



REMEMBER

April 23, 2026 • No. 30

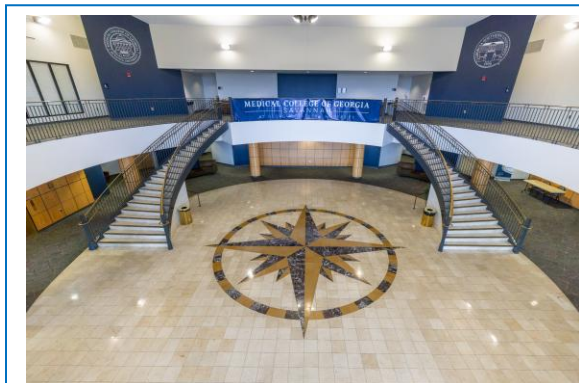
for the Bellwether Community

BLFIRE19 • November 16, 2026 • ATTEND • DONATE • SPONSOR

The Board of Directors (BOD) and Advisory Council (AC) are working on these key projects:

- **Military salute:** In case you missed our LinkedIn announcement, the BLF BOD voted unanimously to add “Military Medical Logistics” as its eighth category of recognition, joining Provider-Based Supply Chain, Distribution, Manufacturing, Group Purchasing, Consulting, Academics and Media. Although we formally have honored supply chain innovators, leaders, pioneers and visionaries with military experience since BLF’s inception in 2007, we wanted to make it official. Peruse the list of Bellwether inductees, Ammer Honorees and Future Famers to date with military experience as spotlighted in *Leaders & Luminaries 8* (<https://www.bellwetherleague.org/11/118/11-issue-8.php#gsc.tab=0>). Consider this a call to action to nominate colleagues, competitors, constituents and contemporaries with a military medical logistics background for BLF to consider going forward. What a testament and a tribute if you were to nominate someone this year for consideration for the 2027 honoree classes during BLF’s 20th anniversary next year!
- **Recognition ignition:** The Nominating Committee remains hard at work assessing all the nominations received for the 2026 classes. Look for the official class reveals in June.

- **Calendar mark:** The 19th annual Bellwether League Foundation Induction & Recognition Event (BLFIRE19) is scheduled for **Monday,**



BLFIRE19 VIP Reception room at Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Center

November 16, 2026, at **Georgia Southern University's** Savannah, GA, campus. Here's an easy way to remember: 1-1-1-6-2-6. Mark your calendars now. Earlier this month and on our website, you likely learned on our LinkedIn page how we're revamping the event schedule to enhance the celebration and convenience. Plan your travel now as key event details – including hotel blocks – will be released this summer. It's only months away from now!

- Rising star tours:** Last week, Piedmont Healthcare hosted GSU's 2026 Collegiate Capstone Project student team, which toured the IDN's campus and consolidated distribution center for a first-hand look at an award-winning supply chain operation. (Piedmont earned the 2018 Supply Chain Department of the Year Award from *Healthcare Purchasing News*.) Here are two photos from the day's event. Look for more to be shared next week on BLF's LinkedIn page. BLF salutes both GSU and Piedmont Healthcare for making this happen and promoting Supply Chain Ops: The Next Generation!



Photo by Joe Colonna, Chief Supply Chain & Project Management Officer, Piedmont Health

Jeff Bolton (background, second from left), Piedmont Healthcare's Vice President of Supply Chain Operations, leads GSU supply chain students on a tour of the distribution center.



Photo by Skip Morris, Regional Director for Supply Chain, Piedmont Health

Lonna Green (second from left), Supply Chain Leader at Piedmont Macon Hospital, shares with GSU supply chain students "the last 100 feet of supply chain" in a hospital, here in the cath lab storeroom.

