

HR

L&D

INNOVATION & TECH FEST


Conference Agenda

22–23 June 2026

The Marriott Hotel – Melrose Arch
Johannesburg

Partners

More to be announced

 For Business


Grow. Live. Prosper.™

**Gordon Institute
of Business Science**
University of Pretoria

EXCEL
ACADEMY



**SA
BUSINESS
SCHOOL**

coursera

SUPERWORKER™

MOYO
heart of digital change

Aspiration

 **factorial**


paymenow

geeks4learning
a journey to excellence

 LRMG


LEARNING CURVE


Smart HR
Payroll

 eventful
people

DAY 1 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

22 JUNE 2026

TIME	TOPICS & SPEAKERS	RELEVANT COMMUNITY
08:30 - 08:45	Welcome & Conference Opening - Day 1	HR + L&D
08:45 - 09:15	Leading with Judgment, Clarity, and Velocity in an AI World: Turning AI into Strategic Advantage <u>Darren Nerland</u> - Leadership & Workforce Transformation Thought Leader (USA)	HR + L&D
09:20 - 09:50	Unleashing Your Power <u>Kameka McLean</u> - Group Head of HR, Walker Crips (UK)	HR + L&D
09:55 - 10:25	Turning Workforce Insight into Strategic Action <u>Siwe Sibeko</u> - Independent, Aspen Holdings	HR + L&D
10:25 - 10:55	TEA BREAK	
10:55 - 11:25	From Capability Gap to Competitive Advantage: How Intelligent Learning Orchestration is Redefining Workforce Performance <u>Faye Tessendorf</u> - Country Manager, PRI South Africa	HR + L&D
11:30 - 12:00	Smart HR, Smarter People: Creating a Culture of Continuous Growth through Automation <u>Paolo Urzi</u> - Partnership Development Manager (SADC), Factorial	HR
12:05 - 12:35	Scaling Immersive Learning Where It Matters Most <u>Charl Nel</u> - Learning Modernization & Technology Expert, Sibanye Still Water	L&D
12:05 - 12:35	PI vs AI: Why People Intelligence Is the Real Competitive Advantage <u>Prof. Francois Sieberhagen</u> - Chief People Officer, VKB Group	HR

INNOVATION & TECH FEST

TIME	TOPICS & SPEAKERS	RELEVANT COMMUNITY
12:05 - 12:35	<p>Is Your AI Looking in the Rear-View Mirror? <u>Tracey Benettolo</u> – Independent Consultant: Global Learning, Workforce Capability & Digital Transformation, in partnership with LRMG</p>	HR + L&D
12:35 - 13:25	LUNCH BREAK	
13:25 - 13:55	<p>Building AI fluency: How Does Your Business Compare? <u>Steve van der Westhuizen</u> - Senior Vice President, Product Strategy, EdX For Business</p>	HR + L&D
14:00 - 14:30	<p>HR System Reliability: The Foundation of Trust, Accuracy and Innovation <u>Chrisna van den Berg</u> - Manager: Remuneration, Benefits and HRIS, Clover</p>	HR
14:35 - 15:05	<p>From Learning Activity to Business Impact: How Standard Bank Is Thinking About Skills, Data and Workforce Readiness <u>Julie Stack</u> - Head of Sales MEA, Coursera</p>	HR + L&D
15:10 - 15:40	<p>Reframe Frustration Into Innovation - Automation for a Frictionless Employee Experience <u>Aba Ayirebi</u> - Head of People, Stor-Age Property REIT Ltd</p>	HR
15:45 - 16:15	<p>Taming the Trickster: Three key imperatives for AI adoption in HCM and L&D <u>Jannie Malan</u> - Principal Solution Consultant, Workday SA</p>	HR + L&D
16:15 - 16:30	GRAB A DRINK!	
16:30 - 17:00	<p>Smarter Skills for a Messy World <u>Gary Cookson</u> - Director, EPIC HR (UK)</p>	HR + L&D
17:00 - 19:00	<p>Seeing the Invisible <u>Kele Boakgomo</u> - CEO & Co Founder, Yugrow <u>Mika Valoyi</u> - Head of Talent and Culture, Vodacom South Africa</p>	HR + L&D
17:00 - 19:00	NETWORKING DRINKS	
16:30 - 17:00	<p>Designing Work Worth Experiencing: The Engagement Continuum <u>Jazmin Webster</u> - Founder & Chief Curator, The Quality Experience, LLC (USA)</p>	HR + L&D

