



Boundless Together

The



of



The Annual Conference of the
OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT



University
of Rochester

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With Thanks

*University President
Sarah C. Mangelsdorf,
Loretta J. Ross, Simeon
Banister, Lucia D.
Colindres-Vasquez, Brian
Lewis, Rev. Dr. Melany J.
Silas-Chandler, Antoine
Byers, Kit Miller, Traci
Terrance, Breakout
Session Presenters,
Serena Harrington and
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Guzmán-Rea, Mariela
León-Thomas, and
Isabel Chandler*

Schedule at a Glance

8:00-9:00 **Check-In**

9:00-9:25 **Welcome Remarks**

Adrienne Morgan, Richard Feldman Vice President of Engagement and Enrichment

Antoine Byers '28, President, Students' Association Government

Sarah C. Mangelsdorf, University of Rochester President and G. Robert Witmer, Jr. University Professor

9:30-10:30 **Fireside Chat**

Panelists: Simeon Banister, Lucia D. Colindres-Vasquez, Brian Lewis, Rev. Dr. Melany J. Silas-Chandler

Facilitated by Sarah C. Mangelsdorf, University of Rochester President and G. Robert Witmer, Jr. University Professor

10:30-10:45: Transition Time

10:45-12:00 **Morning Breakout Sessions**

12:00-12:45 **Lunch**

12:45-1:00: Transition Time

1:00-2:15 **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

2:15-2:30: Transition Time

2:30-3:30 **Keynote Address**

Keynote Speaker: Loretta J. Ross

Q&A Facilitated by Traci Terrance, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine, Clinical & Translational Science Institute, & Director of Restorative Practice Initiatives, Office of University Engagement and Enrichment and Kit Miller, Associate Director of Restorative Practice Initiatives, Office of University Engagement and Enrichment

3:30-4:30 **Networking Reception and Book Signing**

Welcome

Dear Friends,

It gives me great joy to welcome you to the 2026 Boundless Together Annual Conference. Today we gather to connect with one another on some of the most pressing issues facing our University and Rochester community. Gatherings like this hold enormous potential, and this year's theme, "The Power of Us," reflects what becomes possible when we come together.

There's an energy in the air at this conference. You'll feel it in our expertly facilitated breakout sessions, in the hallways and foyers, and in the conversations around every table. Each of these encounters holds incredible possibility.

Together, we have the power to build a community where people have the skills to speak with one another, even when they disagree. It's a community where listening is valued as much as speaking, where curiosity replaces assumption, and where difference becomes a source of strength rather than division.

As you move through today, make the most of every moment. Bring your questions and your curiosity, seek out someone new, and stay open to what you might learn. Real change grows when many voices unite. It begins with us.

Thank you for being here. Let's discover what we can build together.

