

AIHA × WHAT WORKS INSTITUTE · MAY 31 – JUNE 1, 2026



Where Executive Insight Meets Innovation

EVENT PROGRAM

DATES

May 31 – June 1, 2026

LOCATION

Hilton Riverside, St. James Room (May 31)

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Room 398-399 (June 1)

New Orleans, Louisiana

FORMAT

Invitation only · ~60 senior leaders

A NOTE FROM YOUR HOSTS

Welcome to CEE26.

A small room, on purpose. Two days of structured peer dialogue, designed to produce something more useful than another list of challenges.

We are still trying to solve the same problems in 2026 that the field was working on a decade ago. That sentence is the reason this room exists. Not as a complaint - as a working premise. If a decade of conferences, frameworks, and credentials has not moved the needle as far as we hoped, then something about how we have been gathering needs to be different.

So we built something different. CEE26 is structured around small-table dialogue rather than broadcast content. Sunday afternoon, the room rotates five times through one space - lunch, then Human, Tech, and Solutions tables across the themes that matter most to you, then a conversation that carries into the reception. Each table runs the same arc and feeds the same template. The captures compound into a live (and later published) synthesis brief authored by the room and useful in your own organization.

The architecture has a specific approach built in. Every theme runs in three lanes, Human, Tech, and Solutions, sequentially. We have spent ten years addressing these in isolation and wondering why the field hasn't moved. The opening panel makes the case for why integration matters. The architecture of the day is the case in built form.

One last note. We're here today in New Orleans, and every good gathering should be informed by where it's held. The city itself is perhaps the longest-running case study the field has on resiliency, governance, and the gap between formal systems and the people who live and work inside them. Lagniappe - the Creole term for "a little something extra" - runs through this event as a working principle. We hope you enjoy it.

John Dony CEO & CO-FOUNDER · WHAT WORKS INSTITUTE

Larry Sloan CEO · AIHA

Two sides of the same coin.

*Human and Technology challenges are not solved in sequence.
They are the two dimensions every executive question now requires.*

Each of the next two days is built around five cross-cutting themes - Data and Measurement; Governance, Risk and Decision Rights; Adoption, Scale and Change; Trust, Culture and the Business Case; and Skills and the Human-Tech Interface. Each theme runs across two lanes before discussing solutions. The Human side asks questions about voice, trust, and capability. The Tech side asks questions about systems, signals, and architecture. Both ask the same underlying question: what are we actually trying to govern, and how would we know if it worked?

The pairing is the point. The worker the OEHS field designed for in 1971 – one job, one building, one employer, risks theoretically easy to see – is not the worker walking into the operating environment in 2026. The 2026 worker is carrying recessions, a pandemic, an always-on phone, gig work, caregiving for a parent, and a psychosocial load none of our legacy instruments were built to detect. She comes to work already hurt(ing). We don't yet have a metric for that hurt – and we won't build one inside a Human-only conference or a Tech-only conference. We'll build it, if we build it, in a room that holds both.

That is also why the binary between Tech and Human is dead in the same sense the binary between rote and judgment is dead. The 80% of OEHS work that has historically been rote – the paperwork the technology can finally absorb – is what has been crowding out the 80% that should be judgment. Sorting that out is not a Human problem and it is not a Tech problem; it is both, simultaneously. The risk register and the engagement survey describe the same workforce from two angles, and the executive who reads both well is the one whose programs will hold under strain. We have spent a decade running these discussions as separate conversations and conferences. This room is the alternative.

The Solutions lane is a third presence in the room. Solutions facilitators are not running product demos; they are convening implementation conversations that are calibrated to what is actually surfacing in the Human and Tech tables that day. Treat them as practitioners, not vendors. Most of them have spent more time inside operating organizations than inside their current ones, and tend to have a wide view of what's currently taking place in the field.

We mentioned lagniappe our letter above. It is our working belief about how the best programs run: leave room for the unscripted thing. That is where most of the durable insight has historically come from. So please, speak freely; speak honestly, speak passionately. And encourage others to do so too. That's the spirit of New Orleans.

