

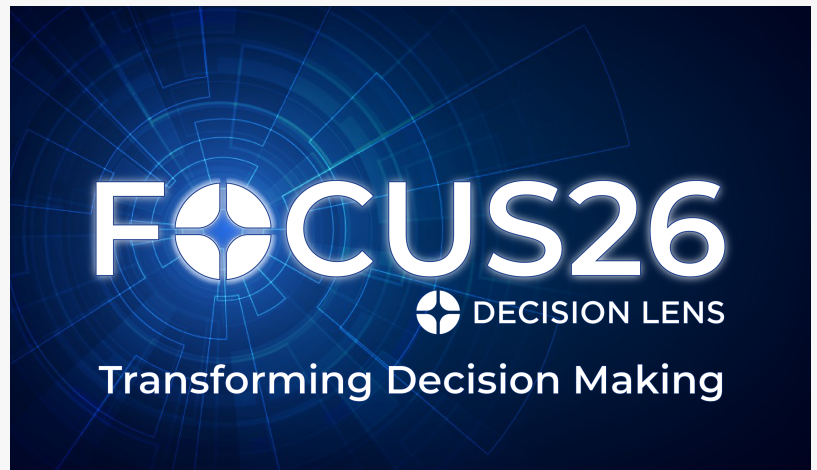
Decision Lens Announces Michael Roberto as Opening Keynote for FOCUS26

Decision making researcher to open FOCUS26 with a research-grounded conversation on how institutions sustain decision quality as competing priorities multiply

ARLINGTON, VA, UNITED STATES, September 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Decision Lens](#) today announced Michael Roberto, Professor of Management at Bryant University, as the opening keynote speaker for [FOCUS26](#). The invitation-only annual gathering convenes government leaders, practitioners, researchers, and policy thinkers on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at The Square in Washington, D.C.

Roberto is one of the foremost researchers on decision making in complex, high-stakes organizations across government, military, healthcare, and defense. He brings to FOCUS26 a practical perspective: what separates the organizations that navigate pressure well from those that do not, and what it takes to build the processes, culture, and discipline that hold up when the tradeoffs are genuinely hard.

His keynote will open the day around the central question of FOCUS26: more claims on every dollar, and more riding on every call.



FOCUS26: Transforming Decision Making



Michael Roberto Headshot

What does it take to sustain decision quality under that weight?

"Michael's work is groundbreaking in the study of critical decision making under real-world pressures. He speaks not as a vendor, not as a theorist, but as a researcher who has spent decades studying exactly the problems that senior government leaders live with every day. His work is built from the ground up on the kinds of decisions our audience makes, and the kinds of failures they're trying to avoid. We couldn't think of a better way to open this conversation."

— Steve Tolbert, Chief Executive Officer, Decision Lens

FOCUS26 is convened around the theme Decision Making in the Compression Era, a recognition that the operating environment for government leaders has fundamentally shifted. Budgets are compressing. Timelines are shortening. The inputs to every decision are multiplying in volume, complexity, and pace. Scrutiny is rising. And yet the opportunity has never been greater: what government funds shapes what the country can do, and decisions made well compound into outcomes communities can see and trust.

"Government leaders are navigating one of the most demanding decision making environments in recent history. But the research is clear: the organizations that rise to that challenge are the ones that treat decision making as a discipline, something that can be structured, improved, and built into the culture. That's the conversation I'm looking forward to having at FOCUS26."

— Michael Roberto, Professor of Management, Bryant University

Attendance is limited and invitations are by request. Leaders, practitioners, researchers, and policy professionals interested in attending may request an invitation at www.focus2026.com.

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