

2020 VIEW FROM THE E-SUITE

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM

XisPossible



**AN ACTION-PACKED EVENT
FOCUSED ON YOUR GROWTH!**

An action-packed virtual experience focused on your growth!

**20-21,
OCTOBER
2020**

A Virtual Experience



Women's

**PROFESSIONAL EMPOWERMENT
SYMPOSIUM**

WELCOME TO THE E-SUITE

Whether this is your first time in the E-Suite, or you've been a part of this community for a while, we are delighted to have you join us for the 2020 View From the E-Suite: Women's Professional Empowerment Symposium.

The E-Suite Team has planned this event for over a year. Like you, we have been forced to continually adjust to external challenges, and learn to excel in a new environment. The product is a virtual experience, which is intended to equip YOU with the tools, strategies, and support to thrive in our new reality.

For years, working women have reported dissatisfaction with their opportunities for career advancement, their career options, and the contributions they are able to make to society. Women, in particular, face challenges in ascending to senior positions within their companies or organizations. When we do advance, we often don't receive the same levels of compensation, recognition, or respect.

Those challenges persist in our current environment, and are exasperated by changes to the economy. While our unique attributes and backgrounds may be associated with different barriers, the obstacles we face as women cross industries, skin color, ethnicity, and geographic boundaries can be overcome!

We are already empowered to define success for ourselves, and to follow, or create, a career path that is fulfilling. It is my hope that you will use this time to focus on YOUR professional priorities. Tap into the collective power and wisdom of this amazing group of professional women to advance your personal and professional goals. Contribute to the rich, unique conversations that can propel you forward. Enjoy the speakers, panelists, coaches, and exhibitors who are here to support you.

On behalf of the E-Suite Academy team, co-hosts, sponsors, and supporters, we welcome you to this symposium, and welcome you to the E-Suite!

Yours in Service,

Erica M. Roberts

Erica M. Roberts

Creator, E-Suite Academy

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*X*is Possible



CareFirst[®]



LOCKHEED MARTIN



AGENDA



A DAY OF EMPOWERMENT (AND ACTION)

October 20, 2020

Time (ET)

Event

8:30am - 8:40am | **Welcome Message & Networking**

8:40am - 9:00am | **Mainstage Plenary** - *Erica M. Roberts*

9:00am - 10:30am | **Career Track**

Career Pivot - *Facilitator, Dethra U. Giles*

- An Honest Look at Your Situation
Speaker: Dethra U. Giles

Career Advancement- *Facilitator, LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge*

- Un-Masked: Strategic Authenticity for the Executive Woman
Speaker: Jodi Davidson

10:30am - 11:00am | **Speed Networking** (Optional)

11:00am - 4:00pm | Empowerment Suite Open (Available to Full Registrants)

11:00am- 12:30pm | **Career Track**

Career Pivot - *Facilitator, Dethra U. Giles*

- Career Change Or.....
Speakers: Lisa Ealy & Dethra U. Giles

Career Advancement- *Facilitator, LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge*

- Zoom In: Strategies to Increase Visibility
Speaker: Quinn Conyers

12:45pm - 1:45pm | **Seat at the Table Lunch & Grow: Excelling in Male-Dominated Industries**

Facilitator, Erica M. Roberts

Panelists: Lisa Brown, PhD & Elaine Ho

***PLEASE, NO SCREENSHOTS**

AGENDA



A DAY OF EMPOWERMENT (AND ACTION)

October 20, 2020 (cont.)

Time

Event

2:00pm- 3:30pm | **Career Track**

Career Pivot - *Facilitator, Dethra U. Giles*

- Pivot Ready
Speakers: Dr. Felice Carlton, Melissa Reakenwalt & Laura Labovich

Career Advancement- *Facilitator, LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge*

- Leadership Game Plan
Speaker: Kristin Harper

3:45pm - 5:15pm | **Career Track**

Career Pivot - *Facilitator, Dethra U. Giles*

- Transitioning with Grace
Speaker: Johnette Ruffner-Ceaser

Career Advancement- *Facilitator, LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge*

- What's My Value?
Speaker: Amber Butler

5:30pm - 6:30pm | **Bonus:** Developing the YOU in YOUR Career - *LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge*

5:30pm - 6:00pm | Cooking With Love (Full Registrants ONLY) - Cheron Burns, RX Catering

***PLEASE, NO SCREENSHOTS**

AGENDA



A DAY OF EMPOWERMENT (AND ACTION)

October 21, 2020

Time	Event
8:30am - 8:40am	Welcome Message & Networking
8:40am - 9:00am	Mainstage Plenary - Erica M. Roberts
9:00am - 10:30am	Entrepreneur Track - Facilitator, Valari Jackson Financial Considerations for the New Business Owner <i>Melissa Reaktenwalt</i>
10:30am - 11:00am	Speed Networking (Optional)
11:00am - 4:00pm Empowerment Suite Open (Available to Full Registrants)	
11:00am- 12:30pm	Entrepreneur Track - Facilitator, Valari Jackson Business Strategy in a Time of Change <i>Speaker, Valari Jackson, Fierce Focus Solutions</i>
12:45pm - 1:45pm	Seat at the Table Lunch & Grow - Overcoming Bias In Business <i>Facilitator, Erica M. Roberts</i> <i>Sampriti Ganguli, Michele Perez & Lynne Stein Benzion</i>
2:00pm- 3:30pm	Entrepreneur Track - Facilitator, Valari Jackson Business Side of Business <i>Stefanie Lomax & Amelia Roberts</i>
3:45pm - 5:15pm	Entrepreneur Track - Facilitator, Valari Jackson <i>Leverage Your Personal Brand for Business Growth</i> <i>Amelia Roberts</i>
5:15pm - 5:30pm	Closing Plenary - Erica M. Roberts

