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# Corporate Communications: Driving the Business Forward

March 6 – 7, 2025  
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# Corporate Communications: Driving the Business Forward

March 06 – 07, 2025 | Brooklyn, NY

## CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

- ⑩ **Dave Armon**, Executive Vice Chairman, 3BL
- ⑩ **Josh Awtry**, Senior Vice President, Audience, Newsweek
- ⑩ **Danielle Badler**, Program Director, Corporate Communications Strategy Council, The Conference Board
- ⑩ **Jonny Bentwood**, President, Global Data & Analytics, Golin
- ⑩ **Jan Botz**, Program Director, Internal Communications Council, The Conference Board
- ⑩ **Denise Dahlhoff, PhD**, Director, Marketing & Communications Research, The Conference Board
- ⑩ **Matthew DiGirolamo**, Chief Corporate Affairs & Engagement Officer, North America, L'Oréal Groupe
- ⑩ **Leslie Dorris**, Director, Internal Communications & Engagement, Yum! Brands
- ⑩ **Paul Dyer**, CEO & President, /prompt
- ⑩ **Greg Efthimiou**, Vice President, Public Relations, GoDaddy
- ⑩ **Anna Frable**, Vice President, Communications, Novo Nordisk
- ⑩ **Stephen Hahn-Griffiths**, Global EVP, Chief Strategist, RepTrak
- ⑩ **Katie Hill**, Senior Vice President of Communications, National Football League
- ⑩ **Rob Jekielek**, Managing Director, The Harris Poll
- ⑩ **Lisa Kaplan**, Founder & CEO, Alethea
- ⑩ **Kevin Kilduff**, Director, Global External Communications, Mondelēz International
- ⑩ **Jessica Kleiman**, Senior Vice President, Communications, Lennar
- ⑩ **Laurie Korinek**, Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer, PartnerComm
- ⑩ **Olivia Lawrence**, Senior Manager, External Communications, Henkel
- ⑩ **Greg McCullough**, Chief Communications Officer, Thrivent
- ⑩ **Mandy Mooney**, Director of Internal Communications, Prologis
- ⑩ **Megan Noel**, Global President, Corporate Affairs, Golin
- ⑩ **Rita Meyerson**, Principal Researcher, Human Capital, The Conference Board
- ⑩ **Makini Nyanteh**, SVP, Chief Communications Officer, American Institutes for Research
- ⑩ **Allyson Park**, Chief Communications Officer, Walmart
- ⑩ **Claudine Patel**, CMO at Opella, the Consumer Healthcare business unit of Sanofi
- ⑩ **Meera Pattni**, Chief Communications Officer, Semafor
- ⑩ **Scott Payton**, CEO and Senior Consultant, Bowen Craggs
- ⑩ **Beatriz Perez**, EVP and Global Chief Communications, Sustainability & Strategic Partnerships Officer, The Coca-Cola Company
- ⑩ **Ivan Pollard**, Chair and Center Leader, Marketing & Communications, The Conference Board
- ⑩ **Terry Rasmussen**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Thrivent
- ⑩ **Michele Sharp, Ed.D.**, Vice President, Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility, Purdue Pharma
- ⑩ **Ben Smith**, Founder, Editor-in-Chief, Semafor
- ⑩ **Ramon Soto**, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Northwell Health

# Corporate Communications: Driving the Business Forward

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## DAY ONE

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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**8:00 am – 8:45 am**

### **Registration and Breakfast**

**8:45 am – 8:55 am**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Ivan Pollard**, Chair and Center Leader, Marketing & Communications, The Conference Board

**8:55 am – 9:10 am**

### **Latest Research on the CCO Role**

How do CEOs and CCOs see the communications function advancing business strategy? What skills in the latter role will be needed more than ever? What crises should communicators expect to tackle in 2025?

We'll share fresh research on these topics as well as what else may await communications teams in 2025 based on research from The Conference Board, including its annual survey of CEOs and members of the C-Suite from businesses around the world.

**Denise Dahlhoff, PhD**, Director, Marketing & Communications Research, The Conference Board

**9:10 am – 9:30 am**

### **Networking and Cross-Pollination**

We will kick off our event by meeting one another to share our most important priorities and accomplishments since we last convened. Our Chair will then take the stage to gauge attendees' sentiment on the most pressing challenges confronting the function in 2025.

**9:30 am – 10:05 am    General Session**

### **The State of the Function: How Corporate Communicators Will Drive Business Forward in 2025**

In 2024, this session was introduced with the observation that "upheaval has become daily fare" – and yet even that feels like an understatement today. How has the function continued to evolve in response, and what further disruption is positioned on the horizon in 2025? In this discussion with communications leaders spanning sectors, we will discuss some of the most significant changes they have seen throughout the evolution of the function, the biggest challenges and opportunities lying ahead, and the strategies and tools they will need to employ to address them.

