



THE AWIN REVIEW

OCTOBER 14, 2026

What Will You Carry Forward?

Fall reminds us that **change is part of growth**. Some things we carry forward. Some we release. And some require us to pause long enough to see them differently.

As AWIN enters the final months of 2026, we are doing the same — ***reflecting on what we've learned***, building on our momentum and listening closely as we prepare for what's next.

So, I'll begin this month's *Review* with a question:
What will you carry forward — and what might you need to release — to lead differently in this next season?

- *Dr. Rena Hall*

LEADERSHIP MOMENT

SHARPEN THE PENCIL



At the Summit, I shared a simple analogy: **even the best pencil eventually becomes dull.** We can keep writing with it. Press harder. Work around it. Or we can stop long enough to sharpen it.

Leadership is no different. We spend so much time doing — solving problems, leading teams, meeting expectations and moving from one priority to the next — that sometimes we forget to **sharpen** the very tools we depend on to lead.

Learning sharpens us. New perspectives sharpen us. Feedback sharpens us. Connection sharpens us.

And sometimes, simply pausing long enough to think sharpens us. The goal isn't to work harder with a dull pencil. **It's to become sharper for the work ahead.**

So ask yourself: What needs sharpening in your leadership right now?

From Experience to ACTION

The Summit Ended. The Work Didn't.

What an extraordinary day! Thank you to **Duncan Wardle** for challenging us to question assumptions, think differently and make space for possibility.



But Summit was never intended to be just a great day. The real measure is what happens after we leave the room.

You left with three **“I WILL” commitments** — your opportunity to turn insight into action. Pull them back out. Read them again. And ask yourself:

What have I done because of what I learned?

That's where experience becomes transformation.

Thank You!



To our **Summit Planning Committee**,
sponsors, **exhibitors**, **volunteers** and
members who helped create an
experience filled with energy,
connection and learning.

EXPERIENCE SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Browse our photo gallery to revisit memorable moments and celebrate the excitement and inspiration shared during the Summit. We encourage you to share these highlights with your organization and continue fostering connection.



Be sure to tag us on socials!

SUMMIT PHOTOS

To access images, click the link above and enter **AWIN's email address** (info@advancing-women.org) with password **AWIN2026**. To download images, use the same email address and enter the pin 1203.

Make a Difference in Our Community

Registration is open for AWIN's Day of Service

Join us on **October 23** for a day of service as we support four of our valued Community Partners through hands-on service projects. This is a wonderful opportunity to **give back and make a meaningful impact in our community.**

eLLa's  HOUSE



THE MARY PARRISH CENTER



THISTLE FARMS
LOVE HEALS

Choose the shift that works best for you:

- **Morning Shift:**
 - **9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**
- **Afternoon Shift:**
 - **1:00–4:00 p.m.**

To best support the needs of each project, we ask all members to commit to the full three-hour shift. We look forward to serving alongside you!

REGISTER

Questions? Contact us at info@advancing-women.org.

AWIN As Your Resource

DON'T LEAD ALONE

Leadership can be complex. Finding the right resource, perspective or connection shouldn't have to be.

AWIN wants to be your resource partner and connector — connecting you to leadership development, expertise, relationships and the work of women across your field and beyond.



Need a perspective you don't have? Looking for expertise? Trying to make a connection? Want to learn from someone who has navigated a similar challenge?

START WITH AWIN.

Our greatest resource isn't simply a program or an event. It's the collective knowledge, experience and relationships within this community. **Let's use it.**

Your Voice, Our Direction

Tell us what's affecting your ability to lead.

If AWIN is going to be the resource our members need, we have to understand what you're navigating. So, we're asking.

- What is having the greatest impact on your ability to lead and thrive right now?
- What is one thing you wish leaders in your organization better understood about what you need to succeed?

We're not asking simply to collect information. We're listening so we can respond.

TAKE POLL

REMINDER!

REGISTRATION CLOSING FOR AWIN'S FALL EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

There's still time to register two C-suite (or equivalent) executives for the upcoming virtual fall session on October 21st.



Wendy Timmons, Senior Managing Director for Ankura, will be leading the discussion and sharing her expertise on accountability. Don't miss this opportunity for your company's leaders to connect and grow.

Registration closes October 16th!

REGISTER HERE

Building Forward

A REFLECTION FROM DR. RENA HALL

I've been thinking about one question since the Summit:

What happens when we stop simply experiencing leadership development and start applying it?

We become different leaders.

That's what I want AWIN to continue creating — not simply moments that inspire us, but **experiences, relationships, and resources** that change how we lead when we return to our teams, organizations and communities.

And that's why I need you in the work.



- Bring your expertise.
- Share a connection.
- Mentor someone.
- Join a committee.
- Ask for help when you need it.

Allow this community to be a resource for you.
Because none of us has every answer. But together,
we have access to a lot more answers than we do
alone.

As we build toward 2027, let's continue learning from
one another, connecting one another, and creating
opportunities for one another. And when the work
gets demanding — as leadership inevitably does —
remember:

Don't just press harder. Sharpen the pencil.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued commitment to AWIN's mission. Together, we are building a network rooted in support, purpose, and empowerment.

Rena Hall, Ed.D | Executive Director



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**Gresham
Smith**



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