



ICSB World Congress 2026

Women CEO Program

Five Strategic Themes for Impact & Growth

June 29 – July 2, 2026 • Hybrid, hosted in Washington, D.C.

Redefining women's leadership beyond the C-suite—activating retired and transitioning women CEOs as economic architects shaping the future of work.



About the Program

ICSB and the Women Presidents Organization (WPO) are proud to announce the ICSB World Congress 2026 Women CEO Program—a high-level leadership experience designed for women founders and CEOs navigating growth, transition, and long-term impact. This program goes beyond the C-suite. It empowers women CEOs to serve as economic architects, building enterprises that scale, sustain, transition, and drive systems change.

Program Leadership

Camille Burns
CEO, Women Presidents Organization

Dr. Rico Baldegger
Global Entrepreneurship Leader &
Academic Strategist

Dr. Ayman ElTarabishy
President & CEO, ICSB

How It Works

Focused Cohorts Participants are grouped by leadership stage—exit planning, scaling, sales, culture, or government contracting—creating trusted spaces for candid dialogue, peer learning, and actionable insights.

GLOCAL Approach Global in reach, local in depth. Uniting the ICSB and WPO communities into one dynamic leadership ecosystem—igniting a global movement of women CEOs rising together.

Strategic Themes

Each theme addresses a critical inflection point in the lifecycle of women-led enterprises—forming a comprehensive framework for professional development, peer learning, and economic impact.

01 Planning for Exit

Building Businesses Worth Passing On

Women CEOs are increasingly focused on building enterprises that deliver both financial returns and an enduring legacy. Effective exit planning demands strategic foresight, robust succession frameworks, and a clear understanding of business valuation. Yet only approximately 1% of women-owned businesses successfully execute an exit.

KEY INSIGHT:

Only ~1% of women-owned businesses complete an exit. Closing this gap requires targeted planning resources, mentorship, and ecosystem support.

Source: *Women-Owned Business Exit Research*

02 Fast Growth & Scaling

From Momentum to Sustainable Expansion

Scaling rapidly demands resilient systems, leadership bandwidth, and market readiness. Women CEOs are leveraging technology, digital platforms, and strategic networks to expand operations. Average revenue for women-owned businesses increased by more than 15% from 2022 to 2023.

KEY INSIGHT:

Revenues of women-owned businesses grew over 15% in 2023. Growth-stage CEOs need infrastructure, capital access, and talent strategies.

Source: *NWBC Annual Report*

03 Sales Strategy & Revenue Growth

Driving Topline Performance with Intention

A disciplined sales strategy is foundational to long-term sustainability. Women CEOs encounter structural barriers—from talent retention to pipeline management—requiring deliberate, data-driven solutions combined with authentic leadership.

KEY INSIGHT:

43% of women in revenue roles considered quitting due to lack of support. Aligning sales infrastructure with talent strategy is essential.

Source: *Women in Revenue Survey*

Strategic Themes *(continued)*

04 HR, People & Company Culture

Designing Workplaces That Reflect Values

An inclusive, purpose-driven culture is a defining competitive advantage, directly influencing retention, engagement, and resilience. While women own approximately 34% of U.S. small businesses, their companies account for only around 9.6% of total employment—signaling significant untapped potential.

KEY INSIGHT:

Women own ~34% of U.S. small businesses but account for only ~9.6% of total employment. Closing this gap is a major growth opportunity.

Source: NWBC Annual Report

05 Women in Government Contracting

Unlocking Public Sector Opportunity

Government contracts offer a powerful avenue to diversify revenue and build credibility, yet procurement remains opaque. Women CEOs are leveraging digital platforms, partnerships, and peer networks to compete at federal, state, and local levels.

KEY INSIGHT:

Digital trade and platform access are top enablers for women entrepreneurs in 2026. Strategic digital adoption opens new procurement pathways.

Source: ICSB Top Ten Trends 2026

Come Join the Adventure!

Every ICSB World Congress participant will leave empowered, internationally connected, and ready to scale impact—not just in business, but in shaping the future of economies and societies.

Attendees	CEOs, researchers, policymakers, educators, and ecosystem builders committed to advancing women's leadership at scale.
Mentors	Accomplished leaders ready to give back—engaging in meaningful dialogue, expanding global networks, and building lasting connections.
Sponsors	Collaborators who believe in advancing women's economic leadership. Sponsorship enables access, elevates programming, and strengthens the community.

Register Now: In-Person or Online

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