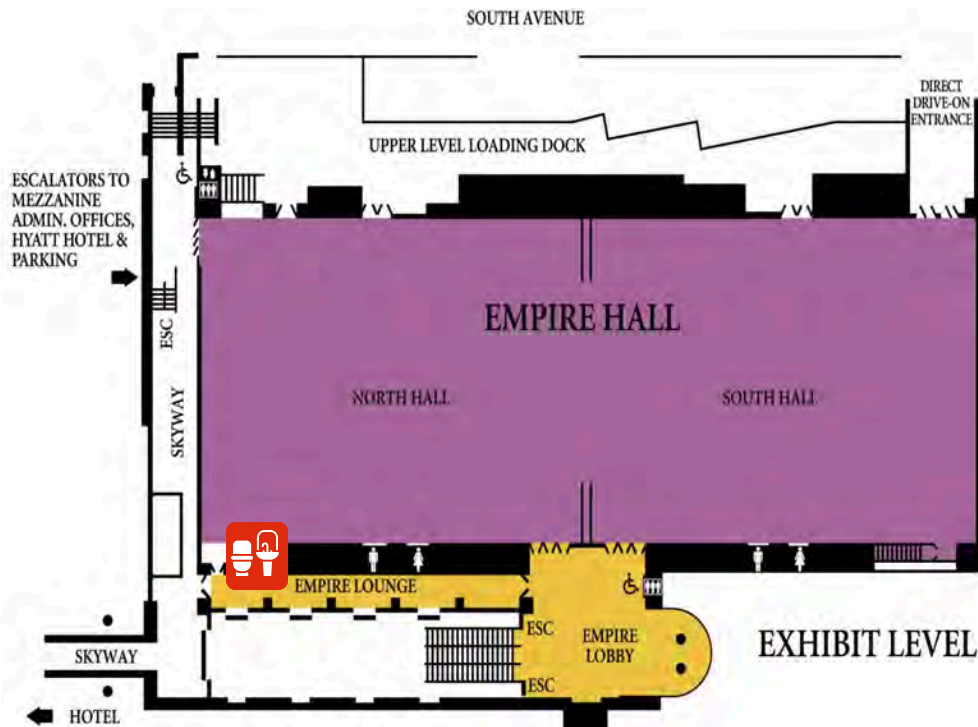
Meliora,

Adrienne Morgan, PhD

Richard Feldman Vice President of
Engagement and Enrichment



Convention Center Map



Empire Hall is on the upper Exhibit Level. Visitors can take the escalator up from street level to the Empire Lobby, where they can turn left to enter Empire Hall. There are restrooms, including an all gender restroom, along the back wall of Empire Hall.

Breakout Session rooms are on the lower Street Level. Visitors can enter the Grand Lilac Ballrooms from the main lobby Galleria, or continue down the West Corridor to access Riverside Court, Highland, Aqueduct, and Cascade rooms. A lactation space is at the North end of the West Corridor, and all-gender restrooms are at each end of the West Corridor.



 Riverside Court is available as a Quiet Area and Networking Space throughout the day.



All Gender Restrooms
Exhibit Level &
Street Level



Lactation Space
Street Level



Prayer Space
Aqueduct A/B

Continuing Education Credits

CME

Accreditation: The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Certification: The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry designates this live activity for a maximum of 2.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

CNE

University of Rochester Medicine is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This offering provides 2.5 ANCC CNE credits. Must be present for 90% of the CNE Activity. Please complete the program evaluation within 30 days to receive CNE Certificate.

NYSED Social Work

University of Rochester Medical Center, Center for Experiential Learning is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0005. This course has been approved for 2.50 contact hours. Attendance at the entire program is required (no partial credit can be awarded).

NYSED Psychology

University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Psychiatry is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0117. This course has been approved for 2.50 contact hours. Attendance at the entire program is required (no partial credit can be awarded).

NYSED LMHC

Strong Memorial Hospital, Strong Recovery is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors #MHC-0250. This course has been approved for 2.50 contact hours. Attendance at the entire program is required (no partial credit can be awarded).

Visit https://universityrochester.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dipQ8sb84KCPEoK
or scan the QR code to access the evaluation form.
Evaluations must be completed within 30 days.



Featured Speakers

Loretta J. Ross is a nationally renowned activist, public intellectual, and professor whose work over the past five decades has transformed how we think about human rights, equity, and social change. A sought-after speaker and strategist, she helps leaders, institutions, and communities navigate complexity with courage, clarity, and compassion. She is among the most prominent voices of “Calling In,” a transformative approach that invites empathy, accountability, and grace into difficult conversations. Her newest book, *Calling In: How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel* (2025), builds on her nationally acclaimed work challenging cancel culture and offering a more compassionate framework for fostering dialogue across difference. As a 2022 MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, Loretta is helping redefine what it means to do justice work in our polarized times.

Loretta’s activism began in the 1970s, and in 1978 she became the third executive director of the DC Rape Crisis Center, the first of its kind in the United States. Her work there addressing sexual violence, particularly within communities of color, helped lay the foundation for what would later become the #MeToo movement. This formative experience grounded her in the women’s movement and introduced her to the intersections of reproductive rights, racial justice, and anti-violence advocacy. She went on to co-found the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective and held leadership roles with the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Black Women’s Health Project, and the National Anti-Klan Network. In 1996, she founded the Center for Human Rights Education—the first organization of its kind in the U.S.—to promote human rights as a unifying framework for social justice, emphasizing collaboration over division.

She is the co-author of three influential books on reproductive justice: *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*, *Reproductive Justice: An Introduction*, and *Radical Reproductive Justice: Foundations, Theory, Practice, Critique*. She is currently an Associate Professor at Smith College, where she continues to inspire students, educators, and changemakers to lead with empathy, strategy, and collective purpose.

In 2023, she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

Loretta J. Ross
Keynote Speaker



Fireside Chat Panelists

Simeon Banister became president and CEO of Rochester Area Community Foundation on Oct. 1, 2022. Since joining the Foundation in 2017, he has served as program officer for equity, vice president of Community Programs, and executive vice president. Prior to the Foundation, his career spanned public service, higher education, and private sector leadership. Banister helped establish the North Star Coalition, advancing equitable economic opportunity across the region. He has been recognized by Rochester Business Journal's Forty Under 40 and Power 100 lists, and City & State New York's Western New York Power 100. He is a graduate of North Carolina Central University and Princeton Theological Seminary.



