

Keynote Speakers

Linda McMahon, SBA Administrator

US Small Business Administration

Linda McMahon serves as the 25th Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). As a member of President Trump's cabinet, she advocates on behalf of the 30 million small businesses in America.

An entrepreneur and business executive herself, McMahon is the co-founder and former chief executive officer of WWE, based in Stamford, Connecticut. She helped grow WWE from a 13-person regional operation to a publicly traded global enterprise with more than 800 employees in offices worldwide.

McMahon has been a longtime advocate for women in leadership and business and has been widely recognized as one of the country's top female executives. She stepped down as CEO of WWE in 2009 to run for the U.S. Senate and was the Republican nominee to represent the people of Connecticut in 2010 and 2012.



Carol Craig, Founder & CEO

Craig Technologies

"I don't like being told I can't do something," says Carol Craig, Founder and CEO of Craig Technologies.

Carol earned a BA in Computer Science from Knox College and a BS in Computer Science Engineering from the University of Illinois. Following college Carol was accepted into the Naval Flight Officer Program, spending 3 and a half years in the Navy and becoming the first female aviator to join her P-3C Orion squadron. Following a medical discharge due to a training injury, Carol earned an MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Carol worked in the private sector as a software engineer until 1999 when Carol started her own federal government contracting business, growing it to the \$50M dollar company that it is today.



Cheryl W. Snead, President & CEO

Banneker Industries, Inc.

Cheryl W. Snead is the President and CEO of Banneker Industries, Inc. a world-class provider of Supply Chain Management solutions, including product sourcing, value added warehousing and logistics services. Headquartered in North Smithfield, Banneker has three operations in Rhode Island and has a national footprint, including California, Illinois and Alabama. Ms. Snead is Chair of the WBENC Women's Enterprise Forum and serves on the WBENC Board of Directors. In 2016, Banneker was named "Women's Business of the Year" by the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE). In 2014, Ms. Snead was inducted into the "Women's Business Enterprise Hall of Fame". Ms. Snead received her mechanical engineering degree from UMASS Amherst, a Masters Degree in Business from Purdue University and has an honorary PhD from Bryant University. She is a passionate, motivational speaker advocating youth, minority and women empowerment.



Joan Wages, President & CEO

NWHM

As president & CEO of the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), Joan Bradley Wages leads the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about the diverse, historic contributions of women and to raise awareness about the critical need for a national women's history museum in our nation's capital. As one of NWHM's founding board members, Joan has been a passionate and tireless champion of this effort for 20 years. She has lobbied Congress to pass legislation that established a bi-partisan Congressional Commission to produce a feasible plan for the Museum which the President signed in December 2014.



Joan has championed women's issues on and off Capitol Hill throughout her career as a registered lobbyist. Joan began her career in the airline industry as a flight attendant for Trans World Airline, and later served as Director of Customer Service for the airline, eventually joining the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants as its spokesperson and lobbyist. She teamed with a small group of women to advocate for the transfer of The Portrait Monument from the Capitol Crypt to the Rotunda, where it stands today. Prior to joining NWHM, Joan served as president of Cash, Smith & Wages. She has helped pass the Family and Medical Leave Act, the smoking ban on aircrafts, numerous aviation security measures, and Delaware legislation to prevent the take-over of corporations by corporate raiders. Joan has participated in Women in Government Relations and the Women's Leadership Forum. She has also served on the Board of the Virginia Alliance for Health Care Freedom.

Speakers

Stella Adams, Chief, Equity and Inclusion

NCRC

Stella is a nationally recognized expert in fair housing, predatory lending, mortgage fraud and investigation techniques. Most recently Stella served as the Senior Policy Advisor to the National Fair Housing Training Academy. She has also appeared on national television programs such as Melissa Harris-Perry and Fault Lines, and frequently appeared in national and local newspapers. She is well known for her relentless commitment to underserved people and for pushing to hold accountable institutions that discriminate in lending and housing.



In 2013, Legal Aid of North Carolina honored her by establishing an annual award in her name: “The Stella J. Adams Fair Housing Advocacy Award.” In 2014, she was awarded “The Woman of the Year Award,” by Spectacular Magazine. She has received numerous other awards from the NAACP, the City of Durham, the National Association of Human Rights Workers, the National Fair Housing Alliance and more.