***PLEASE NO SCREENSHOTS**

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View From the E-Suite

Women's Professional Empowerment Symposium

Presented by  & 



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EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



CAREER TRACK OCTOBER 20, 9:00 AM (ET)

PIVOT

AN **HONEST** LOOK AT YOUR SITUATION

2020 has forced people to STOP. As we spend more time inside our homes, many are also looking inward. To be real, we may not like what we see.

Has the introspection caused you to reevaluate your career goals? Have you identified professional “regrets” that you’d like to correct? Or, have you realized that you have been on autopilot, without any thought to career strategy?

In this session, we will set you up to increase your self-awareness and set you on a path toward an empowered mindset.

UN-MASKED: STRATEGIC AUTHENTICITY FOR THE **EXECUTIVE WOMAN**

ADVANCE

We all deal with unconscious bias. The stereotypes, gender role expectations, and biases women face in the workplace affect our daily working experience, as well as our longer-term career progression. The first step in overcoming bias is to recognize and acknowledge it.

In this session, we will identify the most common gender biases and microaggressions, and provide you with tools to address them. We will have real talk about asserting yourself and your leadership without sacrificing your values or identity. You will leave this session prepared to stand tall as a woman!

EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



CAREER TRACK OCTOBER 20, 11:00 AM (ET)

PIVOT

CAREER CHANGE OR.....

Empowered women should approach career change with intention. If you are considering change, it is important to understand what is motivating your desire for change, and to explore options that address your goals. Join expert career strategist and coach to pinpoint your drivers for change, and to identify opportunities to “change in place.”

- Why are you considering change? Do you feel stuck? Is the writing on the wall for layoff or termination?
- Is it possible to pursue your passion without sacrificing your salary and lifestyle? Is there an opportunity for you to find your voice where you are? Change In Place? Intrapreneurship?
- Am I ready to be an entrepreneur?

ADVANCE

ZOOM IN: STRATEGIES TO INCREASE VISIBILITY

Even before the global pandemic changed our worlds, women from every walk of life struggled to be seen in the workplace. Whether assigned to coordinate the team’s parties and activities, steered toward career tracks that were “suited” for women, or overlooked in executive level meetings (despite having a seat at the table), many career women leave work every day feeling under-appreciated and unseen. In the wake of COVID-19 quarantines and remote work, many of us worry that lack of “visibility” may affect our career growth. In this session, we will address how you can assert yourself in the working environment, and maintain visibility in a remotely world.

EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



CAREER TRACK OCTOBER 20, 2:00 PM

PIVOT

PIVOT READY

Whether the change is planned or unexpected, it is normal to experience some level of anxiety when it comes to pivoting your career. Planning for change will help you to reduce anxiety. This panel workshop will focus on getting you pivot ready with regard to mental health, finances, personnel documentation, and preparing your social media profile to get results!

ADVANCE

LEADERSHIP GAME PLAN

We all know that career advancement isn't all about doing your job well. Executives and senior leaders commonly possess several core qualities. They demonstrate (and communicate) results, demonstrate political savvy, and commit to continuous learning and development. Led by senior leaders, this workshop will help identify gaps on your journey to the C-Suite or the E-Suite.

EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



CAREER TRACK OCTOBER 20, 3:45 PM (ET)

PIVOT

TRANSITIONING WITH GRACE

How do you know that your next move will be better than your last? How can you evaluate “fit” when considering new opportunities? How do you avoid burning bridges on your way out? We will show you the E-Suite way to search for the “right” opportunity for YOU, manage the politics of pivoting, and BUILD bridges as you transition with grace.

ADVANCE

WHAT'S MY VALUE?

There is a direct and positive correlation between gender diversity and the financial success of a company. Data proves that, on average, organizations with gender diversity at all levels outperform those who do not diversify their ranks. Bottom line: Women add to the bottom line! So why are men more than 4 times as likely as women to negotiate a first salary? Why do women give throw away up to \$2 million in earnings over the course of their careers? Why don't women express their value and demand equal compensation? In this workshop, you will identify your value, and develop a strategy for negotiating salary and benefits.

EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



CAREER TRACK OCTOBER 20, 5:30 PM (ET)

CAREER

DEVELOPING THE **YOU** IN **YOUR** CAREER

Join us for this culmination of Day 1 to help you determine next steps in your career.

INVITATION
ONLY

COOKING WITH LOVE

Who needs to go out when you can enjoy fine dining at home?

Wind down your day and learn to prepare delicious, healthy, family-friendly meals without adding stress to your life. In this virtual cooking class, the CEO of E-Suite Academy's preferred woman-owned catering company will teach women to plan, prepare, and present fabulous meals!

EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



ENTREPRENEUR TRACK (OCTOBER 21)

9:00 AM

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

Are you financially ready to take the leap? Have you identified your business costs and financing options? This session will review the costs of business and walk you through a “pre-jump” business planning checklist. We will explore options for financing your business for success.