- On the road:** Several BOD and AC members are traveling to a variety of industry events during the next two months. Board Chairman **Barbara Strain** (*Bellwether Class of 2021*), Board Treasurer **Ed Hisscock** (*Bellwether Class of 2022*), and AC members **Carl Meyer** (*Bellwether Class of 2019*), and **Angie Bruns** (*Future Famers Class of 2024*) just returned from the **Spring IDN Summit** in Orlando. Look for AC member **George Godfrey** (*Bellwether Class of 2025*) at the SMI Spring Forum in Dallas, April 28-30; BOD Secretary **Rachel Anderson** (*Future Famers Class of 2023*), BOD Outreach Ambassador **Fred Crans** (*Bellwether Class of 2020*) and AC member **Ryan Burke** (*Future Famers Class of 2022*) at Health Connect Partners in Louisville, KY, May 13-15; and Barbara Strain at Professional Women in Healthcare Leadership Summit, May 18-20, West Palm Beach, FL.



Crans and Strain at FAH

- Precious medaling update:** We are grateful for the generosity of our Sustaining Partners, Donors and Alumni. Their commitment to the Bellwether League Foundation allows us to support and promote healthcare supply chain leadership across generations through our events and media content. We also plan to reveal our "Keepers of the Lighthouse" recognition display at BLFIRE19. "Keepers of the Lighthouse" represents all the Sustaining and Event Partners, Donors and Alumni that have supported BLF since the very beginning. We are proud to

This is our way of saying thank you for making a difference.



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share it and are equally proud to recognize everyone's dedication and devotion to BLF, its mission and vision for the industry and profession. Together, we're making a difference.

- **Rewarding scholars:** Encourage college students studying supply chain, interns at your organization or even staffers pursuing additional education to apply for any or all of BLF's three scholarships for 2026. The scholarships are open to students, interns and active professionals taking classes to further their careers. Applications are available and open now. Contact BLF or visit BLF's Philanthropy page at <https://www.bellwetherleague.org/scholarships.php#gsc.tab=0>.
- **Collegiate pursuits:** As the **Georgia Southern University** supply chain student team works with **Piedmont Healthcare** on the 2026 Collegiate Capstone Project to be presented during the Bellwether Leadership Symposium at BLFIRE19, we invite universities and healthcare providers to submit proposals for the 2027 Collegiate Capstone Projects and beyond. If you work with a nearby college or university – or would like to establish a relationship with one – contact BLF for assistance in making a connection and consider applying for the Collegiate Capstone Project.
- **Assess yourself:** BLF's newly updated **Supply Chain Maturity Assessment Tool (SCMAT 2.0)** is ready for you to license and implement for your team. This useful tool enables healthcare provider organizations to self-evaluate the development, growth and quality of their supply chain operations. Contact BLF by email at info@bellwetherleague.org for licensing details. Proceeds are applied to BLF's scholarship fund to support the next-generation supply chain executives, leaders and professionals. We encourage suppliers to help BLF spread awareness of this tool and to promote this valuable and worthwhile opportunity to their provider customers.
- **Level up:** Would you like to contribute to BLF's scholarship fund? Consider joining the four Sustaining Partners who "upleveled" in 2025 by adding \$1,000 to their annual commitment – Founding Vizient, Platinum GHX, Bronze Allina and Bronze BJC Health. One already has reupped! Make an individual professional donation or uplevel your sustaining or event partnership. Contact BLF headquarters if you have any questions.
- **Weigh in:** Thanks to those of you who volunteered to serve as editorial sources for *Leaders & Luminaries* edition 9, which is scheduled for this fall. We're exploring a serious topic applied to supply chain in our cover story that a famous (now deceased) comedian took to the bank. If

you'd like to participate in any or all *L&L* stories, reach out to Executive Editor Rick Dana Barlow at rickdanabarlow@bellwetherleague.org. To read back issues, use the QR code below.

- **Stay connected:** Sign up for and/or routinely visit BLF's LinkedIn page for photos and references to valuable news and views you can use about the foundation, including conferences we're attending, events we're hosting and content we're posting. Visit BLF's LinkedIn page and follow us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bellwether-league/>.
- **Make a tax-deductible donation to BLF in 2026.** Your donation or sustaining partnership helps to educate, honor, inform and research healthcare supply chain performance excellence. *BLF is an **independent** 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable foundation so donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Please note that no goods or services are exchanged for any of the donations, gifts and sponsorships received by Bellwether League Foundation.*

Join with us to honor exceptional people doing extraordinary things.



REMEMBER: Your bimonthly record of professional recognition.

Visit us at www.bellwetherleague.org or email us at info@bellwetherleague.org.