Erin Andrew, Managing Director

Live Oak Bank



Erin Andrew is a Managing Director at Live Oak bank where she works with government contractors and other businesses seeking growth capital. She joined Live Oak Bank with over 6 years at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Most recently she was Associate Administrator for Capital Access, where she oversaw the Agency’s lending efforts that included \$100 billion of government loan programs for small businesses.

Prior to that posting, Erin held positions as the Assistant Administrator for the SBA’s Office of Women’s Business Ownership where she oversaw the agency’s efforts to promote the growth of women-owned businesses and as Director of the Innovation Clusters and Skills Initiatives in the SBA’s office of Entrepreneurial Development where she worked to meet counseling and training needs of small businesses.

Prior to her work at the SBA, Erin was a senior policy analyst at the National Governors Association. She was also a senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, where she counseled federal agencies on organizational change strategies and enterprise architecture. She also started a small business with her brother on their family farm in Indiana.

Erin Archuleta, Awareness Initiative Leader

Square

Erin Archuleta leads awareness initiatives at Square, collaborating with community and educational partners across the United States. As a small business owner herself, Erin brings a passion for making it easy to start, run and grow your business. She owns Michelin-recommended, Zagat-rated ICHI Sushi, and is a recipient of a San Francisco Small Business Week Award (2014). She co-founded a San Francisco merchant association and collaborates on small business initiatives through board service.

Erin’s business has been featured in The New York Times, Vogue, USA Today, AAA, and The San Francisco Chronicle. Prior to joining Square, Erin worked for 826 National, a literacy project and blended retail model changing the face of nonprofit engagement.



Marsha Bailey, Founder and CEO

Women’s Economic Ventures, CA

Marsha Bailey is the President, CEO and Founder of Women’s Economic Ventures with over 25 years of experience in women’s business development and micro-lending. Under her leadership, WEV has become nationally recognized for its innovative business education and consulting programs. She currently serves on the National Women’s Business Council, the Alumni Council for UCSB’s Department of Communication Studies and is Chair of the Board of the Association of Women’s Business Centers. Bailey earned her M.A. in Communication from UC Santa Barbara, and a B.A. from Michigan State University in Fine Art and Sociology. She is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional.

Suzi Berget White, Director

Montana Women’s Business Center, MT

Suzi Berget White is the Director of the Montana Women’s Business Center based in Bozeman and hosted by Prospera Business Network. Suzi focuses a majority of her time to providing no-cost confidential business counseling to clients focusing on business start-up, business plan review, financial review and analysis, marketing plan assistance, managing a business, cash flow management, financing, human resources and any other questions small business owners might have. Prior to joining Prospera, White is a seasoned fundraising and marketing professional and she is the co-owner of Ferrous Wheel Design, a sculpture and home décor company, and previously co-owned RainDrain Seamless Gutters as well as Suzi White Consulting.



Speakers



Elizabeth Binning, Product and Learning Specialist *GrowthWheel International*

Elizabeth Binning, Product and Learning Specialist for GrowthWheel International, has always been interested in how people and organizations change. After receiving her Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, Elizabeth pivoted her career and focused on executive coaching, leadership development, and organizational change management. A former SBDC Director, Elizabeth is also a Prosci Certified Change Manager, Certified Executive Coach, and InBIA Certified Incubator Manager.

John Blair, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations *FranNet*

John Blair is the vice president of marketing and public relations for FranNet. Blair oversees brand development, strategy and innovation, and directs all public relations activities for all the FranNet brands, including FranNet's subsidiary companies: Proven Match, Franchise Works, and FranNet Global. Blair supports over 100 franchise consultants across the United States, Canada and Germany.

A seasoned business professional, Blair has more than 20 years experience in executive roles in franchising and small business. He spent 13 years with fast food giant, Yum Brands, mainly in the Kentucky Fried Chicken division in a variety of marketing and PR roles. Following Yum Brands, he served as executive director of a children's museum near his hometown of Louisville, Ky.



Erin Bloxham Curtis, COO *The Catalyst, AL*

Erin Bloxham Curtis serves as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of The Catalyst. She comes to The Catalyst with over 15 years of non-profit management experience spanning fundraising, community and media relations, program management, grant writing, and sales. In her previous role with The Catalyst, Ms. Bloxham Curtis served as the Program Director of the Women's Business Center. As the COO, Ms. Bloxham Curtis oversees the staff in addition to project and program goals. She also handles community outreach efforts, partnerships, public relations and marketing efforts.