**Allyson Park**, Chief Communications Officer, Walmart

**Beatriz Perez**, EVP and Global Chief Communications, Sustainability & Strategic Partnerships Officer, The Coca-Cola Company

**Moderator: Ivan Pollard**, Chair and Center Leader, Marketing & Communications, The Conference Board

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## 10:10 am – 10:40 am General Session

### Media on Media

From the slow demise of print journalism to the rise and fall of blogs, the race for digital traffic, and now the rise of artificial intelligence, the news media industry has experienced lightning-speed generational change. Semafor Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief Ben Smith and Semafor Global Head of Events and Communications Meera Pattni discuss how the media navigate these changes, covers itself, breaks through the noise to create a robust reputation among an ever-growing number of peers, and stays relevant in a rapidly changing media environment.

**Ben Smith**, Founder, Editor-in-Chief, Semafor

**Meera Pattni**, Chief Communications Officer, Semafor

## 10:40 am – 10:55 am

### Networking Break

## 10:55 am – 11:25 am General Session

### The Bridge Between Your Internal and External Brand: How Recruitment Communications Fit In

In this session, we'll dive into a recruitment campaign case study that shows you how it connects to internal and external branding. What does the bridge between the two look like? How are your recruiting communications connected to your overall company positioning? What do you want candidates to take away from their experiences with your organization? You'll learn ways to connect your recruiting communications to your company culture, and which communication methods will reach your target audience.

**Laurie Korinek**, Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer, PartnerComm

**Jessica Kleiman**, Senior Vice President, Communications, Lennar

## 11:30 am – 12:05 pm General Session

### Vision Meets Voice: The Essential CEO-CCO Connection

The relationship between a company's CEO and CCO is pivotal in achieving business success. And today's CCO role has evolved far beyond traditional media relations, encompassing a broader strategic perspective, and influencing decision-making and business outcomes. Together, CEOs and CCOs champion a cohesive message across all platforms grounded in the company's vision and purpose, ensuring consistency and transparency that resonates with stakeholders. In this conversation, learn how a CEO-CCO partnership rooted in trust is crucial in times of transformation and crisis, when issues management and change communications can safeguard a company's reputation and drive success.

**Terry Rasmussen**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Thrivent

**Greg McCullough**, Chief Communications Officer, Thrivent

**Moderator: Jan Botz**, Program Director, Internal Communications Council, The Conference Board

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## 12:10 pm – 12:40 pm General Session

### Building a Corporate Brand: How L'Oréal Established Its Reputation as a Leader in Tech

In 2024, L'Oréal Groupe CEO Nicolas Hieronimus delivered the first-ever keynote from a beauty company at the 2024 Consumer Electronics Show. We welcome L'Oréal North America's Matthew DiGirolamo to share with us a decade-long journey to communicate the stories of L'Oréal's tech ambition and advancements, transforming the image of a cosmetics company to that of a tech innovator. We will explore what it takes to develop a new side of a legacy brand from scratch and the impact it has had on the business.

**Matthew DiGirolamo**, Chief Corporate Affairs & Engagement Officer, North America, L'Oréal Groupe

**Moderator: Denise Dahlhoff, PhD**, Director, Marketing & Communications Research, The Conference Board

## 12:40 pm – 1:40 pm Networking Lunch

## 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm Concurrent Session

### Misinformation and Polarization: Measuring Reputation in a Volatile World

Many companies neglect a key resource in their communications arsenal, their corporate website, even though it can have a powerful and measurable impact on corporate reputation. In this session we will learn how leading communicators leverage this invaluable resource to measure and improve reputation, especially in response to crises and reputational risks.

**Kevin Kilduff**, Director, Global External Communications, Mondelēz International

**Steve Van Dinter**, Head of Market Communications, Verizon

**Moderator: Scott Payton**, CEO and Senior Consultant, Bowen Craggs

## 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm Concurrent Session

### Communications that Enable Change

Amidst dynamic business environments that can make change a matter of survival, corporate change initiatives still often fail. Learn what it takes for communicators to help drive change initiatives that succeed. We will discuss new research and expert practitioner insights on strategies to engage and empower employees through transitions.

