2020 Hinman Keynote Session

“Pushing the Envelope”

**Session Description:** Leaders across every industry and experience level share one thing in common: to be successful, they need to effectively navigate moments of self-doubt, organizational and cultural change, and moments of vulnerability. Using the aviation-based idea of an ‘aircraft performance envelope’ as a metaphor, this elite fighter pilot will share inspiring personal stories, and practical tools, to ignite your ability to reach your maximum capabilities. Pushing your own ‘personal performance envelope’, at work and in life, will empower you to bring your best every day, to accomplish as much as possible with your unique skillset, and to consistently perform to a standard of excellence.

**Objectives:** Reflect on your unique personal and professional strengths and bolster your ability to:

- Overcome the self-doubt that often inhibits personal and professional growth
- Effectively navigate organizational and cultural change
- Practice vulnerability and transparency to build trust and galvanize teamwork

Col. Nicole Malachowski (USAF, Ret.) defies stereotypes. Yes, she was a jet fighter pilot, but if you think you know her based on that information, you’d be wrong. A leader, a combat veteran, the first woman pilot on the Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron, a White House Fellow, and an inductee into the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame, Nicole’s distinguished 21-year Air Force career has exceeded her wildest dreams.

But the dream came to an end when a devastating tick-borne illness left her unable to speak or walk for ten months. An indomitable spirit, Nicole fought back against overwhelming odds and prevailed. Drawing on stories from her career and personal life, Nicole inspires audiences to rethink the challenges they face every day. She urges them to go beyond resilience and become resurgent.

Nicole’s empowers people with three key beliefs: failure and risk are the price of entry for achieving something great; sometimes you need to yield to overcome; and her personal mantra, “nobody wants to lead a scripted life.”