



2022 WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

February 11, 2022

JONES GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | MCNAIR HALL, RICE UNIVERSITY



RICE | BUSINESS
Jones Graduate School of Business

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2022 - AGENDA

7:30 am – 8:15 am	Registration	Anderson Family Commons
8:15 am – 8:35 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akanksha Gupta and Audrey Hallbrook, 2022 Women in Leadership Conference Co-Presidents Barbara Ostdiek, Senior Associate Dean of Degree Programs, Associate Professor of Finance and Statistics 	Shell Auditorium
8:40 am – 9:30 am	OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivy McGregor, CEO, Ivy Inc., Director of Social Responsibility, BeyGOOD 	Shell Auditorium
9:45 am – 10:45 am	MORNING PANELS I You're Not Alone: Peer Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace – Sponsored by DCP Midstream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brenda Brinson, General Manager of Talent Management, Phillips 66 Samantha Lewis, Principal Venture Capitalist, Mercury Fund Aaron Limonthas, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Shipt, Inc. Maria Velasco, Senior Manager of Audit and Assurance, Deloitte Career vs. Everything: Navigating Your Early Career <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynda Clemmons, Vice President of Business Solutions, NRG Energy Melissa Dale, Senior Manager of Global Video Network and Live Streaming Leader, Deloitte Simmi Jaggi, Executive Vice President and Managing Director of National Lead Land Advisory Services, JLL Keri Macaluso, Senior Manager, Kates Kesler Organization Consulting Bethann Roberts, Founding Partner, Legend Sales & Consulting, LLC 	
10:55 am – 11:55 am	MORNING PANELS II Owning Your Seat at the Table: Self-Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Moncada Alaoui, General Manager, BMW Kenyon Allen, Associate Vice President, Finance for Ambulatory Services, Memorial Hermann Health System Nancy Harris, General Manager Assurance and Functional Authority, Chevron Chantel Mack, Executive Director, The Whitaker Project Female Founders: The Blueprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda Johnson, Founder, Blake Seed LLC Christy Lynn Lee, Founder, Studio Christy Lynn Kaitlyn Lo, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Just Enough Wine Layla Lumpkin, Partner, Thompson Hine's Corporate Transactions and Securities Practice Stephanie Tsuru, Founder, Entrepreneur and Public Speaker, SheSpace 	 <p>REFER TO SLI.DO APP FOR ROOM NUMBERS & MORE AGENDA DETAILS</p>
11:55 am – 1:00 pm	Networking Lunch	Anderson Family Commons
1:00 pm – 1:50 pm	INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS I Building Generational Wealth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ollie Harris III, Vice President of Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors 6Yes for Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elynn Koay, IT Director, Marketing, eCommerce, CPQ, Hewlett Packard Enterprise Shyamala (Shy) Chalakudi, Vice President / Head of Data & Enterprise Analytics, Hewlett Packard Enterprise The Art of Interviewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonya Ware, CEO and Strategist, Sonya Ware Executive Consulting, LLC Naureen Free, Professional Stylist Leading with Confidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Tsuru, Founder, Entrepreneur and Public Speaker, SheSpace 	
2:00 pm – 2:50 pm	INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS II Allyship in Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron Limonthas, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Shipt, Inc. Traversing Transitions: How to Flourish in a New Role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie Baird, Executive Coach and Founder, Baird Coaching Focus and Space: Planning to Achieve Goals and De-Stress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam Schilling, CEO and Co-Founder, Archer Careers Look (and Lead) With Authenticity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Moore, Director of Communication Program, Lecturer, Rice Business 	
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna Sims Wilson, COO, Kah Capital Management 	Shell Auditorium
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	CLOSING REMARKS OWL AWARD	Shell Auditorium
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	CLOSING RECEPTION WITH DEAN PETER RODRIGUEZ	Anderson Family Commons

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

On behalf of the entire Planning Committee, we welcome you to the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University, whose mission is to develop principled, innovative thought leaders in global communities. For the past 22 years, this student-led conference has become a cornerstone of the community and has created a unique forum to educate, empower and exchange ideas that help shape the workforce of tomorrow.

As we return to the traditions and legacy of the Women in Leadership Conference, we remain cognizant of the resiliency this community has shown in the last year. It is through that strength that we find ourselves hopeful and inspired to set the theme of this year's conference as **Empow(her): how to succeed while lifting others up**. Serena Williams once said, "The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you're courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all, be humble." These words guided us in planning this event and partnering with a diverse set of speakers who shine as role models and thought leaders across various industries. We hope that you will leave today inspired by and connected to some of the most brilliant professionals in greater Houston and beyond.