Over the past two years, Simeon Banister has earned regional and national recognition for his leadership in philanthropy, equity, and community development. He has been named to Rochester Business Journal's Power 100 list for four consecutive years and was recognized on the publication's Environmental Leadership Power List for advancing climate and equity initiatives. In 2024, he accepted the HUD Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships on behalf of Rochester Area Community Foundation and the RENEW initiative. In 2026, he received leadership recognition from the Rochester Professional Consultants Network. Banister is also a sought-after speaker on equity, community development, climate resilience, and social innovation.

Lucia Colindres-Vasquez is the Chief Operating Officer at Ibero-American Action League, Inc., where she provides strategic operational leadership for a diverse portfolio of health, human services, early childhood, workforce development, disability services, and community-based programs throughout the Finger Lakes and Capital Region/Mohawk Valley.

With more than 25 years of experience in community health and human services, Lucia has dedicated her career to strengthening access to care, empowering families, advancing health equity, and developing sustainable programs that respond to the needs of underserved communities. Her leadership also focuses on workforce development, quality improvement, organizational growth, and building strong community partnerships. Before joining Ibero, Lucia worked with Rochester Regional Health, where she led the Community Health Worker (CHW) DSRIP initiative, the National Health Service Corps, and supported several Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) initiatives, including the development of the Multicultural Resource Center at the Wilson Multicultural Medical Campus.

A Community Health Worker herself, Lucia is a founder and active leader of the Community Health Workers Association of Rochester (CHWAR) and was among the early CHW leaders involved with the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW). She continues to champion the professionalization and advancement of the CHW workforce through training, career pathways, partnerships, and apprenticeship opportunities.

Lucia holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Science–Sociology from SUNY Brockport, a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Roberts Wesleyan College, and a Family Development Credential from Cornell University.



Brian Lewis is a cradle-to-career senior executive, professor, and equity advocate with 20 years of experience advancing social justice and improved outcomes for youth. He is currently Executive Director of Roc the Future Alliance, a place-based cradle-to-career initiative, that he has scaled to grow the backbone team and double revenue while guiding the alliance to national recognition.

Previously, Brian led a signature diversion program in New York City, directing a five-year growth plan that quadrupled reach and revenue. He was appointed by DA Alvin Bragg to lead his transitional task force, setting juvenile justice priorities for the DA's first 100 days. His career spans direct service, program leadership, and executive management, centered on removing systemic barriers, shifting power, and improving outcomes for marginalized populations..

Brian has taught at The New School, New York University, John Jay College, and Monroe Community College on nonprofit leadership, social innovation, equity, and criminal justice. He is a Harvard University Cradle to Career Fellow and an Oxford University Global Male Education Leaders of Color Fellow. He holds an M.A. in Urban Education from CUNY Graduate Center and a B.A. from The New School. Brian lives in Rochester, NY, as a father, partner, and community leader.



Rev. Dr. Melany J. Silas-Chandler is an educator, pastor, author, counselor, and nonprofit leader dedicated to advancing mental health, faith, and community transformation. She serves as Senior Pastor of Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, where her ministry emphasizes spiritual growth, healing, and practical discipleship. She is also a Full Professor at Monroe Community College, where she has taught for more than two decades and developed innovative courses in Emotional Wellness, Death and Dying, and Black Women's Mental Health and Wellness.

Dr. Silas-Chandler is the Founder and Executive Director of BreatheDeep, Inc., a nonprofit organization committed to increasing access to culturally responsive mental health education, counseling, wellness programming, and youth leadership development. Through BreatheDeep, she has led initiatives that have impacted thousands of youth, families, professionals, and community members across New York.



She holds a Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education from Syracuse University, a Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, a Master of Science in Counseling and Human Development and a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Society from the University of Rochester. A sought-after speaker, trainer, and consultant, Dr. Silas-Chandler is passionate about helping individuals and organizations build resilience, foster hope, and create lasting change. Whether teaching, preaching, writing, or leading, her mission is to equip others to heal, thrive, and live with purpose.