Renee Bobb, CEO *R.B.I. Enterprise Empowerment Training and Development Firm*

Philanthropist, Author, Empowerment Trainer, Publisher and Radio & TV Show Host
Renee Bobb is an authority in the field of financial empowerment and small business development. As the CEO of R.B.I. Enterprise Empowerment Training and Development Firm, Renee facilitates a variety of training classes, seminar and workshops for entrepreneurs. Currently Renee works with Pathway Women's Business Center in Nashville, TN. Renee is the Owner of the Music City Icons Semi Professional Women's Basketball Team and has served in United States Navy as a Telecommunication Operator. She is also a Philanthropist, Author, Empowerment Trainer, Publisher and Radio & TV Show Host



Karmen Briggs, Director *Western Dairyland Women's Business Center, WI*

Karman Briggs is the Director of the Western Dairyland Women's Business Center in Northern Wisconsin. Hosted by the Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, a community action agency charged with alleviating poverty related conditions, the Western Dairyland WBC serves a primarily rural population with special emphasis on reaching low-income women seeking to attain economic self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship. Through the support of community partners and industry experts, the Western Dairyland WBC provides a wide range of group training opportunities, one-on-one business counseling and networking events, but is best known for hosting the annual Women's Business Conference in Eau Claire, WI. In its fourteenth year, the Women's Business Conference brings together approximately 500 participants for a full day of business education and networking. The Western Dairyland WBC operates a revolving loan fund, specializes in distance education and has a strong history of working with child care providers. Karman has been with the organization for 10 years, and has served as WBC Director for 4 years. At Western Dairyland, she previously worked as a Business Development Specialist, facilitated Inventor and Entrepreneur Clubs, developed a multi-vendor E-Commerce Site and managed the Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

Speakers

Amy Bunton, President

Pathway Women's Business Center, TN

In March 2008, Amy Bunton joined Pathway Lending and currently serves as President of the Pathway Women's Business Center. While at Pathway, Amy created and launched the \$50 million Tennessee Energy Efficiency Loan Program and oversaw the execution of the Tennessee Energy Education Initiative. She has lead efforts with Pathway's small business lending initiatives and has extensive experience in working with entrepreneurs. Amy has owned several businesses including a furniture manufacturing company whose most recognized piece was the button tufted "Chesterfield" sofa. Many of the distinctively styled pieces can still be seen on movie and television sets today - 20 years later.

Amy was previously at the Tennessee Valley Authority where she oversaw the TVA's Existing Business and Industry initiatives and Economic Development Loan Funds. Prior to her role with TVA, Amy served as the Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. She was responsible for managing the daily operations of the department including all federally funded programs such as CDBG and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).



Robert Catanzaro, President and Co-Founder

Independence Bank



Independence Bank, a privately-held community bank located in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Independence Bank specializes in SBA 7(a) lending to small businesses throughout southern New England. Independence Bank is consistently among the top SBA 7(a) lenders in Rhode Island. We have assisted hundreds of small business start-ups, existing businesses, and provided financing for business acquisitions in many industries since 1996. Independence Bank has delegated underwriting authority through the SBA Preferred Lenders Program.

Darcella Craven, President and Chief of Fear Conqueror

Veteran's Business Resource Center

Darcella has over 25 years of experience in corporate, government, non profit and military organizations. She is currently the President and Chief Fear Conqueror of the Veterans Business Resource Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Honorably Discharged Veterans, National Guard and Reservist, transitioning military and their families with starting and expanding businesses. The organization was awarded the 2015 Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Year by the U. S. Small Business Administration and she was proud to travel to the White House to accept the award with her co-worker. They have also won the 2017 What's Right With the Region award celebrating strong programs in the region promoting growth and stability.



Kenny Cunningham, Senior Associate

PRISM



Kenny Cunningham is a senior associate at Prism Group. He is a communications and PR professional with nearly a decade of experience developing and managing social media campaigns for corporate, non-profit, and political clients to optimize their online presence, increase engagement with targeted demographics, and recruit customers, supporters and/or followers.