It is with special thanks that we spotlight our generous sponsors, who have supported our mission, and several women-owned businesses in the greater Houston area that are making an impact in their communities. Without them, this conference would not be possible. We also wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff, students and faculty of Rice Business, whose unwavering passion for this event each year remains unmatched and invaluable.

Thank you for joining us! You are the foundation of the conference, and we hope that you not only learn from those on stage but also from those sitting next to you. Connect with attendees, build your network, and leave energized and ready to apply what you have learned to your everyday life. We encourage you to join in the conversation to be the change for generations to come.

Sincerely,

2022 Women in Leadership Conference Committee



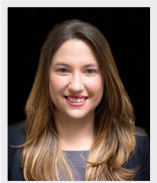
AKANKSHA GUPTA
President



AUDREY HALBROOK
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ASHLEIGH MACALUSO
Operations Chair



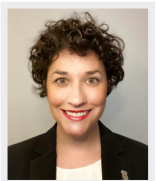
ANDREA PENEDO
Operations Chair



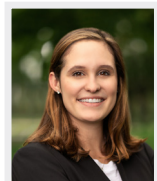
KELLI MUHL
Sponsors Chair



TAKEYA GREEN
Sponsors Chair



STEPHANIE KOT
Marketing Chair



ASHLEY DYKE
Speakers Chair



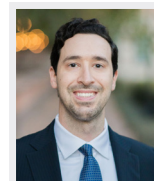
RAISHA SMITH
Speakers Chair



ELIZABETH WALTON
Finance Chair



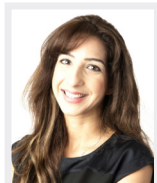
KANDACE WADDY
D&I Chair



ANDREW WAGUESPACK
Men as Allies Chair



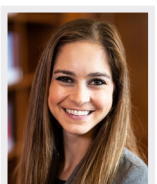
ANYA MIHOVA
MAcc Liaison



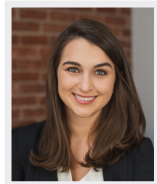
SARAH KIRMANI
PMBA Liaison



SUNITA DHARANI
PMBA Liaison



MARIA KALINA
First-Year Officer



TAYLOR ANNE ADAMS
First-Year Officer



SAMANTHA WONG
First-Year Officer

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



IVY MCGREGOR – Opening Keynote Speaker

Impact Leader, Author and BeyGOOD Executive Director

Ivy McGregor is an impact leader, author and the executive director of BeyGOOD, the philanthropic umbrella of global icon, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. Ivy has graced world stages with a reservoir of knowledge with over 25 years of experience in business strategies, social enterprise and global partnerships, consulting with the United Nations; world leaders; heads of state; corporations as well as numerous small businesses; educational institutions; and political, community, faith and social justice leaders.

Through her work with BeyGOOD, she has led efforts to eradicate homelessness, poverty, economic inequity, and supported women entrepreneur empowerment. She has led Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, scholarship programs, and successful water initiatives in both Flint, Michigan and Burundi, Africa. Additionally, she has structured and managed global partnership programs for world tours. Some of the health issues she has supported include Maternal and Infant care, Diabetes, Triple Negative Breast Cancer, Heart Disease and Alzheimer's.

As the director of partnerships for a contracting agency with the CDC, Ivy trained hair stylists and barbers as community influencers in a celebrated national program that aided in significantly reducing incidents of HIV and AIDS in communities with the highest incidents. She has also served as an advisor and board member for multiple organizations and global projects and has served as an integral supporter of the Texas HB403 Bill, requiring school board officials to be formally trained on the signs and prevention of human trafficking.

A recipient of numerous prestigious awards including the International Distinguished Humanitarian Leadership award, the Activism in the Arts Triumph Award, the Hidden Figure Award from Black Girls Vote, and the 2021 Heirs of Afrika Sankofa Award, Ivy is a world traveler, an art enthusiast, burgeoning golfer and avid reader. She is a resident of Los Angeles. Her life's legacy is modeling how the power of service can positively impact the world for . . . GOOD.



DONNA SIMMS WILSON – Closing Keynote Speaker

Chief Operating Officer, Kah Capital Management

Donna Sims Wilson is a senior executive with 37 years of experience in investment banking, finance, asset management and business development. As an advocate of diversity and inclusion, she consistently helps businesses break down demographic, social and geographic barriers to achieve expanded levels of success.

Donna is COO of Kah Capital Management, an alternative asset management firm focused on mortgage credit. She was president of Smith Graham & Co. Investment Advisors, L.P., where she was responsible for business development, marketing and client relations.