**Makini Nyanteh**, SVP, Chief Communications Officer, American Institutes for Research

**Michele Sharp, Ed.D.**, Vice President, Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility, Purdue Pharma

**Moderator: Jan Botz**, Program Director, Internal Communications Council, The Conference Board

## 2:20 pm – 2:50 pm Concurrent Session

### How to Thrive in the Age of AI: From a Supportive Tool to a Force Shaping Narratives

AI presents new opportunities to revolutionize how brands engage, strategize, and build trust. But what does this future really look like—and how can organizations prepare to thrive in it? This session will explore the evolving role of AI in communications, from enhancing strategic decision-making to driving execution at scale. Drawing on real-world examples and practical insights, we will examine how AI is shifting from a supportive tool to an active force in shaping brand narratives, audience engagement, and content optimization.

**Brian Buchwald**, Global Chair, AI and Product, Edelman

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## 2:20 pm – 2:50 pm Concurrent Session

### Only Connect: How Media and Brands Engage Audiences in Today's Information Ecosystem

How can brands convey their stories when information sources are kaleidoscopic, and may not be trusted? How can media organizations bring potential audience members to them when an AI-generated summary might mean that the original source is never seen? In this discussion, explore new strategies to find and build relationships with readers, customers and stakeholders in a rapidly transforming information environment.

**Josh Awtry**, Senior Vice President, Audience, Newsweek

**Rob Jekielek**, Managing Director, The Harris Poll

**Moderator: Danielle Badler**, Program Director, Corporate Communications Strategy Council, The Conference Board

## 2:50 pm – 3:10 pm Networking Break

## 3:10 pm – 3:40 pm General Session

### The CEO Impact Index: Strategic Leadership in an Era of Transformation

How can communicators strategically position their CEOs and C-suite leaders in an era of rising geopolitical tensions, misinformation, and polarization? Drawing from Golin's CEO Impact Index analysis, this data-driven presentation reveals how successful leaders are navigating today's complex landscape. Learn how communications leaders can build credibility, manage positioning and guide their CEOs through rapid business transformation while strengthening leadership influence and driving corporate success.

**Megan Noel**, Global President, Corporate Affairs, Golin

**Jonny Bentwood**, President, Global Data & Analytics, Golin

## 3:45 pm – 4:15pm General Session

### Beyond Sustainability Reporting: Storytelling at Scale is Key to Demonstrating Impact

With tens of thousands of companies required to provide disclosures in 2025 under the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), many multinational companies are struggling to communicate their sustainability efforts in an engaging and impactful way. This session focuses on a successful formula that's been employed at Henkel, where the North American business unit engages in year-round storytelling on environmental and social impact topics. Henkel's Olivia Lawrence, strategic communications manager, will be interviewed by Dave Armon, vice chair at 3BL, on story mining, measurement, coordination across the enterprise and support from partners.

**Dave Armon**, Executive Vice Chairman, 3BL

**Olivia Lawrence**, Senior Manager, External Communications, Henkel

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## 4:20 pm – 4:55 pm General Session

### **Weathering the Storm: Frameworks and Tools to Navigate Through Controversy**

In our current highly politicized environment, controversies that can roil employees, customers, or other stakeholders will continue to emerge, and will be accompanied by calls for businesses to take a public position. How can organizations better understand their stakeholders' perceptions, concerns, or misunderstandings on hot button topics? How should they decide whether, when, and how to respond? Is "neutrality" the answer, and can it be maintained on every issue? In this discussion, we explore frameworks and tools to navigate through controversies in ways that align with stakeholder relationships.

**Greg Efthimiou**, Vice President, Public Relations, GoDaddy

**Lisa Kaplan**, Founder & CEO, Alethea

**Stephen Hahn-Griffiths**, Global EVP, Chief Strategist, RepTrak

**Moderator: Jan Botz**, Program Director, Internal Communications Council, The Conference Board

## 4:55 pm – 5:05 pm

### **Day One Recap and Day Two Preview**

**Ivan Pollard**, Chair and Center Leader, Marketing & Communications, The Conference Board

**Renee Walton**, Director, Member Development, The Conference Board

## 5:05 pm – 6:20 pm

### **Musical Cabaret and Reception**

We will end our day on a (literal) high note with a live cabaret performance by one of our most popular speakers of 2024, Mandy Mooney. She will perform three original songs, inspired by her upcoming book *Corporating*, that will delight fellow communicators in the corporate world.