Felicia Daniels Smith, Financial Examiner

U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED)

Since 2014, Mrs. Smith has worked as a Financial Examiner with the Financial Examination Unit of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) conducting financial examinations of the Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers. Also she is a Contracting Officer Representative responsible for the contract management of six contractors participating in Regional Innovation Cluster program. Prior to joining OED, Mrs. Smith worked with the SBA Office of Credit Risk Management (OCRM) for 12 years. From 2009 to 2014, Mrs. Smith worked as Supervisory Financial Analyst responsible for managing a team of financial analysts and contractors that conducted on-site and off-site reviews of 7(a) Lenders in SBA Regions 3, 4 and 6. She also managed the due diligence process and conducted bi-annual off-site reviews of delegated lenders (2,200 lenders) participating in the PLP, SBAExpress, ExportExpress, and PLP-EWCP loan programs. Also Mrs. Smith worked as a Program Analyst in the SBA Microenterprise Development Guaranty Program, servicing and monitoring 40 micro-lenders and grantees participating in SBA's national direct loan and grant programs.

Speakers

Paola Diaz, Senior Community Affairs Specialist

Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection, FDIC

Paola joined the FDIC in 2014 to work on economic inclusion initiatives including small dollar credit, credit building and small business. As a consultant to the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, Community Development Financial Institutions, community banks, and various nonprofits between 2008-2013, worked with over 100 financial institutions in 23 states, to develop outreach and product development strategies to meet the needs of the unbanked and emerging markets. Previously, she worked extensively in entrepreneurial initiatives including SBA Women's Business Centers, providing business development and access to credit to minority entrepreneurs. Her international work includes consulting engagements with major global development organizations such as CARE, the IADB, FINCA, and Habitat. She received a "Local Hero Award" in 2008 for her community development work in Georgia from Bank of America Foundation and two FDIC Chairman Excellence Awards for her work on Diversity and Inclusion in 2015 and 2016.



Carmen Diaz-Jusino, Senior Director of Programs & Services Delivery

Center for Women & Enterprise, RI

Carmen has been with the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE), for the past ten years. She has a diverse array of professional experience that includes an Educator, Community Resources Representative, Job Developer, Counselor for Teenagers, Spanish Interpreter and Manager. Carmen is also an entrepreneur having started a learning center in her home country, the Dominican Republic. Today she is the Senior Director of Programs & Services Delivery, for CWE's five locations in New England. Carmen holds degrees in Social Studies (BA) and

Psychology (BA) and a Master in Science-Concentration in Organizational Management and Leadership. Her hard work was showcased when Carmen was the winning recipient of the U.S. Small Business Administration's "2010 Women in Business Champion" award and 2011 Extraordinary Women Award in Business Development as well as the "The Outstanding Dominican Community Leader" award in 2013. In 2013 Carmen was also recognized with an "Alumni award from the Latina Leadership Institute". In 2014 Progreso Latino recognized Carmen with the "Latino Enterprise" award for her work with the Latino Business Community. The YWCA in 2015 awarded Carmen the "Women of Achievement" award, for her dedication to empowering women. Her dedication, hardworking attitude, and innovative approach make her a known leader in the fields of business, women's leadership and community development in Rhode Island.

Klassi Duncan, Director Women's Business Resource Center - Contractor's Resource Lab

Urban League of Louisiana, LA

Klassi Duncan currently serves as the Director of the Women's Business Resource Center and Contractor's Resource Lab at the Urban League of Louisiana. In this role, she is responsible for complete oversight of the organization's operations and programming. Her responsibilities include establishing the strategic direction and goals for the organization, fund development and management, building strategic partnerships, and promoting the Center's impact in the community.



Prior to assuming this role, Ms. Duncan served as the Director of Business Support & Evaluation for the Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* Program at Delgado Community College. In this role, she led the Business Support Services team in providing advising and technical assistance to small businesses. She also oversaw the program's Measurement and Evaluation function to capture and assess the critical impact metrics of participating businesses before, during, and after graduation.

Ms. Duncan began her professional career as a Buyer at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, MI, where she was responsible for the procurement of various products and services. In 2008, Ms. Duncan assumed the role of Manager of Supplier Diversity & Sustainability at Covidien, a healthcare manufacturer, in Mansfield, MA.



Angie Duncanson, Senior Business Counselor/Trainer

Maryland Women's Business Center, MD

Angie Duncanson is Maryland Women's Business Center's Senior Business Counselor/Trainer. She has 9 years of experience in the field of economic/business development having worked as a Small Business Specialist for Prince George's County, Maryland Economic Development Corp. and as a Business Consultant/Instructor for Maryland Small Business & Technology Development Center. Angie has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Troy University, Troy, Alabama; she is a Certified Meeting Planner, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and listed in the Who's Who in International Management.