11:00 AM

BUSINESS STRATEGY IN A TIME OF CHANGE

Have you positioned your business to ensure longevity? Do your service offerings meet the evolving needs of your customers? Did you skip steps or take shortcuts that will cost you in the long-run? In this session, a business strategist and coach will facilitate discussion to help you avoid or correct common mistakes women make in business. We will also talk about project development, and evaluating opportunities for “strategic fit” during this time of change. Leave this session with a plan to correct your foundation and pursue strategic growth.

EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE



ENTREPRENEUR TRACK (OCTOBER 21)

2:00 PM

BUSINESS SIDE OF BUSINESS

COVID-19 served as a wake-up call to business owners had not addressed the fundamentals. Some owners discovered that their HR policies were insufficient to meet requirements for relief and or regulatory compliance. Others were unable to “pivot” due to a lack of technology. As business owners and their employees moved to remote work, access to paper files created additional challenges. Still others missed out on business opportunities as a result of insufficient marketing, and poor project management. This panel will review some core elements and systems that every startup needs for success.

3:45 PM

LEVERAGE YOUR PERSONAL BRAND FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

For women who have pivoted through crisis, 2020 has been a time of expansion. You have taken care of your financial and business development strategies, but what are you doing to ensure that you are VISIBLE to potential clients? In this riveting workshop, you will be joined by a Visibility Expert to learn how to leverage your personal brand for business growth.

LUNCH & GROW W/ PANEL DISCUSSIONS

View From the E-Suite

Women's Professional Empowerment Symposium

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**We support working women....
and we cook with LOVE**

MEET THE LUNCH SPEAKERS



ERICA M. ROBERTS

Creator, E-Suite Academy; Founder and President, X Is Possible, LLC



Erica Roberts brings over 15 years of executive and professional leadership experience within Federal government agencies and non-profit organizations. As a Training Director, Customer Experience Expert, and Employee Engagement Strategist, she has partnered with Federal government agencies, industry associations, and workforce professionals to design and deliver customized organizational development solutions to deliver tangible results to clients. She has enjoyed delivering measurable value by engaging employees to transform culture and practices within organizations.

From 2013 - 2017, Erica served as the Director of Customer Service and Program Manager for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). In that capacity, she led, coordinated, and monitored customer experience initiatives that cut across all organizational lines at DOL, including those related to performance management, planning and evaluation, technology integration, training and change management. Ms. Roberts has also reengineered and designed model training programs across several Federal agencies, and delivered hundreds of synchronous and asynchronous courses to benefit new executives and managers, enforcement personnel, and clerical employees. An experienced training professional, nonprofit Executive Director, and certified executive coach, Erica tailors service offerings to align with her customers' learning and communications styles.

Erica earned a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Management from Florida A & M University. She completed a Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program and was approved by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for appointment to Senior Executive Service in 2018. Erica is a certified Project Management Professional and credentialed coach (ICF-ACC). She is also active in the National Black MBA Association, as one of the founders and Interim President of the Greater Maryland Chapter, past President of the Washington DC Chapter, and previous National Advisory Council member. In her spare time, Ms. Roberts enjoys volunteering. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated - a public service organization that executes programs in support of local, national, and international causes.

MEET THE LUNCH SPEAKERS



ELAINE HO

Deputy Associate Administrator for the STEM Engagement Program at NASA



Elaine Ho serves as the deputy associate administrator for the STEM Engagement Program at NASA Headquarters. She provides executive leadership for NASA's Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM) by leading and managing the Congressionally appropriated \$120M portfolio of STEM Engagement projects that benefit students, universities and educational institutions.

Ho began her federal career in senior roles leading transformative diversity and inclusion strategies for several large agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and the IRS. She was asked by the IRS commissioner to serve as the agency's deputy chief of staff where she helped to shape and execute the strategic priorities of the IRS' global tax operation and its workforce of 87,000. Afterwards, Ho served several roles in the White House, starting with her role as a senior policy advisor in Michelle Obama's Office. There, she strategically guided the implementation of the former First Lady's Let Girls Learn initiative, which championed adolescent girls' education worldwide. She remained in the White House as the chief of staff of the U.S. Digital Service, an office dedicating to recruiting diverse top technical talent, and then deploying teams across the federal government that would deliver better services to the American public.

Prior to her federal service career, Ho was a practicing attorney. She served both in private sector and over four years active duty as an Air Force criminal prosecutor. She continues her military service today as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserves, where she has helped the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps with its diversity and inclusion initiatives. Ho received her degree in civil engineering from Duke University and then earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Florida. Later, she pursued an executive certificate in diversity strategy from Georgetown University. Ho lives in Falls Church, Virginia, with her wonderful husband and three beautiful children.

MEET THE LUNCH SPEAKERS



LISA BROWN, PHD

Region Marketing Manager, Volkswagen of America



Lisa Brown has over 20 years in the Volkswagen Group of America, working in fixed and sales operations, human resources, and marketing. Currently, Lisa is the Regional Marketing Manager for the Volkswagen brand, where she lends her expertise to expand VW's market share and increase brand awareness through a diversity marketing strategy as a way to connect with the diverse consumers in the market.

Previously, Lisa worked as the senior diversity & inclusion consultant. She led initiatives designed to foster a diverse workforce that embraces and values inclusion and leverages differences to achieve a competitive advantage. During her tenure, she leveraged her passion for diversity and inclusion and implemented initiatives that provided VW a competitive advantage, increased employee engagement, and represented VWGoA's commitment to serving the communities where they operate.

