



REBECCA SANCHEZ

Rebecca Sanchez, CEO of Nimble Up, is known across the CI community for her ability to help organizations remove friction, accelerate flow, and build systems that adapt quickly to change. Rebecca brings more than 20 years of experience helping companies transform their CI programs into high-velocity, high-clarity lean systems. Her work at Nimble Up has empowered organizations to streamline communication, strengthen leadership behaviors, and build systems that flow – even under pressure.

MORNING KEYNOTE

LOCATION: AUDITORIUM
TIME: 8:55 - 9:55 AM

MAKE SPACE FOR BETTER: WHY CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT STARTS WITH HUMAN CAPACITY

SESSION DESCRIPTION

We know how to improve processes. But what happens when the people responsible for making everything better have no capacity left to think? In this interactive opening keynote, Rebecca Sanchez turns the continuous improvement lens on how we work. Together, we'll explore how busyness, perfectionism, competing priorities, and even our drive to improve can become barriers to better thinking, ownership, and change. Attendees will leave with a practical way to create more space to notice what matters, challenge assumptions, experiment, and make things better.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Recognize where “full” has become a constraint. Identifying how over-functioning can limit learning, ownership, and improvement.
- Distinguish activity from capacity for improvement, examining whether current ways of working create enough space to notice problems, experiment, and learn.
- Choose one practical shift to make space for better. Leaving with an immediate experiment they can apply to their own work, team, or organization.



MARYNA SHEVERIA

Maryna is the Special Projects Manager for Artificial Intelligence within Douglas County's Department of Strategic Solutions. She works across departments to identify high-friction processes, develop practical AI use cases, and turn early experiments into repeatable workflows that improve efficiency and public service delivery. She is developing a practical AI adoption framework for local government and is a Certified Public Manager candidate. Maryna is also completing graduate studies in Artificial Intelligence Management and Policy.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 1
TIME: 10:10 - 11:00 AM

START SMALL. SCALE SMART: HOW BETTER PROCESSES TURN AI EXPERIMENTS INTO ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

SESSION DESCRIPTION

AI adoption often begins with small experiments, but lasting organizational impact depends on more than selecting the right tool. Using local government examples ranging from structured prompts to guided AI workflows and larger service redesigns, this session presents a practical, process-first approach for improving and standardizing workflows, matching solutions to organizational budget and readiness, and scaling what delivers measurable value.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Identify repeatable work that may benefit from AI.
- Improve and standardize processes before introducing technology.
- Match AI approaches to budget, readiness, risk, and workflow needs.
- Scale proven use cases into measurable organizational impact.



MICHELLE ZAPAPAS

Michelle is an experienced healthcare professional with a clinical foundation in pediatric pharmacy and a strong focus on process improvement and change management. As a Process Improvement Lead at Children's Hospital Colorado, Michelle leads cross-functional teams on high-impact initiatives that improve operational efficiency and optimize outcomes. She holds Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Black Belt certifications and trains and mentors team members and leaders in Lean Six Sigma methodology and Change Management.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 2

TIME: 10:10 - 11:00 AM

X MARKS THE WASTE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO VALUE STREAM MAPS

SESSION DESCRIPTION

This session will demonstrate the utility of a value stream map to identify and highlight waste in a process using a variety of data. It will showcase ideal metrics to display and outline how to interpret the outputs to advance Lean improvements.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Understand the fundamentals of Value Stream Mapping
- Identify the types of waste illustrated by a Value Stream Map
- Build and analyze a Value Stream Map



JEFF CANN

Jeff has more than 30 years of experience leading business process improvement initiatives through leadership, technology, and Lean principles. He completed Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training and Lean Process Improvement training through the CAMT (now Manufacturer's Edge) and has facilitated multiple Lean process improvement workshops. Today, he helps leaders build greater ownership, accountability, and problem-solving capability so teams can improve without depending on the leader.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 3
TIME: 10:10 - 11:00 AM

WHEN THE LEADER BECOMES THE BOTTLENECK: BREAKING TEAM DEPENDENCY WITH LEAN LEADERSHIP

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Lean organizations work hard to eliminate bottlenecks in their processes, but what happens when the bottleneck is the leader? This session explores how well-intentioned leadership behaviors create dependency, slow improvement, and limit team ownership. You'll walk away with tools that help teams solve problems without depending on the leader.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Learn why and how well-intended leadership behaviors create dependency.
- Use a simple diagnostic to identify where dependency exists on your team.
- Apply practical techniques to build greater ownership while keeping projects moving forward.