“You're not in here to listen - you're in here to talk.”

THE TWO DAYS

Program at a glance.

Times approximate and subject to change.

SUNDAY · MAY 31 · HILTON RIVERSIDE, ST. JAMES ROOM

- 11:30 AM Networking lunch** *Tarot draw seeds the table*
- 12:30 PM Introduction & opening remarks** *John Dony (What Works Institute)*
- 12:50 PM Opening panel** *Mei-Li Lin (DEKRA) · Joe Stough (FlyGuys) · LaKisha Wilson (Southwire)*
- 1:45 PM Rotation I · Human** *Theme-led, Human-lane. Jane Beaudry (Jacobs)*
- 2:50 PM Rotation II · Tech** *Theme-led, Tech-lane. Marty Cohen (Unv. of Washington)*
- 3:55 PM Rotation III · Solutions** *Theme-led, partner-anchored.*
- 5:00 PM Closing Remarks, Reception opens** *Eight pieces. Find those with yours*
- 6:15 PM Reception remarks** *The lesson revealed*
- 6:30 PM Wind-down** *Drinks and conversation wrap up*

MONDAY · JUNE 1 · MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER, ROOM 398

- 7:00 AM Sip & CEE coffee bar** *See what the room authored yesterday*
- 8:00 AM AIHA Connect Opening** *VIP seating held for CEE26 attendees.*
- 10:00 AM Reconvene & welcome** *Larry Sloan. Five-minute frame.*
- 10:05 AM Late Show/Fireside** *Kevin Ferguson (Office of the Mayor, City of New Orleans) · Karl Fasold (Orleans Parish Communications District) · Michelle Garner-Janna (What Works Institute)*
- 10:45 AM Closing keynote** *Hamza Khan*
- 11:30 AM Close** *Lunch options available locally*

Sunday May 31 - Hilton Riverside

11:30 AM Networking lunch

A Tarot deck seeds the conversation – draw from a thirteen-card deck whose conceptual anchors map to the program's themes. The card you draw opens up avenues for you to meet peers you haven't worked with before, and gives you a single question to open with.

12:30 PM Introduction · John Dony

Twenty minutes, wide-angle. Why are we still solving 2016's problems? What changes when the rote work that has buried the profession becomes the work technology can finally absorb? Setting the room up to do what follows.

12:50 PM Opening panel

Mei-Li Lin (DEKRA), Joe Stough (FlyGuys), and LaKisha Wilson (Southwire) open the room. The premise: the Tech and the Human are two halves of the same coin. We have spent a decade addressing them in sequence and wondering why the field hasn't moved. The panel reframes the problem statement so the work that follows can be substantively different. John Dony moderates.

1:45 PM Rotation I · Human

Theme-led, Human-leaning lane. The human-worker side of your theme - measurement, governance, learning, trust, or skills. 55-minute cadence: intros, strengths, gaps, needs, asks; three lines that survive. Jane Beaudry (Jacobs) provides us with a starting point.

2:50 PM Rotation II · Tech

Same theme, technology side. The conversation rotates; the architecture is built to let it. Marty Cohen (University of Washington) provides us with a starting point.

3:55 PM Rotation III · Solutions

Where surfacing becomes commitment. Each of the ten Solutions partners runs their own table; you join the partner whose anchor matches what your day has surfaced.

5:00 PM Closing Remarks · Reception opens · Puzzler

Reception begins. A piece of art is projected in the room, starting with one of nine visible pieces. The reveal begins at 5:15 over food and drink. Another corner hosts the live capture desk.

6:15 PM Reception remarks

The final piece arrives. The lesson surfaces.

6:30 PM Wind-down

Drinks and conversation. Don't forget your Krewe bags!

Monday June 1 - Convention Center

7:00 AM Sip & CEE

Convention Center room 398-399. Coffee bar; monitors play Sunday back.
A soft start, designed for arrivals on your own timing.

8:00 AM AIHA Connect Opening

Conference begins. CEE26 attendees are escorted to VIP seating for the main-stage opening.