Lisa earned a PhD in Leadership & Organizational Strategy and MPhil in Management from Walden University. Her academic interest is the advancement of women in male-dominated industries. She also earned a BA in Public Relations and MA in communication from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

Lisa resides in Atlanta, Ga. She has an adult daughter and is a pet parent to two dogs. Lisa enjoys traveling, volunteering, and all things diversity and inclusion related. Her professional and academic interests are diversity and inclusion, corporate social responsibility (CSR), strategic sustainability, and leadership studies.

VIEW FROM THE E-SUITE

Women's Professional Empowerment Symposium

Seat At the Table: Lunch and Grow



Date: **October 21, 2020**
Time: **12:45 – 1:45 pm (ET)**
Location: **A Virtual Experience**

**POSITIONED FOR SUCCESS:
OVERCOMING BIAS IN BUSINESS**

Hear From



Lynne Stein Benzion
Director of Economic Development,
MCEDC



Michele Perez
COO,
Tahirih Justice Center



Sampriti Ganguli
CEO,
Arabella Advisors

Because you deserve it!

SAMPRI TI GANGULI

CEO of Arabella Advisors



As the CEO of Arabella Advisors, Sampriti Ganguli is responsible for enhancing systems and policies that enable Arabella to deliver on its mission—to help family foundations, individual donors, and impact investors achieve the greatest good philanthropic with their resources.

Prior to her career in philanthropy, Ms. Ganguli advised Global 1000 companies to develop stronger risk management and governance processes, launched a government practice for a consulting firm, and worked in the healthcare and telecommunications industry as a management consultant. Ms. Ganguli has also worked at JPMorgan Chase's Emerging Markets Research division in Singapore and as a consultant for the World Bank's East Asia Environment and Social Development Unit. Sampriti lives in Arlington, VA with her husband and two teenage sons.

MEET THE LUNCH SPEAKERS



MICHELE PEREZ

Chief Operating Officer, Tahirih Justice Center



With over 22 years at the field and headquarters levels of service-driven agencies, Michele has led programs and strategically managed operations across government, non-profit and philanthropic organizations. In her role as Chief Operating Officer, she oversees the execution of strategies that enable Tahirih to deliver on our core values and mission of advancing equity and social justice. She is responsible to lead local and national efforts in support of talent management, organizational development, finance, operations and risk management, and information technology.

Michele joined Tahirih from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the US government's development finance institution, where she served as Vice President of Management and Administration, as well as a Senior Advisor to the President and CEO for Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement. Her leadership enabled OPIC to partner with developing economies worldwide, encourage more open, democratic and stable societies and improve the quality of life for those in most need. Prior to OPIC, Michele worked at the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where she served as a key advisor and consultant to the VA Chief of Staff on human resources, strategic planning and financial management. She was also charged with execution and coordination of workforce enterprise strategies for the Veterans Health Administration, the nation's largest integrated healthcare system. Michele launched her civil service with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Community Builder in the Office of the Midwest Regional Director.

"Tahirih is a force for good in honoring the indomitable dignity of women and girls. We recognize the resolute strength and power of the incredibly courageous women we serve, and we are guided by an enduring commitment to a basic human right that we are all called upon to protect- the absolute right to live free from violence. I am honored to be a part of this phenomenal team."

Michele holds a BS in Human Services from Cornell University and an MS in Management from the Catholic University of America. She served as a Community Builder Fellow with the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and completed an executive education program with the Brookings Institution focused on business and innovation. Michele speaks Spanish, French and Kreyol, and grew up in a Haitian and El Salvadoran household of immigrants in Miami, FL.

MEET THE LUNCH SPEAKERS



LYNNE STEIN BENZION

Director of Economic Development, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC)



Lynne Stein Benzion, CEcD, a nationally certified economic developer, is Director of Economic Development for the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). She works to retain existing Montgomery County, Maryland businesses, attract new ones, and assist expanding companies. Benzion is also a biohealth specialist and subject matter expert for MCEDC. She serves on the County Executive's Economic Recovery Task Force Workgroups in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before assuming her current position, Benzion was Vice President of Special Projects at the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, where she spearheaded a comprehensive study of the county's life science industry. She created and began implementing a 10-year life science plan to catalyze the industry, and created and executed annual Economic Development Forums, Business Appreciation Bus Tours, an Academic Leaders Council, and a revamped business retention program.

From 2003 to 2013, Benzion was Acting Executive Director and Deputy Director at Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), where she administered eight annual StartRight! Women's Business Plan Competitions, wrote dozens of articles and press releases on various economic development topics for numerous publications, taught at the Rockville Women's Business Center, and handled REDI retention efforts.

Benzion volunteers on the Higher Education Committee for the International Economic Development Council, and as an IEDC economic recovery specialist for distressed and disaster-impacted communities. She is a member of the Maryland Economic Development Association, an economic reviewer for the Maryland Industrial Partnerships Program, and is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Montgomery.