RODRIGO PINTO COELHO

Rodrigo is an AI Solutions Architect and Principal Data Scientist with 30+ years of experience in process optimization spanning manufacturing, supply chain, and enterprise technology. A Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, PMP®, and CSM® with an MBA in Finance and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Data Science/AI from USI Switzerland, he has been a key contributor to multi-site, company-wide 5S and TQM implementations and has accumulated over \$139M in cost reductions over the span of his career. Currently he builds AI agent frameworks that bridge Lean Six Sigma methodology with modern AI.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 1
TIME: 11:10 - 12:00 PM

LEANAI – AI AGENTS FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: AUTOMATING THE DMAIC CYCLE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

This session introduces LeanAI – a framework that bridges the gap between what customers want and how operational teams track and fix problems, using a chain of specialized AI agents mapped to the DMAIC cycle. This is a battle-tested methodology grounded in 30 years of Lean Six Sigma practice and proven results at a Fortune 500 company. Attendees will see how AI can compress the continuous improvement cycle, without necessarily requiring a company-wide transformation to get started.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Understand how AI agents can compress the continuous improvement cycle.
- See a real-world example of cutting issue-diagnosis time from weeks to real-time.
- See practical examples of how AI can be used to unlock incredible value per token.



MORGAN SCHREIBER

Morgan is the founder of 1 Up Blueprint, an operations consulting practice that helps owner-led businesses fix the systems that quietly depend on one person to keep running. She's worked across construction, education, nonprofits, and professional services, and has found that most operations problems that look like a software or process gap are actually a documentation gap. She's the author of *The Founder's Ceiling: How You're the Bottleneck, and How to Fix It*, and through her Real Business Program she helps aspiring and beginning business owners build their businesses from the ground up.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 2
TIME: 11:10 - 12:00 PM

FINDING THE 20%: HOW TO PRIORITIZE WHAT GETS DOCUMENTED

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Most organizations have dozens of processes that could be documented, and most teams lose momentum before they get past the first one. This talk walks through a framework for identifying which processes are actually worth the time, the ones that get used constantly and would hurt the most if the one person who knows them left tomorrow. It draws on real client work across construction, education, and nonprofit operations to show how the same prioritization approach holds up no matter the industry.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Understand why most documentation efforts stall out, and what separates the ones that actually stick.
- Learn how to identify high priority, high use processes.
- See how the same prioritization framework plays out differently depending on the industry and team size.
- Walk away with a simple way to evaluate which of their own organization's undocumented processes matter most.



DIANE CHAPP & TYLER POLLESCH

Diane's career spanned Director Client Experience | Financial Services | Treasury & Risk, Insurance, Business Liaison | Training Development | PMI Membership Team | Community-Building | Creator, Focus Without Distractions & Intentional Movement Mindset | Speaker. She focuses on building stronger teams through client and employee engagement, training development, and community building.

Tyler is an operations and project leader who builds high-performing teams, effective systems, and strong stakeholder relationships across scaling startups, the architecture/engineering/construction (AEC) industry, and nonprofit organizations. He specializes in turning strategic vision into momentum through clarity, alignment, staff support, and effective systems.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 3
TIME: 11:10 - 12:00 PM

KAIZEN CONNECTIONS: A SPEED NETWORKING EXPERIENCE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Strong professional relationships are built the same way as effective processes, through small, intentional habits practiced consistently. This interactive session opens with a brief, practical primer on creating psychological safety, asking better questions, and following up with intention, which are the real skills behind meaningful conversations. Attendees immediately put these habits into practice through five rounds of guided speed networking that move from light to genuinely meaningful. Participants leave with real new connections made in the room and a simple, repeatable plan for engaged follow-up.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Learn simple, repeatable techniques for creating psychological safety and asking questions that build real rapport.
- Practice starting, deepening, and gracefully exiting professional conversations.
- Experience five rounds of guided speed networking that progress from light small talk to genuinely meaningful exchange.
- Leave with new professional connections and a simple, sustainable follow-up plan.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 1

TIME: 1:45 - 2:35 PM

AI MAKES PROTOTYPES CHEAP. LEAN STILL MAKES THEM USEFUL.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

AI makes it easier than ever to produce an impressive demo. It does not make it easier to identify the right problem, earn user trust, or run a useful product or process over time. Drawing on hands-on experiments building with AI and lessons from Beyond the Prototype, this session connects Lean practices to the new realities of AI-assisted work: small bets, rapid learning, human control, and deciding when an AI solution is not the right solution. Participants will leave with a practical way to evaluate AI ideas before investing in a polished prototype that nobody needs.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- **U**se a lightweight experiment structure to test an AI-assisted idea before committing significant time or money.
- Identify where human judgment, review, and operational ownership need to remain in an AI-enabled workflow.