After a 30-year career as an investment banker, she was the lead corporate finance professional underwriting hundreds of billions of dollars of corporate and mortgage debt, as well as equity initial and secondary public offerings. As the president of M.R. Beal & Company, she led efforts to collaborate with federal government departments and agencies on mortgage-related legislation creating new capital markets revenue streams for diverse firms.

Donna co-founded the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) Africa Financial Summit in 2015. With subsequent funding from USAID, Mobilizing Institutional Investors to Develop Africa's Infrastructure (MiDA) was born and has since executed over \$1 billion in African infrastructure investments from U.S. institutions. She also led a delegation of U.S. pension funds and foundations to the 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit to educate global institutional investors on how to generate safe, risk-adjusted returns by investing in African infrastructure.

Donna has testified before the U.S. Congress on laws relating to diversity and has appeared on CNBC's Squawk Box and C-SPAN discussing issues of diversity and inclusion in the business of economic recovery. She was named One of the Most Powerful Women in Business by Black Enterprise Magazine, received NASP's coveted Joyce Johnson Award in 2010 and earned a B.A. in political science from Yale University.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE: PEER EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

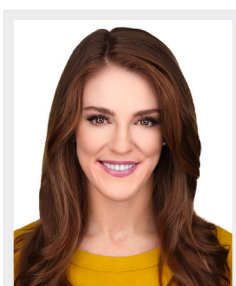
Explore diversity and allyship in the workplace, learn how goals are set for a diverse workforce, and find out how policies have evolved to support an inclusive workplace.



BRENDA BRINSON

General Manager, Talent Management, Phillips 66

With more than 30 years of business experience across multiple industries including financial services and consumer goods, Brenda Brinson has deep expertise in talent management, organizational effectiveness, culture shaping and large-scale transformation. Before joining Phillips 66, she served as assistant vice president for USAA's Talent and Organizational Effectiveness functions. Brenda and her team were responsible for designing talent, organizational architecture and employee engagement strategies, preserving and strategically enhancing USAA's culture, and leading large-scale human capital and organizational transformation efforts. Prior to joining USAA, she served as the global information technology transformation and change management thought leader for the Whirlpool Corporation. Brenda led enterprise change initiatives with direct reports on three continents. Before joining Whirlpool, she held roles at Pierre & Associates as well as Allstate Insurance Company. Brenda holds a Bachelor of Science in interpersonal communications from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



SAMANTHA LEWIS

Principal Venture Capitalist, Mercury Fund

Samantha Lewis is a principal at Mercury, where she focuses on investments across the firms' themes, with a specific interest in democratization of wealth and knowledge through fintech, transparency, impact and sustainability. Prior to joining Mercury, Samantha was the investment director at Goose Capital, a Houston-based investment group of serial entrepreneurs and Fortune 500 CEOs, where she led deal sourcing, structuring and portfolio management. During her time at Goose, she led investments in Topl Inc., Syzygy Plasmonics, Rufus Labs and Emerge. Samantha is a repeat entrepreneur with a background spanning agrifood, logistics, beauty and deep tech. She received her MBA from Rice University and a B.A. from Texas A&M University. Samantha remains deeply committed and involved in the efforts by Rice, Houston and Texas to build a diverse, robust innovation ecosystem. Outside of Mercury, she actively mentors underrepresented founders, writes data-driven investing articles on Medium, and serves on the executive committee for Houston Women in VC.



AARON LIMONTHAS

Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Shipt, Inc.

Aaron Limonthas (he/him) is the vice president of Diversity Equity and Inclusion at Shipt, Inc., where he is driving a culture of belonging and professional growth for all employees. His work has led to over 49% of Shipt being gender diverse and over 38% of Shipt identifying as racially diverse; along with increasing the eNPS score for the organization. He joined Shipt from Adidas America, Inc where he served as their head of diversity and inclusion across North America. Under his leadership, Adidas launched their first global D&I strategy, increased funding of grassroots programs that support and empower communities of color by \$120 million, revamped their talent acquisition programming to ensure fair and equitable hiring across Adidas, and upskilled over 90% of their North American workforce on inclusive leadership. Aaron also served as the diversity lead for Reebok, a partner brand owned by Adidas; navigating the intricacies between two separately run brands, within one company.



