



Emerging Leaders Network CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 16, 2025 • 10:00 am – 3:15 pm
The Embassy Suites by Hilton, Berkeley Heights, NJ

AGENDA

1 CPE, 1 CLE, 5 CERP, 4 CFMP, 2 CRCM, 1 CSOP & 1 CAFM Credits Apply

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Registration and Networking

10:30 am – 10:35 am

Welcome

Emcee: *Quin Ojageer*, VP, Relationship Manager, First Bank

10:35 am – 11:25 am

The Corner Office Blueprint

Moderated by: *Margaux Howard*, First Vice President, Commercial Banking & Capital Markets, Valley Bank
George Boyan, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Unity Bank
Gregory Garcia, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, First Commerce Bank
Philip Vaz, President, New Jersey Region, Ion Bank

A panel of C-Suite executives will share their path to the corner office and offer insights into the unique traits that high potential emerging leaders have.

11:25 am – 12:10 pm

Communicate with Confidence and Executive Presence

Dr. Linda Eagle, President, Global Bankers Institute

Why is it that some colleagues exude executive presence and clarity, while others appear uncertain, uncomfortable, and ultimately unimpressive? What does it take to communicate with confidence? Learn concrete techniques for communicating with executive presence and understand the "do" and "don't" rules of communication so that you can be recognized as a powerful, professional, emerging leader.

12:10 pm – 12:50 pm

Networking Lunch

Continued on reverse

12:50 pm – 1:40pm

AI and The NextGen

Moderated by: *David Hudak*, Client Success Manager,
Vikar Technologies

Nicole Economy, Assistant Vice President, Technology Support Manager,
Peapack Private Bank & Trust

William Heaney, Assistant Vice President, Project Management Specialist,
Kearny Bank

David Vela, Vice President, Director of Enterprise Architecture,
ConnectOne Bank

A panel of emerging leaders will share insights into how they implemented a successful AI strategy at their institution and will address the key challenges they faced preparing their banks for the AI-driven future.

1:40 pm – 2:30 pm

Emerging Technologies that Differentiate Your Brand

Chris Forst, Manager - Blockchain and Digital Assets, RSM US

Emerging technologies and digital assets like stablecoin can pose opportunities, and challenges, for community banks. As these assets increasingly intersect with traditional payment rails, tools like stablecoin could be used to reduce costs and remain relevant for a wider group of customers. Discover how stablecoin can differentiate your brand and help your bank remain competitive; understand the uncertain and evolving regulatory environment around stablecoin.

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Creating Your Personal Advantage

Dr. Linda Eagle, President, Global Bankers Institute

How can you be recognized and appreciated as a vital contributor? How can you get invited to the closed meetings where strategic decisions are made - and bring your solutions forward? The answer: create your personal brand to maximize your individual advantage. Attendees will learn how to develop their personal value proposition and brand.

Thank you to our ELN Underwriters