Morning Breakout Sessions

Room Location	Session Title & Presenters
Cascade A/B	Unexpected Partners: Building Collaboration Through Shared-Space Disruption Rebecca Johnson, MS, RN, CCRN, PCCN, NPD-BC, Christopher Burleigh, RN, CCRN, Taylor Lombardo, RN, Allison Reitmeier, MS, RN, MEDSURG-BC
Cascade C/D	Action in Concert: Convening with Purpose Megan Lovely, MFA, Candice Lucas, EdD, Dave Harker, PhD
Aqueduct C/D	Bringing the World to the Classroom: A University Partnership Model for Reciprocal International Teacher Exchange Hairong Shang-Butler, PhD, Dharen Jake Garcia, MAEd, Jasmine Sibayan, PhD, Neema Parekh, MA
Highland A/K	Nurturing and Nourishing Self-Care: How we can Prevent and Heal Burnout Megan Honeck, BA
Highland B/J	Us vs the Problem: Developing a Restorative Community Kit Miller, Sean Watson, MS, Kaitlin Legg, MEd
Highland C/H	From Behavior to Meaning: The Role of Support Services in Strengthening Family and Provider Partnerships Shareta Parker, FPA-P, Jerard Johnson, CCM, Tyisha Phillips-Lewin, MS, MHC, NCC, Chassity Phelps, FPA-P
Highland D/G	Listening as Strategy: Using Community Voice to Drive Maternal Health Change Danielle Jones, LMHC, CD, Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, MS, Rebecca O'Loughlin, MPH, Laura Stamm, PhD
Highland E/F	From Survival to Sustainability: Reclaiming Hope Through Identity-Affirming Supervision and Collective Care Felicia R. Reed-Watt, LCSW-R, MS, Frankie Sampson, LMSW, CASAC Master Counselor
Grand Lilac Ballroom N	Let's Meet in the Music: Understanding Autism and Neurodivergence through the World of Science and Song David Greenberg, PhD, Laura Silverman, PhD, Emily Knight, MD, Dana Benoit, MBA, MT-BC
Grand Lilac Ballroom S	The Human Side of Teams: Roles, Relationships, and Results Courtney Floom, MA

The University of Rochester is pleased to welcome the listed individuals to present at the 2026 Boundless Together Conference. Speakers at this conference talk about issues of importance relevant to their work and in doing so the views, thoughts, and opinions they express are their own and not necessarily those of their employer, organization, committee, or any other group or individual, including the University of Rochester.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Room Location	Session Title & Presenters
Cascade A/B	Building Connection and Community Through Social Media Use Sarah Corsette, MS, RN, MEDSURG-BC, E. Kate Valcin, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, CCRN, CNL, FCCM, Eric Dolan
Cascade C/D	Prescription - Play! Meghan Plate, MA, Heather Reyes, MD, MEng
Cascade E/F	Teaching Health Beyond Health Care Delivery through Community-Engaged Learning: Learning about Equity through Lived Experiences Theresa Green, PhD, MBA, MS, Jodi Cook, MS, Ebony Eli
Aqueduct C/D	The Power of Partnership: Strengthening Language Access Together Jason Hubbard, CHI™-Spanish, Telva Olivares, MD, Morgan Underwood, MS, Roxana Ramirez, MS, Patricia Leadley, CHI™-Spanish
Highland A/K	Claiming Our Seat at the Table: A New Dream for Monroe County Candice Lucas, EdD, Thomas Green, EdD, MSL, BCS, PMP, Melissa Carlson, Donna Harris, PhD
Highland B/J	Welcoming and Supporting All Babies in Monroe County: The ROC Family Health Initiative Laura Jean Shipley, MD, Jaime Saunders, MPA, Jeff Kaczorowski, MD, LeKeyah Wilson, MD
Highland C/H	The Power of Us: Campus Action Planning for Community Engagement Glenn Cerosaletti, MA, Shaun Nelms, EdD, Laura Sugarwala, MBA, RD
Highland D/G	It Takes a Community: Lessons From Building a Connected System of Care for Student Mental Health Tamara Sheppard, LCSW, MEd, Crystal Clark, Victoria Tilbe, DSW, LCSW-R
Highland E/F	Building Something Better: A Comprehensive Conflict Resolution Protocol Candice O'Connor, MPH, Rachel McLauchlin, MPH, David Sanchez
Grand Lilac Ballroom N	Debate or Dialogue: Practicing the Tools of Constructive Conversation Desmond Davis, LMSW, Gerlander McCauley
Grand Lilac Ballroom S	The Power of Mattering: When People Matter, Communities Flourish Michelle Lewis, MEd

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*“I would unite with anybody to do right
and with nobody to do wrong.”*

— Frederick Douglass



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