

Letter from the Director



On behalf of the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, I'm thrilled to welcome you to our ninth Frontiers business conference. Today's event promises to be a dynamic gathering of industry leaders, distinguished academics and influential policy leaders, all coming together to share strategies for navigating uncertainty and fostering resilient businesses.

Each year, the Kenan Institute conducts an in-depth examination on a subject that is foremost in the minds of corporate leaders and that has important public policy ramifications. Throughout the year, we highlight the thought leadership of the institute and UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. We further add to our understanding by engaging with globally recognized authorities, including our Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellows. These deep dives culminate each year in a conference where we share lessons learned and encourage open dialog among an elite group of leaders with a diversity of viewpoints, experiences and backgrounds.

In prior years, we have focused on the debate around pivotal themes such as stakeholder capitalism and ESG investing and the post-COVID-19 disruptions to the workforce. This year, our spotlight is on cultivating business resilience. In today's rapidly changing landscape, the ability to not only adjust but to flourish in a fluctuating business environment is more crucial than ever.

We are privileged to be able to congregate at the beautiful Carolina Inn, a landmark of history and hospitality nestled within the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Carolina Inn has been a cherished destination for visitors since 1924.

We want to provide a special thanks to our event sponsors – Citizens Financial Group, Fifth Third Bank, Implement Consulting Group and UNC Executive Development – for their support in bringing this conference to life. We also want to thank Bruce and Katie Van Saun for their generous support of our Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellows. Finally, we are tremendously appreciative of participation from our Luther Hodges Scholars and for the partnership of the UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School.

We are delighted to have you with us and hope you enjoy the event.

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Executive Director
Frank H. Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

About the Conference

The Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise develops and promotes innovative, market-based solutions to vital economic issues.

With the belief that private enterprise is the cornerstone of a prosperous and free society, the institute fosters the entrepreneurial spirit to stimulate economic prosperity and improve the lives of people in North Carolina, across the country and around the world.

Established in 1985 by Frank Hawkins Kenan, the institute offers programs, conferences and seminars that bring together high-profile business leaders, academic researchers and policymakers.

The institute is supported through generous annual funding by the William R. Kenan Jr. Fund, public and private sector grants, corporate sponsorship, individual donations and event fees.

The Grand Challenge Initiative

The Kenan Institute's annual Grand Challenge marks a concerted, yearlong effort to examine the most complex and timely issues facing business and the economy today. With the help of a hand-selected group of elite scholars and practitioners from various disciplines, we aim to develop a list of actionable recommendations in the form of written reports, workshops, webinars and business roundtables. The culmination of these efforts is the Frontiers of Business Conference, which convenes cross-sector leaders from diverse backgrounds to share objective and evidence-based solutions while inspiring further collaboration and action.

The 2024 Grand Challenge theme is "Business Resilience: Navigating Global Uncertainty and Managing Risk."

Businesses today operate in an environment of growing uncertainty and rapid change. Companies face a panorama of potential issues and accompanying risks - geopolitical tensions flare up and disrupt supply chains, regulatory shifts alter the rules of engagement, and technological developments like artificial intelligence quickly change industries and customer expectations. If resilience is key to dealing with the risk brought on by this era of uncertainty, how do businesses develop the agility and adaptability to make themselves more resilient?



BUILDING BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Navigating Global Uncertainty and Managing Risk

OCT
10
2024

The Carolina Inn
Chapel Hill, NC

Corporate executives, top researchers and policy leaders gather to share objective, evidence-based solutions for leading the way through turbulent times.



BUILDING BUSINESS RESILIENCE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10



Registration and Networking

8:00 AM Colonnade Breakfast Available

Welcome and Overview

9:00 AM Hill Ballroom SPEAKERS
Lee H. Roberts, Chancellor, UNC-Chapel Hill
Paige Ouimet, Executive Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise and Professor of Finance, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

Panel Discussion: Thriving Through Turbulence: Insights on Business Resilience

9:25 AM Hill Ballroom PANELISTS
Senator David W. Craven Jr., North Carolina General Assembly
Kevin Lavender, Executive Vice President, Head of Commercial Banking, Fifth Third Bank
Christian Lundblad, Richard "Dick" Levin Distinguished Professor of Finance and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Research, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School
MODERATOR
Sekou Bermiss, Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

