

The CEO Academy agenda is intentionally designed to help leaders navigate a rapidly evolving business landscape shaped by economic, geopolitical, social, and technological change. Through a blend of leadership insights from distinguished CEOs and forward-looking perspectives from innovators at the forefront of transformation, participants gain the connections, knowledge, and strategic perspective needed to lead with confidence and drive sustainable growth in an increasingly complex world.

AGENDA

Harold Pratt House / 58 East 68th Street / New York, NY 10065

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

- 12:00 PM **Opening Networking Reception**
Elevated hors d'oeuvres will be served
- 12:30 PM **Welcome**
Dennis Carey – Founder, CEO Academy
Sandy Climan – Chairman, CEO Academy
Michael Useem – William and Jacalyn Egan Professor Emeritus of Management and Faculty Director, Leadership Center & McNulty Leadership Program, The Wharton School
- 12:45 PM **Why Public Company Executives Are Moving to Private Equity: Insights from Leaders at CD&R and KKR**
Private equity is increasingly attracting some of the most accomplished executives, raising important questions about what is driving the shift and what it reveals about the changing expectations of leadership. This candid conversation explores what PE firms look for in top talent and how their approach to leadership, capital, growth, and performance offers lessons for CEOs across public, private, and PE backed organizations seeking to sharpen strategy and create greater enterprise value.
Speaker(s): **Donald J. Gogel** – Chairman, Clayton, Dubilier & Rice
 Joshua Weisenbeck – Partner- Private Equity, KKR
Moderator: **Leon J. Topalian** – Chair and CEO, Nucor
- 1:30 PM **Where CEOs Should Be Looking for New Deals in the AI Age**
Through leading AOL's pivotal transformation and shaping digital strategy at News Corp, Jonathan Miller has experienced firsthand how once-dominant companies navigate disruption, reinvent themselves, and seize new opportunities. Building on that experience and his work investing in more than 100 emerging companies at the intersection of media, technology, and marketing, Miller now has a front-row seat to the ideas shaping tomorrow's economy. In this forward-looking conversation, he examines where value is being created across digital platforms, content, artificial intelligence, and the creator economy, offering CEOs and business leaders practical insights on identifying disruptive trends, making bold strategic bets, and positioning their organizations to lead rather than follow in a rapidly evolving landscape.
Speaker: **Jonathan F. Miller** – CEO, Integrated Media Co.; Former Chairman & CEO, AOL
Moderator: **Sandy Climan** – Chairman, CEO Academy; CEO, Entertainment Media Ventures
- 2:15 PM **Networking Break**
- 2:30 PM **What CEOs Need to Know about the Economy**
Economic volatility is no longer a disruption; it is the environment. As structural shifts take hold across inflation, interest rates, global trade, and technological transformation, the gap between reactive and proactive leadership is widening. In this high-impact session, Aditya Bhawe, Senior U.S. Economist at Bank of America, offers a forward-looking view of the U.S. economy and the deeper forces driving change. Business leaders will gain clarity on where risks are being misread, where opportunities are emerging, and how to translate economic insight into competitive advantage in an era defined by constant change.

Speaker: **Aditya Bhawe** – Managing Director and Senior U.S. Economist, Bank of America

3:15 PM

The New Global Race: Competing for Rare Earth and Strategic Advantage

As global economies race to secure the building blocks of the modern world, from AI chips to renewable energy systems, the competition for rare earth minerals has become a defining factor in geopolitical and economic strategy. Barbara Humpton, CEO of USA Rare Earth and former CEO of Siemens USA, explores how the private sector is now at the center of this global realignment. She'll discuss what it means for business leaders to balance national interests with global cooperation, build resilient regional supply chains, and lead with diplomacy in an increasingly fragmented world.

Speaker: **Barbara Humpton** – CEO, USA Rare Earth; Former CEO, Siemens Corporation

Moderator: **Emily M. Dickens** – Chief Administrative Officer, SHRM

4:00 PM

Networking Break

4:15 PM

Leading When Trust Is Contested: Business, Government, and Institutional Credibility

As political pressure intensifies on core institutions such as central banks and regulatory bodies, CEOs are operating in an environment where trust, credibility, and governance are increasingly contested. Peter Conti-Brown brings a timely perspective on how shifting expectations around institutional independence, transparency, and accountability are reshaping the relationship between business, government, and society. He will explore how leaders can navigate this complexity, communicate with clarity in polarized environments, and strengthen organizational legitimacy at a time when confidence in institutions is no longer a given.