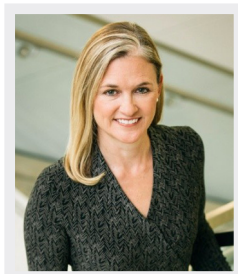
MARIA VELASCO

Senior Manager, Audit and Assurance, Deloitte

Maria Velasco is a senior manager with over 13 years of experience focusing on clients in the energy and resources industry. She leads the Houston Power, Utilities, and Renewables group as well as the Audit Readiness offering within the Accounting and Reporting Advisory group. Maria leads both public and private engagements, serving clients on various accounting and reporting related matters such as initial public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, equity and debt offerings, and new accounting standard implementation. She also leads the Houston college recruiting team with a focus on attracting diverse talent. Maria has a B.B.A. and M.S. in accounting from the University of Houston and is a licensed CPA in the state of Texas. She is a member of the Women Energy Network, an adviser at the Women in Leadership Program at the University of Houston Bauer Business School, and a member of the board of directors at her church. A native of Colombia, Maria moved to Houston to attend UH, where she met her husband Gabriel. She has been here ever since and is very active in her son Matteo's school. Maria enjoys traveling and party planning.

CAREER VS. EVERYTHING: NAVIGATING YOUR EARLY CAREER

Navigating a career early on can be daunting and uncertain. Find out how some established professionals launched their careers and what they do on a regular basis to stay on track to achieve their ambitious career goals.



LYNDA CLEMMONS

Vice President, Business Solutions, NRG Energy

Lynda Clemmons is a vice president in NRG Energy's Business Solutions group, leading the Sales, Sustainability and Project Management teams. She started her career as an investment bank analyst and spent eight years at Enron, where she started the weather derivatives business as well as the SO₂ and NO_x emissions trading desk. Lynda co-founded and was COO of XL Weather and Energy, a trading and insurance company. She also co-founded and was president of the Weather Risk Management Association. Lynda holds B.A. degrees in history and French from SMU and a Master of Finance from Tulane University.



MELISSA DALE

Deloitte Senior Manager, Global Video Network and Live Streaming Leader, Deloitte

Melissa Dale's career started in hospitality working as a wedding planner for one of the most prestigious hotels in the world. She transitioned her passion for people, relationships and magic moments to Deloitte. In 14 years, she has worked locally in Conference Services, Global Video Conferencing, National Strategic Programs, and now Technology. She successfully navigated her career by staying true to her authentic self, being open hearted, transparent and keeping a finger on the pulse of our people. Melissa currently leads the Deloitte Video Network Operations Center and Live Streaming teams which provide world class production value to virtual meetings, hybrid events and full productions.



SIMMI JAGGI

Executive Vice President, Managing Director of National Lead Land Advisory Services, JLL

Simmi leads the National Land Advisory Services division at JLL and recognizes that land is the integral piece of the equation that affects all businesses. Her ability to visualize the full potential of a tract of land and how it impacts a transaction has been her career focus. An expert in site and trade area analysis, Simmi specializes in suburban master plan communities, redevelopment and creative, strategic thinking. She has built a high-performing team that specializes in land dispositions and acquisitions. Before JLL, Simmi was with CBRE for 22 years, closing more than \$970 million in sales throughout the greater Houston area.



KERI MACALUSO

Senior Manager, Kates Kesler Organization Consulting

Keri Macaluso is a senior manager with Kates Kesler Organization Consulting, a part of Accenture, focusing on high-growth clients across a range of industries and creating new models to support their rapidly evolving needs. Previously, she spent seven years with Accenture Strategy's Energy team working with upstream oil and gas operators and Oilfield Equipment & Services (OFES) companies solving complex challenges around new operating models, organizational design, capability development, innovation, digital enablement, and operations excellence. Keri holds an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. from Rice University.



BETHANN ROBERTS

Founding Partner, Legend Sales & Consulting, LLC

Bethann Roberts has more than 30 years as a global executive and fractional CEO, strategist and transformational leader. Her C-level experience began at GE where she set the strategic direction for the units she led as a division CEO. As an executive leader under Jack Welch, Bethann and her colleagues were responsible for GE Capital's global investment strategy, including building a robust manufacturing plan with China. She was awarded the prestigious GE Pinnacle Award four times. Prior to joining GE, she was an HSBC executive in the commercial real estate sector.



DIANNA KOLTZ | MODERATOR

Senior Vice President, Delivery Operations and Services, Cart.com

Dianna is a seasoned customer success and operations executive who has been nationally recognized for her ability to lead and transform growing teams serving global brands. Once voted as the "Heart of the Company" by her peers, she has held executive and strategic roles at startups and public companies including Dell, Bazaarvoice, and Meredith Corporation.

CAREER VS. EVERYTHING: NAVIGATING YOUR EARLY CAREER

OWNING YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE: SELF ADVOCACY

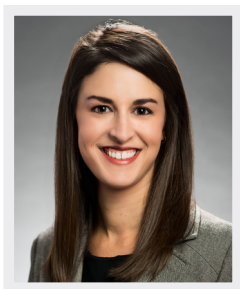
Determined to enter a historically, male dominated industry? Learn from some incredible women working across various job functions on how they navigated their environments to become leaders in their respective roles.