Before her economic development career, Benzion's experience included running a home-based business and teaching school. Her bachelor's degree is in English with a minor in environmental science from the University of Virginia. She has been a classical singer for more than 35 years and currently performs with the Washington and South Florida Master Chorales.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Eight Workshops to Customize Your Experience



Career Pivot Track
Facilitated by Dethra U. Giles



Career Advancement Track
Facilitated by LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge



An Honest Look at Your Situation
(Dethra U. Giles)



Un-Masked: Strategic Authenticity for the Executive Woman
(Jodi Davidson)



Career Change Or....
(Lisa Ealy & Dethra U. Giles)



Zoom In: Strategies to Increase Visibility
(Quinn Conyers)



Pivot Ready
(Dr. Felice Carlton, Laura Labovich & Melissa Reaktenwalt)



What's My Value?
(Amber Butler)



Transitioning With Grace
(Johnette Ruffner-Ceaser)



Leadership Game Plan
(Kristin Harper)

LAJUAN BRYAN-BEVERIDGE (LBB)

The Career Change Agent



LaJuan Bryan-Beveridge is affectionately known as LBB. In her day job, LBB currently serves in a prestigious role as member of the C-Suite for a cabinet-level federal agency. LBB has held a long and courageous career in public service, this month surpassing a milestone of 31 years of service. She worked her way up the career ladder and is a champion willing to help others do the same. Committed to service excellence, LBB provides much needed support to people within the government as well as the private sectors in achieving their career goals! Her level of professionalism and vision has contributed to the successful growth of current and future leaders. As a career coach, LBB's focus is... "All about the people"; helping them to make their dreams a true reality! Get ready to "Pivot" your mindset; while setting the course for your personal journey forward towards your chosen career direction!

MEET THE SPEAKERS



CAREER ADVANCEMENT TRACK

JODI DAVIDSON

Sodexo, Vice President, Global Diversity & Inclusion



With 25 years of experience in Diversity & Inclusion and Human Resources, Jodi Davidson possesses a vast knowledge and understanding of the critical function inclusion and diversity play in today's increasingly competitive business environment. Jodi consults with business and human resources leaders and managers to provide insights, resources and actions that foster a more diverse and inclusive culture. She partners with stakeholders to co-create globally relevant talent, pipeline and engagement strategies including work/life flexibility, cultural agility and leadership development frameworks.

Jodi's personal mission is to help people realize their potential and thrive. She is a known thought leader in mentoring and flexibility practices, holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Development and is a certified leadership coach.

QUINN CONYERS

Speaker | Coach | Author



Quinn Conyers trains women in business how to turn conversations into cash so they maximize and monetize all speaking opportunities on behalf of their business. With over 14 years of speaking experience, Quinn has trained hundreds of speakers, entrepreneurs and students how to polish their presentation and sharpen their speaking skills. She's served as an adjunct professor at Coppin State University teaching Speech Communication for 5 years and has won \$77,000 speaking about her company in business pitch competitions. Quinn takes pride in giving speakers and entrepreneurs message makeovers. Quinn is on a mission to give women in business their voice back. As a result of Quinn's accomplishments she has been featured in Black Enterprise, Essence, Speakers, So Empowered and Young Money Magazines. She has also been featured on the cover of Vision and Purpose magazine for the September 2020 edition. She's made it to the 2nd round of Shark Tank auditions 4X, has appeared on Entrepreneurs Elevator Pitch TV Show and pitched her products to the Home Shopping Network (HSN). She is the host of Speak Black Woman podcast, sits on the board of the Global Black Women Chamber of Commerce (GBWCC) and the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Quinn earned her Bachelors' from West Chester University in PA and a Masters from Howard University in Washington DC. Quinn's ultimate goal is to reach the masses of women in business in minutes. Her goal is to use her voice to get her there.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



CAREER ADVANCEMENT TRACK

KRISTIN HARPER

Founder & CEO Driven to Succeed, LLC



Kristin Harper is the founder and CEO of Driven to Succeed, LLC, a leadership development company that provides brand strategy consulting, market research, keynotes on leadership and emotional intelligence, and career coaching for Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, and rising leaders. She's known for building brands and helping people accelerate their careers using head and heart.

An award-winning businesswoman, Kristin went from college intern to a Global Vice President of a Fortune 15 company in her 30s. Throughout her career, she led global iconic brands including Crest®, Oral-B®, and Hershey's KISSES®. Now she and her team help brands uncover insights to drive growth through research, brainstorming, and innovation.

Kristin is a wife and mother to three, and author of *The Heart of a Leader: 52 Emotional Intelligence Insights to Advance Your Career* and *Love's Resurrection: A Spiritual Journey through Marriage, Divorce and Remarrying the Same Man*.

AMBER BUTLER

Senior Director of Executive Compensation and Benefits, Flex



Amber is a leader of Executive Compensation and Benefits with 15+ years of experience that includes designing, developing, and implementing executive and outside director compensation and benefit programs for multi-billion dollar global corporations and a global human resource consulting/outsourcing firm. She spent 11 years of her career at Aon Hewitt, a HR outsourcing/consulting firm, in Atlanta, GA where she consulted various clients across multiple industries on health and wellness benefits, retirement benefits, and compensation issues.

She also managed executive compensation and benefit programs for DirecTV, a television provider, in Los Angeles, CA, and was responsible for working with the Compensation Committee of the Board and overseeing base pay, short- and long-term incentive plans, executive benefit programs and perquisites for executives and outside directors. Amber currently manages global executive compensation, equity and benefits for Flex, a sketch-to-scale manufacturing company, in San Jose, CA.