10:00 AM Reconvene - Larry's welcome

CEE26 moves back to room 398 at the Convention Center. Larry Sloan (CEO, AIHA) brings a five-minute frame.

10:05 AM Late Show/Fireside

In conversation with Kevin Ferguson, Chief of Staff to the Mayor of New Orleans. Climate, resilience, and AI in a city that has carried it all. Joined by Karl Fasold, Executive Director, Orleans Parish Communications District at the working interface of the city's public safety infrastructure on how AI is reshaping that work. After, a conversation with Michelle Garner-Janna on personal resilience and the need to build this community for ourselves, in the spirit of the place we gather in.

10:45 AM Closing keynote - Hamza Khan

The spark that carries you out. A fresh perspective to orient the field's next chapter.

11:30 AM Close

Lunch options available locally. Connect continues for those staying through the week.

The conversations.

*Topical tables, each running three lanes of the same dimension in sequence.
Solutions partners mirror the themes one-to-one.*

01 Data, Measurement & Evidence

What counts as proof - and what do we still pretend is proof when it isn't?

HUMAN Defining the Healthy Worker · Measuring Human-Centric Risk

TECH Data Quality & Integration · Performance Metrics & Analytics

SOLUTIONS Worker Voice in the Measurement Frame · Defensible Measurement Infrastructure

02 Governance, Risk & Decision Rights

Who decides - and who is accountable when the system gets it wrong?

HUMAN SIF/HOP, Systems, and Strategy · Leadership and Legal Risks

TECH AI in EHS Maturity & Frameworks · AI Ethics, Governance & Strategy

SOLUTIONS Defensible OEHS Leadership · AI Governance that Survives Audit

03 Adoption, Scale & Change

Why the pilot worked and the rollout didn't.

HUMAN Creating Actionable Learning Loops · Engagement & Risk Tolerance

TECH Use Cases & Lessons Learned · Moving from Pilot-to-Scale

SOLUTIONS Learning Loops the Workforce will Carry · From Pilot to Operating Practice

04 Trust, Culture & the Business Case

The substrate everything else sits on - and the language that gets it funded.

HUMAN Trust & Psychological Safety · Safety Culture for 2026 & Beyond

TECH New Tools & Approaches · Building the Business Case

SOLUTIONS Trust as Investment Infrastructure · The Investment Case that Holds

05 Skills & the Human-Tech Interface

What human capability looks like when the tools change underneath it.

HUMAN Critical Thinking Under AI · Workforce Development & Skills

TECH Human-in-the-Loop Design · Preparing the Profession

SOLUTIONS Developing the 2030 Practitioner · Designing Meaningful Human-in-the-Loop

PANELISTS, SPEAKERS, MODERATOR

The voices.

Event moderator

John Dony - CEO & Co-Founder, What Works Institute

Opening panel

Mei-Li Lin - Senior Vice President, Digital Services, DEKRA

Joe Stough - CEO & Chairman, FlyGuys

LaKisha Wilson - Vice President, Environmental, Safety & Security, Southwire

Table lane speakers

Jane Beaudry - HSE Director for Life Sciences North America, Jacobs

Marty Cohen - Professor, University of Washington

Reconvening remarks

Larry Sloan - CEO, AIHA

Late night/fireside

Kevin Ferguson - Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, City of New Orleans

Karl Fasold - Executive Director, Orleans Parish Communications District

Michelle Garner-Janna, CXO & Co-Founder, What Works Institute

Closing keynote

Hamza Khan - Author, Entrepreneur, Speaker

FACILITATORS

Working shoulder to shoulder.