Speaker: **Peter Conti-Brown** – Associate Professor of Financial Regulation; Associate Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics, The Wharton School

5:00 PM

How CEOs need to Respond to Regulatory and Ethical Challenges within their Companies

Designed to foster meaningful executive connections, this interactive lounge session brings together leaders from diverse industries to discuss pressing business challenges, compare leadership approaches, and exchange insights that can be applied immediately within their own organizations.

Facilitator: **Pierre Heistein** – Program Director, SHRM Linkage

6:00 PM

(DINNER) When the Unthinkable Happens: Leadership at the Edge of Crisis

In an era defined by sudden disruption and high-stakes uncertainty, the ability to lead decisively through moments of crisis has become a defining capability for today's executives. Leanne Caret, former President and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security, will draw on her experience overseeing complex global operations to offer a practical and deeply informed perspective on navigating black swan events. She will explore how leaders can prepare organizations for the unexpected, make critical decisions under pressure, and foster resilience that extends beyond recovery to long-term strength and strategic advantage.

Speaker: **Leanne Caret** – Former President and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space, and Security

Moderator: **Pierre Heistein** – Program Director, SHRM Linkage

8:00 PM

End-of-Day Wrap-Up

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

7:45 AM **Informal Breakfast**

8:15 AM **How CEOs Turn Intelligence into Competitive Advantage**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how organizations compete, make decisions, and manage risk. In this session, Balan R. Ayyar will draw on his experience in national security, intelligence, and advanced technology to explore how CEOs can turn AI into a strategic advantage. This conversation will focus on the leadership, operational, and cybersecurity considerations executives must navigate as AI becomes increasingly embedded across the enterprise.

Speaker: **Balan Ayyar** – Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.); Founder and CEO, percipient.ai

Moderator: **Sandy Climan** – Chairman, CEO Academy; CEO, Entertainment Media Ventures

9:00 AM **A Former President of the Federal Reserve Bank Reflects on the Nation's Challenges Ahead**

In this interactive conversation, Patrick T. Harker offers a candid, behind-the-scenes perspective on how Federal Reserve policy is influencing the decisions CEOs are making right now. Moving beyond headlines and interest rates alone, he will connect the dots between policy signals, market dynamics, and real-world business choices, while inviting leaders to engage directly on the challenges they are facing. The discussion will focus on how executives can interpret uncertainty, anticipate shifts, and position their organizations to act with greater confidence in a rapidly evolving environment.

Speaker: **Patrick T. Harker** – Rowan Distinguished Professor, Professor of Operations, Information and Decisions, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; Former President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Moderator: **Christopher D. Lopez** – Managing Director, CEO Academy

9:45 AM **Break**

10:00 AM **Culture as a Competitive Advantage: Turning Values into Performance**

Culture is often treated as an expression of organizational identity, but its true value is revealed in how people make decisions, take ownership, and deliver results. Leon J. Topalian shares how Nucor has translated its values into a powerful operating model built on trust, employee empowerment, shared accountability, and performance-based rewards. He will examine the CEO's role in protecting what makes a company distinctive while pursuing growth, integrating new businesses, and responding to changing workforce expectations.

Speaker: **Leon J. Topalian** – Chair and CEO, Nucor

Moderator: **Michael Useem** – William and Jacalyn Egan Professor Emeritus of Management and Faculty Director, Leadership Center & McNulty Leadership Program, The Wharton School

10:45 AM **Does China Have America By The Throat - What CEOs Need to do to Prevent It**

Global power dynamics are being reshaped in real time, as economic nationalism, US-China rivalry, and government intervention redefine how companies compete and grow. In this session, Ram Charan will challenge CEOs to rethink where true control resides across supply chains, critical industries, and emerging technologies. He will also explore how leaders can reduce strategic exposure, navigate geopolitical pressure, and position their organizations to win in a world where competitive advantage is increasingly shaped by national priorities as much as market forces.

Speaker: **Ram Charan** – Director; Advisor to Global CEOs and Boards

11:30 AM **Lunch**

1:00 PM **The New Org Chart: An Executive Workshop on Structure and Roles in the Age of AI**

As AI reshapes how work gets done, organizational structures and the underlying jobs are under pressure to evolve. Drawing on new SHRM data and insights from CEOs and HR leaders, this interactive workshop examines how companies are restructuring reporting lines, functions, and roles in response to AI – and where they're hitting barriers. Through peer discussion and a structured framework, executives will benchmark their organization against emerging patterns, reflect on their own organizational challenges, and leave with a practical action plan for building AI-ready teams and structures.

Facilitator: **James Atkinson** – Vice President- Thought Leadership, SHRM



Program Closure - Key Takeaways and Certificate Presentation