Amber is originally from Miami, FL and received her bachelor's degree in business management and MBA in finance at Florida A&M University.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



CAREER PIVOT TRACK

DETHRA U. GILES

Founder and CEO, ExecuPrep



Dethra U. Giles is an international speaker, executive coach, award-winning author and 2 time TEDx Speaker that delivers highly engaging and interactive presentations and workshops that take audiences on a journey of what leadership and personal development mastery can and will do for organizations.

Having worked with clients from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Army Corp of Engineers and the Salvation Army, to name a few, Dethra shares insightful stories of successes and failures in the trenches, then invites learners to apply these examples to their own situations. Every encounter with Dethra provides a practical roadmap for listeners to develop actionable plans for growth they can implement immediately.

As a successful businesswoman and author who has walked the talk, Dethra inspires professionals across different industries and organizations. After overcoming adversity in both her professional and personal life, Dethra brings enormous insight and energy to her every word. As a two-time TEDx Talk speaker and a top rated speaker for SHRM (Society of Human Resources Managers) she is an expert at delivering presentations that help build leaders, accountable teams and increased productivity. Dethra leads, facilitates and coaches groups within corporations, small business, government, and non-profit organizations to achieve personal and professional performance success that translates into bottom line impact.

LISA EALY

Chief Career Officer, Founder of Dare2Dream Careers



Lisa R. Ealy is the "Six-Figure Success Mentor". She has helped her clients declutter mindset and raise income through her signature coaching programs, including 6 Steps to 6 Figures. Lisa knows the importance of connecting faith to securing the dream and incorporates it into coaching. She is a regular contributor to the Another Look radio show on WOUV. She has conducted workshops at the Confidence Success Circle Roundtable, Elite Conversations, Career Elevation Summit, SpeakerCon2019, Impact Nation Radio, GDS with Georgie, Women in EFTs, DC Women Owned Law, Toastmaster's, WeWork and Laurel Workforce Development Center, St. John, Olivet Institutional Baptist, Kingdom Fellowship AME, People's Community, Cory United Methodist, St Mark, Resurrection Baptist and Unity Baptist churches. She has shared the stage with Dr. George Fraser, Dr. Willie Jolley, Cheryl Wood, Gloria Mayfield Banks, Dr. Venus, Lisa Saservich and others.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



CAREER PIVOT TRACK

DR. FELICE CARLTON

Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner, Keynote Speaker, and Health Advisor.



Dr. Felice Carlton is a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner, Keynote Speaker, and Health Advisor. Dr. Carlton is a well-esteemed Integrative Health Coach certified by Duke University. She is the owner of Felice Carlton Enterprises LLC, where she coaches professionals in transition to help them shift away from uncertainty, overwhelm, and high levels of responsibility to living the life they desire. Her specialty is developing personalized strategy to manage stress, enhance resiliency, and to create a customized approach to a balanced mind, body, and spirit. Dr. Carlton's coaching programs, live events, and trainings equip leaders to design a fulfilling life which includes self-care and rejuvenation. She possesses over a decade of combined nursing and nurse practitioner experience, with awards from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Carlton has also served as a medical expert commentator for ABC, CBS, and the local news.

LAURA LABOVICH

Chief Executive Officer of The Career Strategy Group



With national job search expertise as an award-winning career innovator and resume writer, combined with human resources experience inside Fortune 500 companies including The Walt Disney Company and America Online, Laura M. Labovich is often affectionately referred to in the media as "a job seeker's best friend."

Laura's national job search and networking expertise, passionate delivery, and easy-to-implement approach has garnered attention from such national news media as The Washington Post, Sirius XM Radio, Fox 5 (DC), NBC 6 (Miami), U.S. News and World Report, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, Yahoo, and Monster.com, to name a few. And, as a former amateur nightclub singer, she certainly knows how to tackle, inspire, and entertain a tough crowd.

Laura is in the top 1% of all Amazon authors for her book, *100 Conversations for Career Success: Learn to Network, Cold-Call and Tweet Your Way to Your Dream Job*, a 2013 top career book selection by FORBES.com. Laura recently completed the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program along with 40 hard-working business owners in the Washington DC and Baltimore area.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



CAREER PIVOT TRACK

MELISSA REAKTENWALT

Founder, Advisor EViE Financial Group



Melissa is a financial literacy professional who is passionate about educating individuals and business owners about the power of smart money management. She has used her undergraduate degree in finance and her MBA in marketing to establish a comprehensive financial planning firm serving clients in Washington, DC and the surrounding area. During her 14 years in the financial services industry, Melissa has taught thousands of clients how to create and sustain financial freedom through better understanding what their money has the potential to do for them. In addition to working with clients directly, Melissa presents at regional and national conferences as well as teaches educational courses focused on financial empowerment and planning strategies.

DR. JOHNETTE RUFFNER-CEASER

Founder & CEO of Liberated Expressions, LLC



Dr. Johnette Ruffner-Ceaser teaches female executives how to leverage their professional superpowers, one resume at a time! She is the CEO & Founder of Liberated Expressions, LLC, a Professional Services oasis that provides mesmerizing Resume Strategy support and inspirational Life/Career Coaching.

After individuals work with Dr. Ceaser, they will know how to confidently and accurately articulate their professional value that gets hiring managers excited, change boring work duties into captivating results, transform employment challenges into opportunities, and write a quality resume for today's job market.