Speakers

Cynthia DuRant, Community Affairs Specialist

FDIC

Cynthia has been with FDIC since April 2011. Prior to that, she worked for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in Greensboro, North Carolina, supporting 109 housing counseling agencies, lenders and realtors. Cynthia has over 15 years of community and economic development experience. She also hosted a financial empowerment radio show, and has served on numerous boards. She is based in Columbia, MD and serves the DC Metro Area.

Tara C. Elder, Program Director

AWBC Boots to Business Program



Tara has served as the program director for the Association of Women's Business Centers Boots to Business program since 2014. She is also co-owner of Ashland Consulting Services, LLC a management consulting business serving West Virginia and Virginia. In 2004, Tara founded the Women's Business & Training Center in West Virginia. She acted as Director until 2013. She cultivated her business development skills as a Business Analyst for the West Virginia Small Business Development Center for five years. Tara has a Masters degree in Occupational Safety from Marshall University.

Deb Eslinger, Executive Director

Center for Technology & Business, ND

Deb was born and raised in Bismarck, ND and currently resides here with her awesome husband and two beautiful girls. Deb is extremely active in her local community as a member/volunteer on several committees to being a soccer coach. She currently holds the position of Executive Director for the Center for Technology & Business. She is an entrepreneur at heart and a visionary leader with a passion for helping women. She is driven to employ innovative techniques to explore potential, obliterate boundaries, and push the outer edge of what can be accomplished.



Deb has been involved with business development for the past 15 years. Her passion lies with helping others achieve success. Being in the trenches with the entrepreneurs celebrating their 1st or 100th sale brings a smile to her face. As a past WOB for over 10 years, she knows what it takes to start and run a successful operation. Her skillsets are strategic leadership, operational management, public speaking, facilitation, strategic planning, team building, non-profit management, board development, fundraising, money management & program development.



Josh Fegles, Academic and Government Channel Sales

Palo Alto Software

Josh Fegles has been with Palo Alto Software since 2015 where he oversees the government and academic sales relationships with our customers and partners. He has been involved with the SBA since 2011 when he started taking advantage of their resources, launched his gluten free food manufacturing company, and has continued to use SBA resources ongoing. It was during an SBA business planning course that he was introduced to LivePlan which he has used with his business since. Josh has also been involved in higher education through a company called InsideTrack, focusing on improving enrollment, retention, and graduation rates in the U.S. university system. When Josh is not at work he can be found spending time with his family, playing cards, or focusing on fitness. He is a graduate of Multnomah University.

Amy Fletcher, Grants & Evaluation Manager

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV), CA

Amy has over a decade of experience in nonprofit program evaluation, grant writing, and data management. She is currently the Grants and Evaluation Manager at Women's Economic Ventures in Santa Barbara, California. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Interpersonal Communications.



Speakers



Anne Flynn Schlicht, Director *Chatham's Women's Business Center, PA*

Anne Flynn Schlicht joined the Center for Women's Entrepreneurship at Chatham University (CWE) in September 2006. Anne brings a wealth of international experience as a professor of entrepreneurship at the Center for Entrepreneurship Studies at the University of Limerick, Ireland and as a business consultant, Anne has presented at seminars and conferences internationally on the topic of entrepreneurship education and women entrepreneurs. In January 2005, Anne was chosen as the second "Rooney International Visiting Scholar" which facilitated her move to the US. In April, 2016, Chatham University was awarded a Women Business Center (WBC) by the SBA and Anne was appointed as Director to lead the WBC. Passionate about helping women start and grow successful businesses, Anne enjoys developing strategic programming to benefit women entrepreneurs and those working in regional businesses through CWE. A certified Kauffman FastTrac Facilitator, Anne has personally worked to assist over 350 women in the Pittsburgh region in exploring their business ideas and honing the skills they need to become successful entrepreneurs. Anne has helped CWE introduce new programming and created a new online business portal for CWE Membership. In 2013, Anne designed and implemented a new entrepreneurial training called MyBusiness Start-up, which targets women entrepreneurs in the early stages of starting their businesses and provides them with interactive business planning sessions, one-on-one consulting and membership to the Center. This program has been at full capacity since it was launched in September 2013.

