

Thinking Big: Doctoral Insights for a  
Changing Business Landscape



DOCTORATE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
SCHOLARS CONFERENCE



Join us for the Annual DBA Scholars Conference  
(DBASC 2026) at the University of Rhode Island  
(October 2-4, 2026)

**Special Keynote Speakers:**

Dr. Kelly Burich and Dr. Valrie Grant from the DBA Chronicles

# Annual DBA Scholars Conference



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## Dr. Kelly Burich

Kelly Burich is an instructor in the Belk College of Business at UNC Charlotte, where she also earned her Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). Her doctoral research explored veterinary well-being and burnout, focusing on how professional skill development can reduce burnout and promote career longevity. With more than 20 years of experience in sales, marketing, leadership, and management across the pharmaceutical and veterinary health industries, Burich brings both academic expertise and practical insight to her teaching. She has held leadership roles in multiple animal health manufacturing organizations, with a focus on strategic management, sales, and organizational development.

Burich is a Certified Veterinary Business Leader (CVBL), a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP), and a graduate of the Purdue Veterinary Practice Management Program. She also holds certifications in Crucial Conversations training and digital marketing. As a RACE-accredited speaker, she has presented nationally on topics including compassion fatigue, communication strategies, and practice management.

Passionate about resilience and well-being in the veterinary profession, Burich combines research-driven insights with a deep commitment to developing leaders in healthcare and business settings.

## Dr. Valrie Grant

Dr. Valrie Grant is an award-winning entrepreneur, geospatial and innovation leader, strategic advisor, author, and podcast host shaping the future of data-driven development across Small Island Developing States (SIDS). She is Founder and Chairwoman of GeoTechVision and Founder of Jamaica Flying Labs, and has founded multiple technology ventures. She currently serves as Caribbean Lead in Fugro's Climate & Nature Practice and as Strategic Advisor on Geospatial Matters to the OECS Commission. Valrie also holds leadership roles on several regional and international boards, including Chair of the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network, where she advances global collaboration between the public and private sectors in geospatial innovation. A 2020 WE Empower UN SDG Challenge Awardee, she is the author of *Every Day is Day One: Maintaining the Startup Culture and Mindset* and *Hills and Valleys: Poems of Resilience*. She hosts *Mapping the Conversations*, a podcast exploring geospatial leadership and innovation, and co-hosts *DBA Chronicles*, dedicated to doctoral scholarship and practitioner impact. Valrie holds a BSc in Geology from the University of the West Indies, a MSc in GIS and the Environment from Manchester Metropolitan University, an MBA from Florida Institute of Technology, and a Doctor of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her doctoral research examined the factors influencing the adoption of National Geospatial Information Management (NGIM) in SIDS. She remains committed to mentoring entrepreneurs, working with youth, and building resilient systems where data does not simply inform decision but transforms them.