ADVANCING WOMEN IN NASHVILLE



From the Executive Director's Desk

Rena Hall, Ed.D

Welcome to AWIN 2026!



Welcome to 2026—a year defined by bold vision and limitless possibilities!

At AWIN, we are not simply adapting to change; we are driving it forward. Our commitment is unwavering: delivering innovative programs, fostering meaningful connections, and creating opportunities that ignite collaboration and leadership.

Together, we will raise the bar for excellence. Let's step into this year with confidence, purpose, and the shared belief that the best is yet to come.

Welcoming New AWIN Faces



We're excited to welcome **Donna Griggs of Propel Change Global** to AWIN's Advisory Board.

As a skilled facilitator and recognized expert in change management, Donna brings invaluable leadership, strategic insight, and direction that will strengthen our mission and guide future initiatives.

Please join me in welcoming **Laura Smith of NES**, to the AWIN Board!

Laura brings extensive legal expertise and a wealth of knowledge that will strengthen our leadership and strategic vision.





I'm delighted to share that **Grace Dyer**, a former Belmont intern, has officially joined the AWIN team as our **Marketing & Membership Coordinator**.

In the coming months, Grace will connect with you to schedule reboarding sessions and gather valuable insights about your membership—helping us identify new ways to support you and foster continued growth.

We're thrilled to welcome Grace to the team and look forward to the energy and expertise she brings to AWIN!

AWIN + Community: A Powerful Alliance

This year, AWIN is proud to partner with **nine incredible community organizations**. Beyond highlighting their work, we've invited each partner to actively participate in our programs and events—sharing their expertise and exhibiting their impact.

Click the link below to learn more about these valued partners and the difference they're making.