MARIA MONCADA ALAOUI

General Manager, BMW

Maria Moncada Alaoui is the general manager for BMW of West Houston. She's been in the automotive industry for more than 25 years, working her way up from administration to management. Maria has been with BMW for 15 years and, in her current role, is responsible for operational and financial oversight, as well as customer and associate satisfaction. Recognized as Executive of the Year by Houston mayor, Sylvester Turner, at the tribute to Hispanic women, she was also named one of the top 30 most influential women in Houston by Dmars. She led her dealership in being recognized as the 2021 top BMW dealership in the North American market as well as the "best of the best in 2020" by the Houston Chronicle. Passionate about giving back to the Houston community, Maria is involved with Women Driving Business, Bo's place, The Lupus Foundation, the Houston Foodbank, and Houston Children's Charity, where she serves as a board member.



KENYON ALLEN

Associate Vice President, Finance for Ambulatory Services, Memorial Hermann Health System

Kenyon Allen has been with the Memorial Hermann Health System and worked in the healthcare industry for her entire career beginning in 2007. She is from the Houston area and attended Texas A&M University and The University of Houston-Clear Lake for undergraduate and graduate studies. Kenyon has held the role of associate vice president, finance for Ambulatory Services since 2018 and her professional background includes leadership roles in patient business services and revenue cycle.



NANCY HARRIS

General Manager Assurance and Functional Authority, Chevron

Nancy Harris leads the Assurance & Functional Authority group in Chevron's Technical Center where she is responsible for subsurface assurance on Chevron's major capital projects and for stewarding Chevron's subsurface technical standards. In addition, she facilitates the sharing of best practices, the upstream portfolio analysis, and supports the interface between business units and the technical center subsurface portfolio. Having grown up in many countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Nancy's cultural experiences provide a deep foundation from which to actively advocate for diversity and inclusion at Chevron, where she led the Chevron Women's Network from 2003-2004. She joined Chevron in 1998 as a geologist and has worked in appraisal, new field development and reservoir management in San Ramon, California; Houston, Texas; Covington, Louisiana; and Lagos, Nigeria. Nancy received her bachelor's degree in geology from Rice University, and her doctoral degree in geology from MIT.



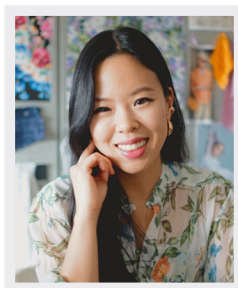
CHANTEL MACK

Executive Director, The Whitaker Project

Chantel Mack is executive director of The Whitaker Project, the non-profit arm of The Whitaker Group, building community initiatives and connecting brand partners to authentic community engagement across the country. Before joining the fashion and retail industry, she served in youth and leadership development for over 20 years. Chantel was after school director for The FORGE for Families, serving the Third Ward with dignity, honor and respect. Before moving to Texas, she was a women's director for one of the largest Christian sports camps for inner-city youth, leading teams of college students and cultivating fun programming for thousands of campers. Whether helping fashion brands be more intentional with community engagement, managing teams during Hurricane Harvey or championing academic, holistic community development and engagement is her passion. Born and raised in Williamsburg, VA, Chantel holds a bachelor's in English literature with a concentration in African American and Victorian literature from Virginia Commonwealth University.

FEMALE FOUNDERS: THE BLUEPRINT

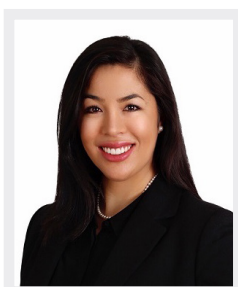
What is it like to be a female founder? What are some common challenges you might face? What kind of people should you surround yourself with? This panel will be an in-depth discussion on how to take your vision from idea to reality.



CHRISTY LYNN LEE

Founder, Studio Christy Lynn

In 2018, while planning her wedding in Houston, Christy Lynn Lee knew she wanted to design pieces for herself and her bridal party. What started as a desire for a few custom dresses turned into a full wardrobe for the traveling bride – the first Christy Lynn capsule collection. From the launch of her first ready-to-wear collection in spring 2020, her brand has grown a steady following and is now available in over 30 retailers throughout the U.S. With a deep calling to build a community of creatives, Christy believes that collaboration is at the heart of creativity. Together with her husband and team, she strives to love, dream and inspire through her work. Christy earned a BFA in fashion and fine arts from the Rhode Island School of Design and has over a decade of experience as a fashion designer in New York City with Nanette Lepore, Catherine Malandrino and Elie Tahari.



