

Celebrating IWD 2026: Excellence at the top

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March 9, 2026



Enabling people to succeed through human-centric AI

At Bentley Systems, Ruth Sleeter directs global strategy for internal technology, systems, data, and security, which includes AI enablement and adoption across the company. Her distinguished 25-year career spans software leadership, strategic planning, and leading major business transformation initiatives. Prior to this, she served as CIO at Axon and Sonos, complemented by major IT transformation efforts at Lenovo and Deutsche Bank.

Top skills

Ruth's career has been defined by a strong systems thinking, honed through computer science training and reinforced in engineering and product roles. Her ability to deconstruct complex problems and design effective systems underpins her leadership style. She leverages product management experience, customer empathy, and clear communication as foundational CIO skills.

Her customer-facing work has sharpened her understanding of user needs, while her time at Deutsche Bank and Lenovo informed her knowledge of business processes and transformation. These skills enable her to be a strategic leader who aligns technology with organisational priorities and business outcomes.

Soft skills

Ruth's experience underscores how people-centric strengths shape leadership journeys for women. Though she once believed results should transcend gender, her senior roles showed her the importance of mentorship, especially as women early in their careers sought out her guidance. She maintains that open dialogue about gender equity helps create more inclusive environments.

This philosophy appears in her human-first approach to AI adoption, which prioritises empathy and communication. She finds these soft skills enable women leaders to build trust, guide change, and foster a true sense of belonging within their teams.

Most satisfying

Ruth finds energy in strategic leadership, particularly in translating organisational strategy into actionable technology investments. A major driver of her job satisfaction is enabling people to succeed through human-centric AI.

Most challenging

Challenges arise from breadth of information required for executive decisions, complexity of aligning diverse business functions, and emergence and rise of AI adoption. Managing this requires flexible thinking and empathy to guide the organisation through a transformational business shift in workplace practices.

Dream workplace

Ruth's ideal workplace values systems thinking, open dialogue, and human-first leadership. This environment encourages experimentation and flexible approaches to emerging technologies like AI. It also embraces transparent conversations on inclusion and empowers individuals to improve their daily work.

Five years from now...

Ruth's career trajectory centres on deepening her strategic leadership and advancing human-centric AI adoption. She aims to continue shaping organisational transformation and mentoring future leaders as AI reshapes global workforces. Her focus is ensuring technology investments reflect business priorities and strengthen systems thinking at scale.

Success mantras

- People-centric strengths shape leadership journeys for women.
- Open dialogue about gender equity helps create more inclusive environments.
- Soft skills enable women leaders to build trust, guide change, and foster a true sense of belonging within their teams.