Our facilitators – industry, academia, government, and solutions partners alike – are the glue that holds this room together. They are:

Rotation I · Human-lane tables · Sunday 1:45–2:45 PM

- H1 Jenn Cavallari (UConn Health)** · *Defining the Healthy Worker*
- H2 Chia-Chia Chang (NIOSH)** · *Measuring Human-Centric Risk*
- H3 Richard Smith (Southwire)** · *SIF/HOP, Systems, and Strategy*
- H4 Marc Hendon (LADWP)** · *Leadership and Legal Risks*
- H5 Katie Finnie (Boeing)** · *Creating Actionable Learning Loops*
- H6 Paul Leonard (SinoCelt)** · *Engagement & Risk Tolerance*
- H7 LaKisha Wilson (Southwire)** · *Trust & Psychological Safety*
- H8 Colin Duncan (SPL Labs)** · *Safety Culture for 2026 & Beyond*
- H9 Michelle-Garner Janna (What Works Institute)** · *Critical Thinking Under AI*
- H10 Jane Beaudry (Jacobs)** · *Workforce Development & Skills*

Rotation II · Tech-lane tables · Sunday 2:50–3:50 PM

- T1 Gary Rosenblum (California State University, Sacramento)** · *Data Quality & Integration*
- T2 Martha Lara (Illumina)** · *Performance Metrics & Analytics*
- T3 Mei-Li Lin (DEKRA)** · *AI in EHS Maturity & Frameworks*
- T4 Joe Stough (FlyGuys)** · *AI Ethics, Governance & Strategy*
- T5 Vanessa Brady (Charles River Laboratories)** · *Use Cases & Lessons Learned*
- T6 Marty Cohen (University of Washington)** · *Moving from Pilot-to-Scale*
- T7 Laura Ambrose (Retired, Dow/Unilever)** · *New Tools & Approaches*
- T8 Eric White (AbbVie)** · *Building the Business Case*
- T9 Michelle Garner-Janna (What Works Institute)** · *Human-in-the-Loop Design*
- T10 Madeline Demo (ENGIE)** · *Preparing the Profession*

Rotation III · Solutions / Taking Action · Sunday 3:55–4:55 PM

- S1 Donovan Hornsby (Benchmark Gensuite)** · *Defensible Measurement Infrastructure*
- S2 Rachael Cooper** · *Worker Voice in the Measurement Frame*
- S3 Mike Smith (DEKRA)** · *AI Governance That Survives Audit*
- S4 Ralph Dado, III (Aronberg Goldgehn)** · *Defensible OEHS Leadership*
- S5 Heather Chapman (CompScience)** · *From Pilot to Operating Practice*
- S6 Justine Parker (Stantec)** · *Learning Loops the Workforce Will Carry*
- S7 Catryna Jackson (Evotix)** · *The Investment Case That Holds*
- S8 Nic Patee (Work Right NW)** · *Trust as Investment Infrastructure*
- S9 Tom West (MakuSafe)** · *Designing Meaningful Human-in-the-Loop*
- S10 Keith Bowers (Bowers Management Analytics)** · *Developing the 2030 Practitioner*

WHO'S IN THE ROOM

The attendees.

Laura Ambrose

Chief Safety Health and
Environmental Officer
Unilever (Retired)

Jane Beaudry

HSE Director for Life Sciences
North America
Jacobs

Felix Boachie

Global Safety Health and
Environmental Director
McCormick & Company

Eltaneice Bolden

Global Industrial Hygiene Manager
General Motors

Tony Boone

Director, Environmental
Occupational Safety and Health
San Francisco Fire Department

Keith Bowers

President
Bowers Management Analytics

Vanessa Brady

Director, Global EHS&S
Charles River Laboratories

Erin Breece

Program Director, Education
AIHA

Kent Candee

IH Team Lead
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Jenn Cavallari

Associate Professor, Public Health
Sciences
UCHC

Chia-Chia Chang

Public Health Analyst
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health

Heather Chapman

Advisor
CompScience

Bethany Chirico

CXO
AIHA

Marty Cohen

Teaching Professor, Dir. of Field
Res. and Consult. Group., Asst.
Chair for Stakeholder Engagement
University of Washington