Erika Franz, Program Analyst *U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Development*

Erika Franz is a Program Analyst with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Development's Strategic Initiatives Team. Her current portfolio includes program and contract management for Regional Innovation Clusters, Lean for Main Street Training Challenge, and Human-Centered Design. She holds a Master's in Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate.



Mercedes Garcia, Vice President Global Relations *Mastercard Worldwide,*

Mercedes Garcia is Vice President Global Community Relations at Mastercard Worldwide. In this role, she is responsible for developing relationships with consumers, merchants, labor organizations, consumer advocacy groups and governments via the Master Your Card (MYC) community empowerment program. This program seeks input, works collaboratively on innovative solutions and provides education about how consumers and business owners can get the most from their money through the smart use of electronic payments.

For several years, she also served as Mastercard's spokesperson for consumer education programs for Hispanics and other underserved groups. She supported the development of these educational programs, including marketing and training materials. In addition, Ms. Garcia personally conducted training sessions for thousands of people.

Ms. Garcia joined Mastercard in 1994 to open the Venezuela office. She moved to the company's headquarters in Purchase, N.Y., in 1998 to join the Global Product Group, supporting the development and rollout of various Mastercard payment card programs in regions around the world.

During her tenure at Mastercard, Ms. Garcia has held several global roles with increasing responsibility. Before joining the Public Policy team, she was responsible for Global Affluent Credit and Debit products.

Prior to joining Mastercard, Ms. Garcia developed an extensive marketing and advertising background, working for more than 10 years at J. Walter Thompson, one of the leading multinational advertising agencies. Ms. Garcia is native of Venezuela, speaks several languages and has a Business Administration and Hotel Management degree from the Mexican Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management in Mexico City.

Beth Gitlin, Principal and Founder *BFG Global Consultants*

Beth Gitlin is principal and founder of BFG Global Consultants, an organization that provides evidence based interventions and solutions in business mentoring, leadership development, executive coaching and teamwork for leaders and their organizations to effect profitable and sustainable strategic growth. Most recently, she was, Executive Director of weVENTURE, powered by Florida Institute of Technology, a regional economic development initiative focused on accelerating sustainable business growth for womenpreneurs. weVENTURE was recognized by the SBA in 2014 and 2015 as a Regional WBC Center of Excellence and won the national WBC Center of Excellence in 2012. Ms. Gitlin was awarded the 2014 Small Business Advocate of the Year for Florida and the 2014 Space Coast Business Leader of the Year for Business Development.



Ms. Gitlin was president and owner of Global Passages, an international trade consulting company. Additionally, she has 20 plus years of experience in the retailing, manufacturing and global sourcing of consumer packaged goods. She also served 4 years as a lieutenant in the US Army Signal Corps.

Speakers

Carol Greenfield, Grants Management Officer

U.S. Small Business Administration

During her federal career Carol served as office manager for SBA's Office of Human Resources and during the Erskin Bowles administration, served as the chief of staff's assistant. Carol realized her love for assisting women business owners after accepting the opportunity to work with SBA's Office of Grants Management in 1994, where she managed a portfolio in excess of \$10 million. Carol joined the Office of Women's Business Ownership in 2008, where she serves as OWBO's grants agreement officer and manages WBCs located in SBA's Regions 6 through 10.



Tonya Harris, Program Manager

Small Business Administration - OWBO

Tonya Harris joined the Office of Women's Business Ownership in 1995 as an administrative assistant, but quickly advanced to become a project director and then a program manager. She has served as a team leader, and managed the planning of the annual WBC Program Training Conference for several years. She currently oversees the WBC grants in Regions 5 and 6. Before joining the Office of Women's Business Ownership, Tonya worked in the SBA Office of Advocacy and the Office of Grants Management.

Mary C. Hartfield, Business Development Officer / Counselor

Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW), MI

Oversees training and one-on-one counseling to women-owned businesses in West Michigan for Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW).

Mary has an extensive background in community involvement, entrepreneurship, strategic planning, and leadership training. Her expertise in business development is complemented by her own experience as an entrepreneur. She is an experienced professional with over 39 years of work in banking, finance, non-profit administration, and community and economic development.