KAITLYN LO

Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Just Enough Wines

Kaitlyn is the Co-Founder and COO of Just Enough Wines, a premium canned wine brand based in San Francisco. A 2021 MBA graduate from The University of Michigan Ross, she was awarded a Ross Fellowship and named a Zell Entrepreneur while at Ross. Prior to getting her MBA, Kaitlyn worked in private wealth management for several prestigious firms in the Bay Area including ICONIQ Capital and EPIQ Capital Group. Kaitlyn graduated from Stanford University in 2014 with a Communications degree and was a 3-time NCAA National Champion with the Women's Water Polo team. When Kaitlyn is not discussing all things wine you can find her swimming, playing with her Bernedoodle, or cheering on the Rice football team!



STEPHANIE TSURU

Founder, Entrepreneur, Public Speaker, SheSpace

Stephanie Tsuru spent 25 years in the healthcare industry before receiving her MLS at Rice, changing the trajectory of her life. Empowered by the strength and potential of women, she founded SheSpace, a female-focused work, meeting and programming space to support and bring women together while mentoring both women and girls in Houston. Proud wife, mother and grandmother, Stephanie is passionate about philanthropic work, specifically literacy efforts co-founding Houston's state-of-the-art mobile library fleet. Among her accomplishments is being named a 2020 Woman to Watch by the Houston Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Awards, being admitted to the Greater Houston's Women's Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame, an ABC/Channel 13 Women of Distinction in 2018 and Best Dressed Honoree for March of Dimes in 2019. An avid runner and defender of public spaces, she is co-chairing the Hermann Park Commons Capital Campaign. Stephanie recently completed the Rice Leadership Accelerator, indulging her fondness of life-long learning.



LAYLA LUMPKIN

Partner, Thompson Hine's Corporate Transactions and Securities Practice

Layla Dotson Lumpkin is a partner in Thompson Hine's Corporate Transactions & Securities Practice. She focuses her legal practice on venture capital and emerging company transactions and mergers and acquisitions. Layla has extensive experience advising early-stage companies and venture capital investors through the venture capital financing process. She also serves as outside general counsel to early-stage companies and helps form emerging manager funds. Layla counsels clients acquiring and selling companies in middle-market transactions, including private equity buyers and sellers, strategic acquirers and operator sellers. She invests her funds and time in the early-stage company ecosystem, including mentoring startups. She regularly presents on early-stage company and small business legal issues and teaches a course in entrepreneurship law and venture capital finance to law students.



AMANDA JOHNSON

Founder, Blake Seed LLC

Amanda Whitehead Johnson is the founder of Blake Seed LLC, a company investing primarily in innovative women-led businesses. A native Houstonian, she is a passionate advocate for promoting women's participation and visibility in the investment community. Amanda's earlier career included roles in institutional money management, investor relations, and entrepreneurship. In addition to Blake Seed LLC, Amanda is active in real estate development and design with her company Blake Design, Inc. She is the mother of 3 children. She is a member of Angel Capital Association (ACA), Business Angel Minority Association (BaMa), the Women in Venture Houston Chapter, and serves on the Advisory Committee for Episcopal High School. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the Randolph-Macon Women's College.

BUILDING GENERATIONAL WEALTH

The one certainty about life is that it's always changing. While we can't predict what will happen, we can manage the ways change impacts us. Women play an important role in instilling financial values in their families. Come and learn how you can set your family up for financial success, including wealth transfer and asset protection.



OLLIE HARRIS III

First Vice President of Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

Ollie is dedicated to helping individuals and businesses develop financial and investment strategies that align with their needs, goals and risk tolerance. His mission is to provide each client with targeted, comprehensive financial advice and portfolio construction delivered with the highest level of personal service and professional integrity. In teaming up with Wells Fargo Advisors and their affiliates, Ollie offers a wide range of services, from helping select individual investments to developing a retirement plan. With access to an array of company resources, including research analysts and economic and market experts, he ensures his clients make informed decisions based on their specific needs. He specializes in asset management, estate planning strategies, retirement planning, and more. Ollie graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. in banking and finance, and he holds an Executive MBA from Rice University.

Ollie has been an active member of the Houston community for nearly 30 years. He serves as a board member of the Houston Chapter of the NBA Retired Players Association and participates with The First Tee Program of Houston. Away from the office, he enjoys playing golf, networking and spending time with his wife, Lisa, and children, Ollie IV and Jillian.