ASHLEY ROACH

Ashley is a product and go-to-market leader who works at the intersection of customer problems, operating systems, and practical AI adoption. He has spent his career helping teams turn ambiguous opportunities into testable product and learning experiences, including work at Cisco. Through Lattice Intelligence and his newsletter, Beyond the Prototype, he writes and experiments with what it takes to move AI ideas past the demo stage: into useful, trustworthy, and sustainable products and workflows. He is based in Denver.



ALLI BARTH & LEO VUONG

Leo is a Senior Lean facilitator at Denver Health. With more than a decade of experience across healthcare, technology, and operations—including roles with Amazon, Meta, and CVS Health. Leo is a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, PMP, and EMCC-accredited leadership coach, with advanced business and strategy training from the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

Alli is a Senior Lean Operations Strategist at Denver Health with over 10 years of experience in continuous improvement. Since coming to Denver Health in 2016, Alli has had the opportunity to design and deploy the organization's Strategy, support enterprise-level transformation, and enable operational excellence.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 2

TIME: 1:45 - 2:35 PM

OBEYA IN ACTION: ALIGNING STRATEGY, PEOPLE & IMPROVEMENT

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Obeya is more than visual management—it is a management system for turning strategy into coordinated actions. Drawing on our experience at Denver Health, we will share how Obeya creates visibility, aligns leader and teams around shared priorities, strengthen accountability, and enables effective problem-solving. Participants will leave with practical lessons, common pitfalls, and an approach for leveraging Obeya to meet their organizational needs.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Understand how Obeya aligns people to achieve a shared purpose and drive collective ownership of organizational goals.
- Learn how Obeya translates complex, strategic goals into smaller, measurable tactics across various organizational layers.
- Identify the roles and behaviors of leaders and Lean facilitators in creating a high-functioning Obeya that enables accountability, problem-solving, and Lean culture transformation.
- Explore real-life examples, practical lessons, and pitfalls of Denver Health Obeya.



RENEE ANDERSON, MUZIT KIFLAI & CHARLIE SEGLEM

Renee Anderson is a Continuous Improvement Specialist at Metro Water Recovery.

Muzit Kiflai is s Senior Continuous Improvement Manager at Metro Water Recovery.

Charlie Seglem is a Business Intelligence Analyst at Metro Water Recovery.

BREAKOUT SESSION

LOCATION: CLASSROOM 3
TIME: 1:45 - 2:35 PM

PRACTICAL APPROACH TO CI TRAINING AND PROJECTION COMPLETION METRICS

SESSION DESCRIPTION

How do you know your Lean projects are actually making a difference? Get a behind-the-scenes look at Metro Water Recovery's Lean Belt training program and the metrics they use to track successful project implementation and measure the impact of continuous improvement.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Identify key KPIs for tracking successful Lean project implementation.
- Understand how Metro Water Recovery built a project-tracking system using existing programs and software.
- Explore practical approaches for measuring and communicating continuous improvement results without adding new technology.



LISA MACHOS

Lisa is a seasoned organizational strategist, Lean Master and Master Black Belt with over 20 years experience in aerospace, medical device manufacturing and consumer goods manufacturing driving change management and continuous improvement. She brings a uniquely engaging approach to reshaping how teams think about time management, habits and forward motion. Known for blending structure with humor, Lisa has trained over 1000 individuals and led transformative initiatives in diverse industries and teams-proving that progress doesn't have to be painful.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

LOCATION: AUDITORIUM

TIME: 2:50 - 3:40 PM

IMAGINATION! CI WITHOUT EFFORT...

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Change isn't actually hard. We just believe it is. Imagine your results when CI leaders stop trying to carry it alone. This session explores how creating ownership, even in the face of resistance, enables wide-spread engagement and sustainable transformation. It shows how to replace one-person heroics with team-driven habits that embed change into daily work. Resistance is reframed as routine and structure, and CI is positioned not as an "extra" but as something woven into everyday operations.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Empowered Teams – Participants will learn how to shift from solo driven change to team owned transformation.
- Practical Engagement Tools – Discover frameworks for creating ownership even when resistance is present.
- Sustainable Habits – Replace short term heroics with daily practices that embed change into culture.
- Resilient Leadership – Understand how enabling wide-spread engagement reduces burnout and increases long term success.