportunities, please contact our [Partners & Sponsors Committee](#).

READY TO ELEVATE YOUR CAREER?

**[LEARN MORE ABOUT FLORIDA DIAMOND - CLICK
HERE](#)**

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

FOLLOW US

To enjoy the latest on leadership events, member spotlights, community highlights, and other resources to elevate your leadership journey.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

Silver Partners

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A MARSH BUSINESS



Changed email address or having problems logging in?

Email our amazing Administrator Chandra Tracy: Admin@WELFlorida.org.

Update Your Membership Profile at WELFlorida.org.



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