DAY 2 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

23 JUNE 2026

TIME	TOPICS & SPEAKERS	RELEVANT COMMUNITY
08:30 - 08:40	Welcome & Conference Opening - Day 2	HR + L&D
08:40 - 09:10	The New Work Paradigm - A Manifesto for Organisational Transformation <u>Gary Cookson</u> - Director, EPIC HR (UK)	HR + L&D
09:15 - 09:45	Designing the Workforce of the Future: From Foresight to Capability & Skills <u>Darren Nerland</u> - Leadership & Workforce Transformation Thought Leader (USA)	HR + L&D
09:50 - 10:20	Master the 5Ps of Shared Leadership - A Strategic Guide for Driving Meaningful and Progressive Impact Everywhere <u>Caroline Marwisa</u> - Executive: Leadership Development, Absa Group	HR + L&D
09:50 - 10:20	Beyond the Hype: Turning Random Acts of AI into real Organisational Capability <u>Yandri Pienaar</u> - Talent Executive, MOYO <u>Dewald Lindeque</u> - Business Development Director, MOYO	HR + L&D
10:20 - 10:45	TEA BREAK	
10:45 - 11:15	From AI Tools to Organisational Capability: Building AI Fluency at Enterprise Scale <u>Kira Koopman</u> - Head: Learning Digital (Group Human Capital), Momentum Metropolitan Holdings Limited	HR + L&D
10:45 - 11:15	GIBS Solution Showcase <u>Prof. Hayley Pearson</u> - Executive Director Academic Education, GIBS	L&D
11:20 - 11:50	Recruitment Integrity in the AI Era: What to Allow, What to Verify <u>Mercy Chigoma-Musekiwa</u> - Head: Talent Acquisition & DE&I, Zutari	HR
11:20 - 11:50	Learning Curve Solution Showcase <u>Di Frost</u> - Adobe AI Enablement Lead, Learning Curve	L&D
11:50 - 12:30	AI Fluency: The Missing Link Between Adoption and Impact <u>Dan Stillerman</u> - Founder, Excel Academy	HR + L&D

INNOVATION & TECH FEST

TIME	TOPICS & SPEAKERS	RELEVANT COMMUNITY
12:30 - 13:15	LUNCH BREAK	
13:15 - 13:45	<p>You Launched It... So, Why Aren't They Using It? Rethinking Adoption in HR & L&D Technology <u>Sheree Comninellis</u> - Head: Learning and Change, Fashion, Beauty and Home, Woolworths</p>	HR + L&D
13:15 - 13:45	<p>From Content to Capability: How Partnerships Turn Learning into Workforce Impact <u>Christyl Potgieter</u> - Director, Enterprise Partner Marketing Global, EdX For Business</p>	HR + L&D
13:50 - 14:20	<p>No One Is Me— And That Is My Power: Leading HR With Integrity When the Odds Feel Stacked Against You <u>Kameka McLean</u> - Group Head of HR, Walker Crips (UK)</p>	HR
13:50 - 14:20	<p>From Content to Value: Simple Engagement Strategies That Turn Training into Experience <u>Jazmin Webster</u> - Founder & Chief Curator, The Quality Experience, LLC (USA)</p>	L&D
14:25 - 14:55	<p>Panel Discussion: From Insight to Impact: Driving Meaningful Change</p>	HR + L&D
15:00	CONFERENCE CLOSING	HR + L&D