10:15 AM Networking Break

Keynote: Expertise, Artificial Intelligence and the Work of the Future

10:45 AM Hill Ballroom SPEAKER
David Autor, Daniel (1972) and Gail Rubinfeld Professor, Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow, MIT, and 2024 Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow

Panel Discussion: Innovation: Disruption, Adaption and a Reshuffle

11:15 AM Hill Ballroom PANELISTS
Josh Lerner, Jacob H. Schiff Professor of Investment Banking, Harvard Business School, and 2024 Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow
Heather Miller, Vice President, Digital Transformation, Smurfit Westrock
Bruce Van Saun, Chairman and CEO, Citizens
MODERATOR
Gerald Cohen, Chief Economist, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

Luncheon: A Conversation with Derek Thompson

12:00 PM Chancellor's Ballroom SPEAKER
Derek Thompson, Staff Writer, The Atlantic
MODERATOR
Brooke Capps-Yaroni, Director of External Affairs, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

1:30 PM Networking Break

Breakout Sessions

Panel Discussion: Balancing Operational Efficiency and Agility in a Post-Pandemic Era

1:45 PM Hill Ballroom - North PANELISTS
Léa Dulin Grandbois, Vice President of Risk, Albemarle
Kristin Sjöholm, Managing Director, FTI Consulting
Martin Vilsøe, Chief Executive Officer, Implement Consulting Group
MODERATOR
Jayashankar M. Swaminathan, GlaxoSmithKline Distinguished Professor of Operations, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, and 2024 Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow

Panel Discussion: Are Parts of US Healthcare Too Big to Fail?

Hill Ballroom - South PANELISTS
Adam Brown, Founder, ABIG Health
Lisa Grabert, Research Professor, Georgetown University and Visiting Research Professor, Marquette University
Frances Nahas, Chief Strategy & Administrative Officer, RedSail Technologies
MODERATOR
Bradley Staats, Senior Associate Dean for Strategy and Academics and Ellison Distinguished Professor of Operations; Faculty Director, Center for the Business of Health, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

2:30 PM Networking Break

Breakout Sessions

Panel Discussion: Resilience and Small Firms: Challenges and Advantages of Small Firms in a World of Change

2:45 PM Hill Ballroom - North PANELISTS
Kristen Fanarakis, Associate Director, Small Business Policy, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Milken Institute
Kevin McGahren, President and General Manager, Greyston
William Toole, Deputy, North Carolina of Secretary of State
MODERATOR
Bernard Bell, Executive Director, UNC Shuford Program

Panel Discussion: Building a Resilient Workforce: How to Turn Volatility Into Opportunity

Hill Ballroom - South PANELISTS
DeLisa Alexander, Executive Coach and Board Director, Qlik, Sophos and Synechron
Representative Stephen M. Ross, North Carolina General Assembly
Tammy Samuels, Associate Dean of Talent and Administration, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School
MODERATOR
David Hofmann, Hugh L. McColl Jr. Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Organizational Behavior and Senior Associate Dean, UNC Executive Development, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

3:30 PM Networking Break - Refreshments Available

Keynote: Fundamentals of Resilience

3:45 PM Chancellor's Ballroom SPEAKER
Kathleen M. Sutcliffe, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University, and 2024 Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow

Risk, Uncertainty and Adaptive Resilience: A Fireside Chat with UNC Kenan-Flagler Dean Mary Margaret Frank

This session is presented as part of the Dean's Speaker Series and made possible through the generous support of the Archie K. Davis Endowment

4:15 PM Chancellor's Ballroom SPEAKERS
Stephen Malik, Chairman and Owner, NC Courage
The Honorable Sarah Bloom Raskin, Colin W. Brown Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Law, Duke University; Former Deputy Secretary, US Department of the Treasury
MODERATOR
Mary Margaret Frank, Dean, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

Closing Remarks

5:00 PM Chancellor's Ballroom David Knowles, Managing Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

5:10 PM Old Well Room Reception

For full speaker bios, please visit: frontiers.unc.edu/businessresilience/speakers

Stay tuned for the release of the 2025 Kenan Institute Grand Challenge in January and save the date for our next Frontiers of Business Conference on October 9, 2025 at The Carolina Inn.