Dr. Ceaser is also a Co-Founder of Community Coaches, and she is the author of *When the Bow Breaks*, a children's book that teaches girls to love and embrace their natural beauty and talents. To learn more about Dr. Ceaser, visit www.liberated-expressions.com.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



CHERON BURNS

Owner, RX Catering DC



Cheron Reed Burns is the Owner/General Manager of Rx Catering, Washington DC. Rx Catering - DC Metro is a minority- and woman-owned business with over 10 years of experience providing food service and event management solutions to government, commercial, and nonprofit organizations. Rx Catering has been in business since 2008 and remains one of the top-rated catering food service organizations in Washington, DC metropolitan area. Cheron manages the daily operations of the catering company located in Alexandria, VA with a diverse staff of 18 and catering geared towards the pharmaceutical/medical, private, corporate, & institutional industries. Some key customers are U.S. Foreign Affairs Committee, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Labor, Fresenius Dialysis, George Washington University, Howard University, ManTech, National PTA, and several pharmaceutical/medical companies.

As a former District Sales Manager with Pfizer, Inc. and eight (8) years in the pharmaceutical industry, Cheron understands the importance of excellent customer service with quality products. Rx's motto, "We cook with LOVE!" is implemented daily. Cheron Reed is active in her local sorority chapter - Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. - Northern Virginia Alumnae. She has been elected and has served in several positions - 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and a Regional position on the Nominating Committee. Cheron has been a committed volunteer with the National Black MBA Association - DC Chapter, Leaders of Tomorrow mentoring program, where she was awarded 2006 "Volunteer of the Year" and 2008 "Entrepreneur of the Year". Cheron received her Bachelor of Science (cum laude) in Business Economics from Florida A&M University. A native of Minneapolis, MN & Champaign, IL, Cheron has a very supportive family and circle of friends that she appreciates immensely as she continues to pursue her entrepreneurial endeavors.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



ENTREPRENEUR TRACK

VALARI JACKSON

CEO and Founder of Fierce Focus Strategies



Valari Jackson is a dynamic, relatable and inspired leader. With her genuinely engaging style and thought-provoking conversation, she compels you to dig deeper and think higher. Some say it's her NASA training or the years as an Aerospace Engineer that give her the ability to set you on a trajectory to achieve greater than you realized you could.

With more than 25 years as a top-producing Realtor, she is a sought-after advisor and strategic thinking partner who knows first-hand the frustrations and challenges that can overwhelm even the most seasoned entrepreneur. Her uncanny ability to uncover and illuminate the blind spots and missed opportunities in your business, is matched with her passion to provide a framework for systems that will optimize your resources and increase your bottom line allowing your business to flourish.

Valari's talents extend beyond the business realm. She refers to herself as a classically-trained bargain hunter who once traveled for 31 hours and across 3 continents in pursuit of a great deal.

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MEET THE SPEAKERS



ENTREPRENEUR TRACK

AMELIA ROBERTS

Relationship Facilitator Advisor: Marketing and Digital PR



Amelia Roberts is a digital native who officially became a practitioner of online marketing twelve years ago with a role as a virtual assistant. Student loans from nursing school inspired her to put her love of social networking, observing human nature, showing empathy and previous marketing experience to work in new ways and as a result, she was able to pay off her student loans in under 2 years as a social media manager. Now alongside other roles, you can find Amelia helping under-recognized professionals, articulate their unique value, "get first dates" and scale with sanity so that they can become thought leaders in their industry while maintaining work-life harmony. When she is not optimizing human potential Amelia enjoys planning real and imagined food tours.

STEFANIE B. LOMAX

CEO/HR Strategist of HRPro4You, LLC



Stefanie B. Lomax is the CEO/HR Strategist of HRPro4You, LLC - an HR consulting firm dedicated to helping small businesses EmbraceHR® by developing sound, legal and sustainable HR infrastructures. As a dual certified HR professional with 20 years of experience and a Master's Degree in Human Resources, Stefanie's education and professional experience have afforded her the opportunity to develop into a subject matter expert who knows the challenges organizations face as it relates to understanding, managing and complying with human resources. She has worked in a variety of industries, not only developing HR infrastructures, but serving as a partner to the C-Suite and business owners, explaining HR risks, compliance, and requirements while also ensuring the business' mission, vision and core values are at the heart of all HR practices.

Stefanie is a proud wife, daughter and mother, as well as an Adjunct Professor, a featured guest on online radio, social media blogs, television and other media and publication outlets, providing sound, expert HR advice. She is viewed as a trusted advisor to her clients, a resource to her peers, and understands the high level, strategic nature of HR with the ability to deliver a customized, personal touch to every client engagement.



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MEET THE COACHES



ERICA M. ROBERTS

Leadership Development & Executive Coach



Erica M. Roberts brings over 15 years of executive and professional leadership experience within Federal government agencies and non-profit organizations. As a Training Director, Customer Experience Expert, and Employee Engagement Strategist, she has partnered with Federal government agencies, industry associations, and workforce professionals to design and deliver customized organizational development solutions to deliver tangible results to clients. She has enjoyed delivering measurable value by engaging employees to transform culture and practices within organizations.

From 2013 – 2017, Erica served as the Director of Customer Service and Program Manager for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). In that capacity, she led, coordinated, and monitored customer experience initiatives that cut across all organizational lines at DOL, including those related to performance management, planning and evaluation, technology integration, training and change management. Ms. Roberts has also reengineered and designed model training programs across several Federal agencies, and delivered hundreds of synchronous and asynchronous courses to benefit new executives and managers, enforcement personnel, and clerical employees. An experienced training professional, nonprofit Executive Director, and certified executive coach, Erica tailors service offerings to align with her customers' learning and communications styles.