Kiesha Haughton, Managing Director

Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC)

Kiesha Haughton has over 15 years of non-profit and entrepreneurship experience in providing economic development solutions to small businesses, NGOs, and government agencies. She currently serves as the Managing Director of the Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC), which provides business services to Montgomery, Prince George's and Frederick Counties. The MWBC's business training and counseling services are geared towards enabling women-owned enterprises to start, sustain, and achieve scalable growth. Kiesha is also an entrepreneur, running an international management and consulting firm in her spare time. Prior to joining the MWBC, Kiesha was the Regional Director of the Maryland Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC), a Senior Business Consultant/Trainer, and was a Trainer/Counselor for Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore. Kiesha has also traveled extensively and done international development work with CARE Corps Peru. Holding an MBA in international business, an MA in Global Finance, Trade and Economic Integration, and a BA in Government & Politics and German, Kiesha is also a Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP) through the NASBITE International Certification Program and an active member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Kiesha is a member of a number of boards and currently lives in Montgomery County.

Jacob Haupt, Business Development Specialist

Western Dairyland Business Center, WI

Jacob Haupt is a business development specialist for the Western Dairyland Business Center, which serves northwestern Wisconsin. Jacob has a Bachelor of Science in both Political Science and Public Administration from the University Wisconsin-La Crosse, as well as a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jacob's expertise is in assisting entrepreneurs with conducting market research, navigating governmental regulatory issues, and in government procurement.



Speakers



Anne Janiak, Executive Director
Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc., NY

Anne M. Janiak is a founder and Executive Director of the Women's Enterprise Development Center Inc., a nonprofit microbusiness development organization in White Plains, NY that helps women achieve economic self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship in Westchester County and the Lower Hudson Valley. Ms. Janiak has been involved with the organization since its formation in 1997 and has been instrumental in its growth and development, including its designation as a Women's Business Center by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in 2003.

She has been active in women's issues, local government, and public policy matters in Westchester County for more than 25 years and serves as part-time Executive Director of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association. She is a former Mayor of the Village of Scarsdale, a former chair of the Westchester County Women's Advisory Board, and a former president of the Scarsdale chapter of the League of Women Voters. Ms. Janiak has many community and professional affiliations and is actively involved with both the state and national microenterprise development program associations.

Julann Jatzcak, Vice President of Impact Initiatives *WWBIC, WI*

Julann Jatzcak is Vice President of Impact Initiatives for WWBIC. Now in her 21st year, Julann develops and manages strategic initiatives for the organization statewide. As leader of WWBIC's Advancement team, she champions projects designed to increase WWBIC's program efficiency, development efforts and brand awareness. She is well known for developing business workshops for micro-businesses, especially targeting women and low-income individuals. Julann has co-authored three publications for Jossey-Bass Publishing and the NxLevel Education Foundation on business planning, money management and social entrepreneurship. Before joining WWBIC, Julann was a marketing executive and Fortune 1000 consultant.



Briles Johnson, Executive Director
Women's Business Center of North Carolina, NC

Briles Johnson is the Executive Director of the Women's Business Center of North Carolina. She is responsible for the continued growth, education, certification, training and advocacy of women entrepreneurs across the state. Briles' experience includes 13 years of Economic Development, including her time with the NC Department of Commerce and NCIMED. She has also managed and operated two small businesses in North Carolina. Briles and her team have helped businesses create and retain over 600 jobs, obtain \$8.5 million in capital and clients awarded over \$17 million in government and private contracts.

Under Briles' leadership, the Women's Business Center of North Carolina was named the 2014 National "Women's Business Center of Excellence" by the US Small Business Administration. The center was also recognized by the US SBA for the Center of Excellence for the Southeast and North Carolina. Briles also developed, created and launched NC Commerce's BLNC.gov website and spearheaded the marketing campaign.

Amy Kim, Women-Owned Small Business Program Manager *SBA Office of Government Contracting*

Amy Kim is the Women-Owned Small Business Program Manager with the SBA Office of Government Contracting. In that role, Amy provides expert support and guidance in interpreting and applying statutes, regulations, and policies regarding the Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program. Prior to joining SBA, Amy was the Deputy Director for Small Business with the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division. She advised the Command leadership on acquisition strategies and market research to ensure that small businesses are afforded maximum practicable opportunities to participate in Federal contracts. Amy holds a master's degrees in public administration and business administration.



Wanda Lipscomb-Vasquez, Program Director of Business Services
weVENTURE, FL

Wanda Lipscomb-Vásquez is the WBC Director of Business Services at weVENTURE at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. A results-oriented, hands-on professional with a successful record of accomplishments in training, communications, and program development. A forward-thinker with competent knowledge of business operations and practices that possesses a clear vision to accomplish the organization's goals. Recipient of the SBA Region IV WBC Center of Excellence award three years running.