6YES FOR SUCCESS - SIX PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Come and learn from two HPE executives on the six principles that would help all individuals - especially minority leaders - lean into success.



ELYNNE KOAY

IT Director, Marketing, eCommerce, CPQ, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Elynne is a seasoned IT professional with a proven track record in solving complex problems and delivering the optimal cost effective solutions. She brings over 20 years of experience in global e-commerce, order management and supply chain and has built and managed diverse international software development teams. At HPE, she manages the e-Commerce, CPQ (Config, Pricing & Quoting) and order management domain for both business and IT development initiatives as well as leading these domains under the HP separation transformation program. In her previous experience at Dell China Services, she was the Account Executive for GOME, one of the largest privately owned electrical appliances retailers in China and Hong Kong. She holds an MBA from Atlantic International University and speaks four languages, Chinese, English, Japanese and Malay.



SHYAMALA (SHY) CHALAKUDI

Vice President, Head of Data & Enterprise Analytics, Hewlett Packard Enterprise

A strategic visionary with foresight and imagination, Shy Chalakudi has an impressive 20+ history of surpassing ambitious business goals, leading revolutionary data-first digital transformations that create memorable customer experiences. Known for being a trusted advisor and data technology expert for Fortune 100 global companies, she has a consistent record of positioning organization for ground up transformation success, spurring multi-million dollar business growth connecting data insights across revenue streams. Shy's contributions stand at the forefront of the nexus of forces - social, mobile, cloud and information technologies. She orchestrates enterprise data strategy to fuel the design of the machine learning framework that deliver conceptual containerized technology on-premise with scalability to Cloud that drive unique competitive advantage. A calculated risk taker, her digital centric data technologies innovation resulted in three unique Blockchain technology patents. Throughout her tenure across financial, technology and product sectors, Shy has a reputation of extending her time to mentor young women and university students with career advancement and growth. She is currently pursuing her doctoral thesis on Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning, specializing on social networks & influence marketing strategies. Shy lives in Austin, Texas, is married to a technology geek, and has a son and a daughter.

THE ART OF INTERVIEWING

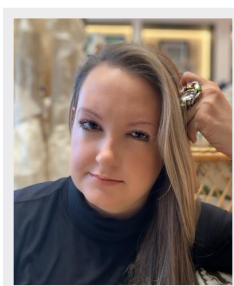
This workshop is aimed at setting you up for success as you step into a new professional role. The workshop will introduce a variety of coaching and communication tools, and include individual and group activities to prepare you to acclimate and deliver value.



SONYA WARE

CEO, Strategist, Leader, Sonya Ware Executive Consulting, LLC

Sonya Ware brings to her clients over 15 years of coaching leadership and excellence. She has a broad reaching background, which spans information technology, healthcare, energy, non-profit, higher education, both nationally and internationally. As an entrepreneur and executive coach, she has provided her high-performing clients results of greater self-awareness and impact. She has coached professionals, individual contributors, and C-level executives in companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, British Petroleum, UT, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, United Way of Greater Houston, Pfizer, Morgan Stanley and Rice University. Sonya holds a Master of Liberal Arts from the University of St. Thomas and B.B.A. of marketing, entrepreneurship and innovation from the University of Houston. She has two lovely sons, Bryce Ware, a college basketball player and Martin Christopher, a rising stylist. She loves investigation ID television, live performances, cinema and the arts.



NAUREEN FREE

Professional Stylist

Naureen Free has a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Merchandising from Stephen F. Austin University and training from the School of Style as a Fashion and Wardrobe Stylist in Los Angeles. With over 10 years of experience, in corporate fashion luxury brands, she is a buyer, designer, strategist, and stylist. She has worked as a set costumer and wardrobe stylist for film, television, and fashion magazine editorials. Her experiences include managing product portfolios, brand campaigns, creating new fashion designs, forecasting product trends, delivering operational goals and sales turnarounds. With a deep love of the art behind fabrics, Naureen transforms how her client's express their image, brand, and more importantly, the art of dressing to their best self. Naureen is fascinated with the psychology of human dress and our obsession with the art of covering oneself with cloth.

LEADING WITH CONFIDENCE

Have you ever struggled to own your seat at the table? Do you ever struggle to speak in a crowded room? Stephanie Tsuru, the founder of SheSpace, will share tips that will help you become a confident woman who owns the room and share strategies for building confidence at work, all while reminding you how to speak while female.