**Mandy Mooney**, author of forthcoming book, *Corporating*, "a user manual for rising stars in the corporate world."

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## DAY TWO

Friday, March 7, 2025

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**8:00 am – 8:45 am**      **Breakfast and Welcoming Remarks**

**8:00 am – 8:45 am**      **General Session**

### **“What if...?” and “How...?” Roundtables**

Join us for small group discussions over breakfast. Meet fellow practitioners and learn from their varied perspectives while discussing how corporate communicators should respond to hypothetical crisis situations or ongoing comms challenges such as:

1. **How** should your company respond to product recalls or accidents that make headlines?
2. **How** should you prepare for the possibility of your company becoming a target of government hearings or investigations?
3. **What if** your brand is targeted by activists from the left and right at the same time?
4. **What if** "reputation" is meaningless in an age of polarization? What then should you be tracking?
5. **How** should you be using CommTech to boost efficiency and agility?
6. **How** can you best use stakeholder data to build reputation and earn trust?
7. **What if** your organization's labor force is in danger of being affected by new immigration policies?
8. **What if** a trade war breaks out between countries where you operate?
9. **How** are you communicating about GenAI to increase adoption and decrease fear?
10. **How** are you communicating about changing or unchanging DEI policies?

**8:45 am – 9:25 am**

### **Future Disruptions: Reporting Out**

Representatives from each roundtable summarize their discussion with the rest of the audience.

*Facilitator:*

**Danielle Badler**, Program Director, Corporate Communications Strategy Council, The Conference Board

**9:25 am – 9:55 am**      **General Session**

### **Seizing the Moment: National Football League SVP of Communications Katie Hill**

How does the NFL leverage one of the world's biggest stages each year? Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans will serve as the backdrop for our conversation with National Football League SVP of Communications Katie Hill. We will discuss how the League shapes its messages on a platform envied by brands across the globe, what made this year unique, and how other brands can use their own spotlight moments to enrich their brand storytelling and identity.

**Katie Hill**, Senior Vice President of Communications, National Football League

**Moderator: Ivan Pollard**, Chair and Center Leader, Marketing & Communications, The Conference Board

# Corporate Communications: Driving the Business Forward

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## 10:00 am – 10:30 am General Session

### **Harnessing the Power of PR and Science to Drive Change in Obesity – Perspectives from Novo Nordisk Communication**

In this conversation with Anna Frable of Novo Nordisk, we will discuss the role of communications in shifting the perception of obesity from one of a failure of willpower associated with stigma and bias to a serious chronic disease that needs to be treated. Learn how the Company and the Communications Team responded to the surge in popularity and multi-stakeholder interest with a patient first and responsible use focus. Discover what lessons were learned and how they can be applied to communications in your own organization.

**Anna Frable**, Vice President, Communications, Novo Nordisk

**Moderator: Danielle Badler**, Program Director, Corporate Communications Strategy Council, The Conference Board

## 10:30 am – 10:45 am

### **Networking Break**

## 10:45 am – 11:15 am General Session

### **How Storytelling Around Purpose Drives Business**

Over the past several years, notable documentary series have taken viewers into the lives of medical providers and patients at crucial moments, including Lenox Hill and Emergency NYC on Netflix and One South: Portrait of a Psych Unit on HBO. Each involved partnerships with Northwell Health, and each provided an example of storytelling focused on purpose. In this conversation, we will explore a variety of opportunities for communicating on brand purpose for organizations across sectors and explore how it can drive measurable business results.

**Ramon Soto**, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Northwell Health

**Moderator: Denise Dahlhoff, PhD**, Director, Marketing & Communications Research, The Conference Board

## 11:20 am – 11:50 am General Session

### **Companies in Culture: Meeting the New Expectations for How Companies Engage in the Zeitgeist**

The days when consumer expectations could be separated from other stakeholders are over. Today's consumers exert tremendous influence over how investors, employees, policymakers, media, and all variations of corporate stakeholders perceive the company. These consumers expect companies to demonstrate their relevance again and again, moment by moment. This session will explore how the interplay between brand relevance and corporate reputation is reshaping the relationship between marketing and communications, as brands participating in culture actively contribute to the overall reputation of the corporate parent.

**Paul Dyer**, CEO & President, /prompt

**Claudine Patel**, CMO at Opella, the Consumer Healthcare business unit of Sanofi

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## 11:55 am – 12:25 pm General Session

### **Panel: How the Next Generation of Communicators will Build Culture**

In our capstone conversation, we will look toward the development of the next generation of communications professionals, and the next evolution of corporate culture. What are the biggest talent and culture challenges facing top leadership today? How are today's up-and-coming comms leaders thinking about shepherding the next generation, and building cultures in increasingly complex and strained environments?

**Mandy Mooney**, Director of Internal Communications, Prologis

**Leslie Dorris**, Director, Internal Communications & Engagement, Yum! Brands

**Moderator: Rita Meyerson**, Principal Researcher, Human Capital  
The Conference Board

## 12:25 am – 12:30 pm

### **Concluding Remarks**

**Ivan Pollard**, Chair and Center Leader, Marketing & Communications, The Conference Board