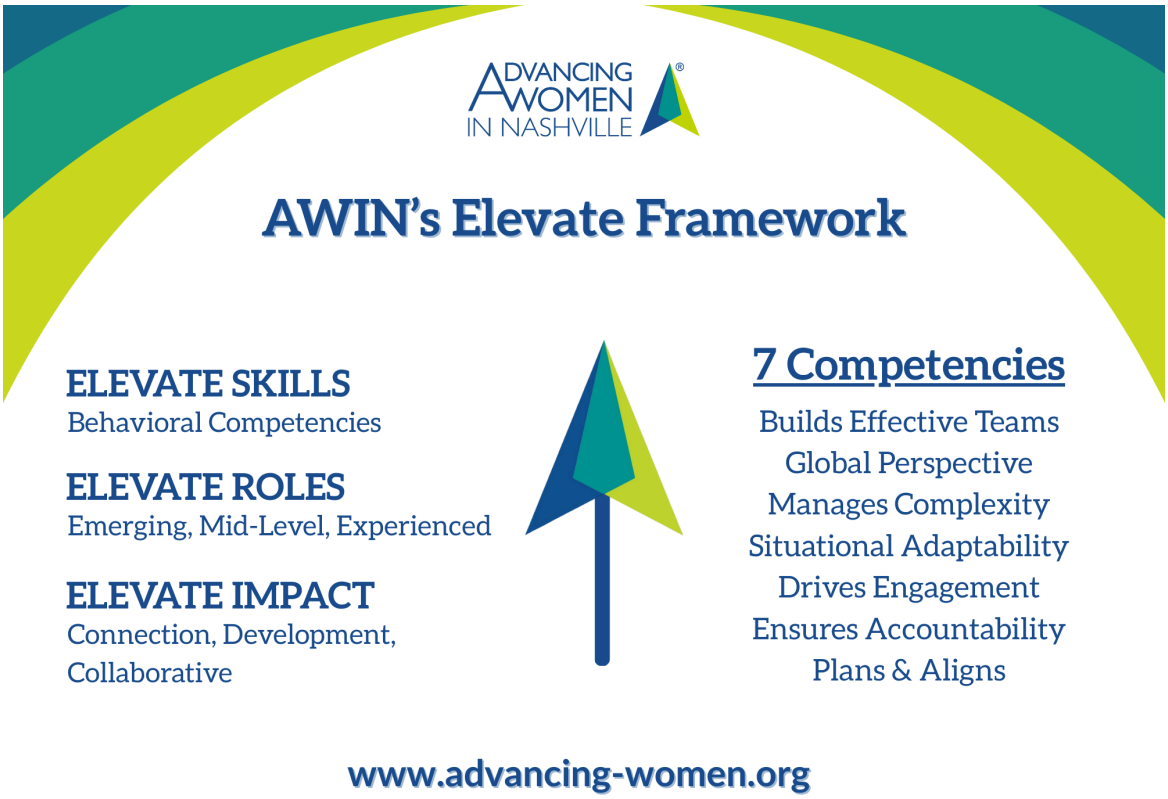
Meet our 2026 Community Partners

Jan 14th: State of AWIN!

Next week, we'll come together for the State of AWIN—a pivotal event designed to energize our vision for 2026 and strengthen collaboration across our network.

One of the most exciting highlights will be the unveiling of our new program framework, **Elevate**. This innovative model is built on three tiers—**Skills, Roles, and Impact**—each designed to meet members where they are and help them grow.

- **Skills** focuses on developing core behavioral competencies and practical tools for success.
- **Roles** provides targeted learning for leadership positions and career advancement.
- **Impact** empowers members to drive meaningful change.



Don't forget to **reserve your time for professional headshots**—we can't wait to see you there!

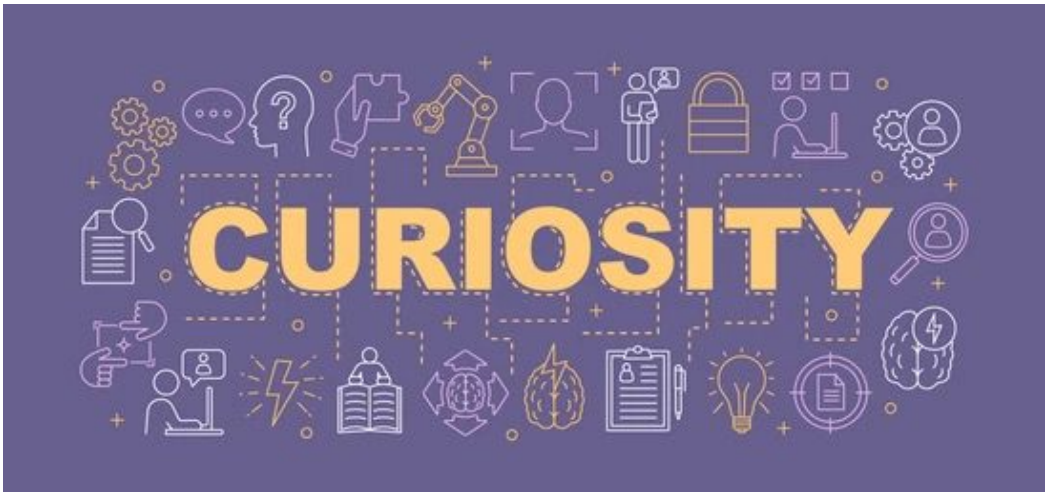
Register by 1/9

AWIN: Your Resource for Leadership & Development

At AWIN, we're proud to offer a wealth of expertise to help your organization thrive. Whether you need dynamic leadership speakers, engaging topics and insights, strategic planning, or organizational development, our team is here to partner with you. Let us help you design impactful experiences and strategies that drive growth and success.

Leadership Strategy: What's Driving You in 2026?

Instead of setting resolutions, consider adopting a ***Word of the Year*** —a simple yet powerful way to stay focused and intentional. My word for 2026 is ***Curiosity.*** This year, I plan to lead with curiosity: asking the right questions, exploring new perspectives, and ensuring alignment across our goals. Curiosity opens doors to innovation, collaboration, and growth.



What will your word be? Choose one that inspires you and let it guide your decisions and leadership throughout the year.

👉 *Share your Word of the Year with us! Email Grace at grace@advancing-women.org so we can celebrate and learn together.*

Pivotal Partners:

AWIN thanks and recognizes its Pivotal Partners for their overall dedication and support in advancing leaders.

Gresham Smith

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Together We Can!

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Connect with us on socials!

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