STEPHANIE TSURU

Founder, Entrepreneur and Public Speaker, SheSpace

Stephanie Tsuru spent 25 years in the healthcare industry before receiving her MLS at Rice, changing the trajectory of her life. Empowered by the strength and potential of women, she founded SheSpace, a female-focused work, meeting and programming space to support and bring women together while mentoring both women and girls in Houston. Proud wife, mother and grandmother, Stephanie is passionate about philanthropic work, specifically literacy efforts co-founding Houston's state-of-the-art mobile library fleet. Among her accomplishments is being named a 2020 Woman to Watch by the Houston Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Awards, being admitted to the Greater Houston's Women's Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame, an ABC/Channel 13 Women of Distinction in 2018 and Best Dressed Honoree for March of Dimes in 2019.

ALLYSHIP IN ACTION

We recognize that male allyship is an essential component to advancing gender equity in the workplace. The objective of this workshop is to strengthen men's understanding of gender bias, enhance their ability to make positive change, and provide a brave space in which men and women can communicate openly.



AARON LIMONTHAS

Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Shipt, Inc.

Aaron Limonthas (he/him) is the vice president of Diversity Equity and Inclusion at Shipt, Inc., where he is driving a culture of belonging and professional growth for all employees. He joined Shipt from Adidas America, Inc where he served as their head of diversity and inclusion across North America. Aaron also served as the diversity lead for Reebok, a partner brand owned by Adidas; navigating the intricacies between two separately run brands, within one company.

TRAVERSING TRANSITIONS: HOW TO FLOURISH IN A NEW ROLE

This workshop is aimed at setting you up for success as you step into a new professional role. The workshop will introduce a variety of coaching and communication tools, and include individual and group activities to prepare you to acclimate and deliver value.



KATIE BAIRD

Executive Coach and Founder, Baird Coaching

Katie Baird transitioned from climbing the traditional corporate ladder to nurturing a career built upon her passion for human connection, problem solving and accelerating personal and professional development, especially helping women thrive professionally. Her coaching style is about leading from behind, enabling clients to move forward to insight and action. She is informed by her career as a strategy and operations consultant with Deloitte, much of which focused on strategic workshops designed to assist recently appointed executives make a successful and efficient transition into their new executive role. Katie is a Rice-University-trained, ICF-certified coach, with an undergraduate degree from Washington & Lee University and a Master of Public Policy from American University. She stays current on research, science and best practices in the coaching field as an affiliate-member of Institute of Coaching at McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She's also an active volunteer with Camp Seafarer fundraising and Washington & Lee University Alumni Admissions.

FOCUS AND SPACE: PLANNING TO ACHIEVE GOALS AND DE-STRESS

Do you feel overextended? Are you spending time on the highest priority items at work and life? Are you challenged to find time for yourself? You're not alone. This session will give you a framework for planning and maintaining focus. We will work through creative and hands-on activities to define your priorities and give you a method to focus as an ongoing habit.



PAM SCHILLING

CEO and Co-Founder, Archer Careers

Pam Schilling's quilt of experience includes: female start-up founder, EdTech CEO, multi-time career changer, educator, mentor, and mom to 8-year-old twins. These roles and perspectives shape how she leads her team and culture, serves customers and clients, and manages the fulfilling and challenging aspects of family. A globally recognized tech-leader and career thought leader, Pam is the CEO and co-founder of Archer Career, an EdTech startup that serves as an all-in-one toolkit for career advancement. Her career includes technology, strategy consulting, education, and hiring and coaching students and professionals for 20+ years. Archer Career's work over the past decade includes: 12,000 workshop attendees, 1,000 individual clients, and 25 academic and corporate organizations, across the globe. Pam worked for Chicago Booth, Strategy&, Here Technologies and T-Mobile (when it was Sprint). Her doctoral dissertation focused on tailoring resumes to align to organizational lifestage. Archer Career was selected to Amazon's AWS EdTech Accelerator.

LOOK (AND LEAD) WITH AUTHENTICITY

Increasingly, employees expect leaders both existing and emerging to communicate with authenticity. This workshop will explore "appearance," such as clothing, as a business communication tool, and how leaders can use this tool to communicate personal authenticity to others and themselves.



JANET MOORE

Director of Communication Program, Lecturer, Rice Business

Janet H. Moore brings 25+ years of global professional experience throughout North and South America, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. She is a full-time faculty member in, and the director of, the Rice Business Communication Program. Janet researches how professionals use sartorial and other style elements as communication tools. Janet has led Rice Business study trips to India and Mexico, and guest lectured at the International Space University in Haifa, Israel. As a professionally-trained and certified executive coach, she has also coached professionals at companies like Accenture, Conoco, Goldman Sachs, KPMG, and SINOPEC. Janet spent the first fifteen years of her career practicing international business law. She graduated with honors from both Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the University of Texas School of Law, and attended the London School of Economics.



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