Erica earned a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Management from Florida A & M University. She completed a Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program and was approved by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for appointment to Senior Executive Service in 2018. Erica is a certified Project Management Professional and credentialed coach (ICF-ACC). She is also active in the National Black MBA Association, as one of the founders and Interim President of the Greater Maryland Chapter, past President of the Washington DC Chapter, and previous National Advisory Council member. In her spare time, Ms. Roberts enjoys volunteering. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated – a public service organization that executes programs in support of local, national, and international causes.

MEET THE COACHES



MELISSA REAKTENWALT - EMPOWERMENT SUITE SPONSOR

Founder and Lead Advisor with EViE Financial



Melissa is the Founder and Lead Advisor with EViE Financial, a full-service financial planning and wealth management firm serving clients with a focus on instilling independence and empowerment. For the past 15 years, she has offered expert and actionable advice to clients on topics from retirement readiness and personal financial management, to entrepreneurship and wealth building.

Melissa also has an extensive history of providing sound, thoughtful education on financial and business ownership topics, delivered through wellness courses and workshops presented to individuals working through various stages of life. Her passion for financial wellness marries with her formal education and real-world experience to help clients manage their money in a realistic, efficient way.

LISA EALY - EMPOWERMENT SUITE SPONSOR

Career Strategist



Lisa R. Ealy is the “Six-Figure Success Mentor”. She has helped her clients declutter mindset and raise income through her signature coaching programs, including 6 Steps to 6 Figures. Lisa knows the importance of connecting faith to securing the dream and incorporates it into coaching. She is a regular contributor to the Another Look radio show on WOUV. She has conducted workshops at the Confidence Success Circle Roundtable, Elite Conversations, Career Elevation Summit, SpeakerCon2019, Impact Nation Radio, GDS with Georgie, Women in EFTs, DC Women Owned Law, Toastmaster’s, WeWork and Laurel Workforce Development Center, St. John, Olivet Institutional Baptist, Kingdom Fellowship AME, People’s Community, Cory United Methodist, St Mark, Resurrection Baptist and Unity Baptist churches. She has shared the stage with Dr. George Fraser, Dr. Willie Jolley, Cheryl Wood, Gloria Mayfield Banks, Dr. Venus, Lisa Saservich and others.

MEET THE COACHES



TESHA GIBSON

Professional Life Coach and Wellness Enthusiast



Tesha is an Executive and Wellness Life Coach based in the Washington DC area and founder of Wellness After Dark. She provides One on One and Group Coaching, in addition to Corporate Wellness and Empowerment Workshops. Tesha is passionate about creating space for her clients to embrace a resilient mindset, redefine boundaries, and explore their inner workings.

She roots her coaching practice and teachings in the principles of inclusivity, self-awareness, and creating a catalyst for change. Tesha has over 15 years' experience in Health Promotion, Positive Psychology, and Behavior Change, stemming across multiple fields including, non-profits, entrepreneurs, local government, healthcare, higher education, and corporate businesses. She is also a Certified Public Health Specialist, a registered Yoga Instructor, and Certified Corporate Wellness Specialist who loves to travel, is an avid sports fan, and enjoys exploring new adventures with her husband and dog, Hazel.

DENA BILBREW

Principal Consultant, DB Professional Concepts, LLC



Dena Bilbrew is a Career & Workforce Consultant who collaborates with mid- to senior level professionals to overcome their pain points regarding career transition. She has assisted 6000+ clients nationwide with developing their personal brand and communicating their unique value through consultations, professional documents, and social media. Ultimately, she helps clients connect the dots from where they are in their career to where they want to be.

Dena's diverse background has spanned 20+ years including information technology, retail management, career services, and workforce development. She currently partners with senior leadership to identify workforce development needs via gap analysis and advises on best practices for enhancing employee performance. DB Professional Concepts (dbprofessionalconcepts.com) was designed to give professionals the tools needed to get to the next step in their career.

MEET THE COACHES



VALARI JACKSON

Business Strategist



Valari Jackson is a dynamic, relatable and inspired leader. With her genuinely engaging style and thought-provoking conversation, she compels you to dig deeper and think higher. Some say it's her NASA training or the years as an Aerospace Engineer that give her the ability to set you on a trajectory to achieve greater than you realized you could.

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JATEYA JONES

Clarity Coach



A visionary with the ability to facilitate clarity and dream transformation. Although, once an Introvert, now ambivert, Jateya has always been a natural at networking and is fondly known as the "Natural Networker." Her passion to help and heal led her to assist other introverts and students with effectively and efficiently networking.

Over the years she realized those who were the most successful were those who were crystal clear on their goals. Therefore, she adapted her system to guide her clients towards definite clarity, simplifying their transformation of dreams into reality. Gaining clarity, allows her clients to confidently and boldly claim their spot in the marketplace. In addition, she is an accomplished Program Manager offering expertise in public health, global learning, instructional design, client services, technical communication, social networking, and project management. Manage analysis, design, and development of education programs with various delivery platforms. Lead ongoing and new initiatives, and develop strong global team environments. Work with business leaders and partners to enhance training efforts. Apply feedback of learning process to ensure alignment with needs.

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