Subena Colligan

Principal
EHS Transformation Consultants

Samantha Connell

Group Health Programs Director
Indorama Ventures

Rachael Cooper

Public & Community Health Expert

Ralph Dado

Member
Aronberg Goldgehn

Madeline Demo

Senior Strategic Advisor - GBU
Local Energy Infrastructures
ENGIE

John Dony

CEO & Co-Founder
What Works Institute

Colin Duncan

CEO
SPL Labs

Michael Dupuis

Director, Corporate OE Safety and
Health
Chevron Phillips Chemical

Sergio Estavillo Ortiz

CEO
Grupo STE

Jeanne Fallon-Carine

Vice President EHS & Sustainability
GXO

Karl Fasold

Executive Director
Orleans Parish Communications
District

Kevin Ferguson

Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
City of New Orleans

Katie Finnie

Director, Environment, Health, and
Safety
Boeing

Natalie Fox

Group Safety & Environmental
Director
Indorama Ventures

Michelle Garner-Janna

CXO & Co-Founder
What Works Institute

Paul Gibson

Director, Customer Success
What Works Institute

Marc Hendon

Risk Manager and Director of
Corporate Health and Safety
LADWP

Donavan Hornsby

Chief Strategy Officer
Benchmark Gensuite

Catryna Jackson

Global EHS & Sustainability
Product and Solutions Advisor
Evotix

Hamza Khan

Author, Entrepreneur, and Speaker

Martha Lara

Associate Director, Global
Environment, Health and Safety
Illumina

Paul Leonard

Principal
SinoCelt LLC

Mei-Li Lin

Senior Vice President - Digital
Services
DEKRA

Maureen Malachowski

Director, Environmental Health and
Safety
University of Pennsylvania

Kyle Naylor

Director, Health & Safety Programs
Coeur Mining

Stephen Ndiritu

Executive Director, Environment
Health and Safety
Kennesaw State University

Lan Nguyen Thi

Directrice, Service des immeubles
et de la protection
Collège La Cité

Alla Orlova

CLO
AIHA

Justine Parker

Director, HSSE Services
Stantec

Nic Patee

CEO
Work Right NW, Inc.

Ben Roberts

Managing Risk Scientist
Benchmark Risk Group

Gary Rosenblum

Associate Vice President, Risk
Management
California State University,
Sacramento

Pauline Rotich

Senior Director - Global EHS Leader
Microsoft

Ed Rutkowski

Director, Periodicals / Editor in
Chief, The Synergist
AIHA

Jennifer Schuster

Director Industrial Hygiene
BAE Systems Inc

Michael Sheppard

Global Ergonomics Manager
3M

Jennifer Shin

Systems & Enablement Manager
ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences,
Inc.

Larry Sloan

CEO
AIHA

Mike Smith

Senior Vice President, Head of
Innovation & Integration
DEKRA

Richard Smith

Director, EHS
Southwire

David Sotero Rodriguez Marin

President
Asociación Mexicana de Higiene
Industrial, A.C.

Joe Stough

CEO & Chairman
FlyGuys

Wayne Taketa

Occupational Health and Safety
Director
San Francisco Department of
Public Health

Tanya Vandermoon

Director, Events & Engagement
What Works Institute

Jun Wang

Graduate Program Director
University of Cincinnati

Tom West

Vice President, Global Practice
Leader
MakuSafe

Eric White

Associate Director - EHS Tech
Center
AbbVie

LaKisha Wilson

Vice President, Environmental,
Safety & Security
Southwire

AFTER THE EVENT

What happens after Monday.

CEE26 is the working session. The synthesis report and the relationships that come out of it are where the value compounds. A few specific ways to keep the conversation going:

The synthesis report

A post-event report authored from the room's table captures lands in your inbox. It is built to be useful in your own organization - not a recap, a working document.

A year of engagement

AIHA, What Works, and solutions facilitators have a year of conversations, workshops, and outputs planned for the group, and those who join us in the months ahead. The work we do over these two days will continue, as both a premise and a promise.

Stay close to AIHA & WWi

AIHA and WWi's ongoing work in member engagement, benchmarking, research, advocacy, standards, and practitioner development are the ground beneath this program. Renew or upgrade your engagement at aiha.org and whatworksinstitute.com

Contact

John Dony (john@whatworksinstitute.com)

Tanya Vandermoon (tanya@whatworksinstitute.com)