Speakers



John J. Lira, Management and Program Analyst *SBA Office of Veterans Development*

John J Lira currently serves as the Management and Program Analyst in the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development where he leads performance management and evaluation initiatives for the Boots to Business program which is part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program. Prior to joining the SBA, John served as the Veteran and Military Families Program Officer at the Corporation for National and Community Service where he presided over the growth of the agency's veteran and military families focus area and initiatives.

John earned a Master's of Science in Public Policy and Management from the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University. He has also earned a Bachelor's (BA) degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), an Associate's degree in Paralegal Studies from San Antonio College, and a certificate in Business Administration from Georgetown University. In 2016, John was selected as a Presidential Management Fellow Finalist.

John is a US Marine Corps veteran who served for nearly twelve years as an Intelligence Analyst; a career that also included two combat tours to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. John remains involved in the veteran community and has participated in fellowships with the Student Veterans of America, Leave No Veteran Behind Executive Leadership Program, Dog Tag Entrepreneurial Fellowship Program, and Salute the Military Golf Association.

Nia Lucas, Program Manager *Office of Women's Business Ownership - SBA*

Nia Lucas, Program Manager for eight months with OWBO. Originally from Ohio. Currently resides in Washington, DC with service dog Blu. Master's in Policy Management and Master's in Business Administration from University of Maryland and George Mason University; respectively. Former Business Officer and Fundraising Coordinator for WBCs in Seattle, WA and Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. Small business owner of a café in San Juan Puerto Rico. Army veteran served in Operation Enduring Freedom. Regularly travels abroad and enjoys community engagement.

Heather Lux, Regional Project Director *WWBIC Southeast Office, WI*

Heather Lux has served as the Regional Project Director for the Southeast Office for nine years. She oversees all daily operations in WWBIC's Southeast Wisconsin office, bringing in vision, strategy and relationship building. Ms. Lux was formerly Director of Junior Achievement where she was responsible for special events, fund raising, networking, board development, partnerships and overall program sales. Prior to that, she was the territory and then, regional sales manager for a large paper mill on the east coast, receiving the "Top Sales" award for 9 out of 13 years. Ms. Lux earned her degrees in Business Administration and Public Relations from Carthage College, and has also completed her Nonprofit Leadership Certificate from the University of Wisconsin Parkside. She currently serves on the national board for the Association of Women's Business Centers.



Kenneth Lyon, Vice President of Finance and Administration *Mi Casa Resource Center, CO*

Kenneth R. Lyon is the Vice President of Finance and Administration of Mi Casa. Kenneth joined Mi Casa in 1996 (20 years of service), and is a CPA and a member of the Colorado Society of CPA's. He earned an MBA from the University of Denver in 1992 and received a Bachelors of Science from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana in 1977. Prior to joining Mi Casa, Kenneth was president of Summit Trust Services and Chief Financial Officer at Resources Trust Company in Englewood, Colorado.



Laura Maas, Program Manager *U.S. Small Business Administration*

Laura is a program manager in the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, supporting 26 WBCs in regions 2, 3 and 8. Prior to joining the SBA, Laura was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Armenia where she worked on a variety of gender equality and economic development initiatives. She holds a BS from Northeastern University and an MPA from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.



David Madié, Founder and CEO *GrowthWheel*

David Madié is a life-long serial entrepreneur, the founder and CEO of GrowthWheel International Inc., and the creator and designer of GrowthWheel – a visual toolbox and cloud-based platform used by business advisors to help client companies make decisions and take action.



As the creator of GrowthWheel, since 2008 David has trained and certified more than 2,000 business advisors, incubator managers, and entrepreneurship educators in 40 US states and 34 countries around the world.

Speakers



Ann W. Madsen, Executive Director
The Helen Gordon Davis Centre for Women

Ann W. Madsen has had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of the Centre for Women, Inc. since 2012. In the past five years, she has transformed the venerable nonprofit through an “intrepreneurial” approach to help women across Tampa Bay to succeed personally and professionally. She was recruited to Florida by the prestigious Poynter Institute, a nationally renowned school for journalism, to lead its advancement efforts. Her previous experience as a journalist-turned-fund development professional has now contributed to the evolution of the centre’s programs and most recently helped her to launch the only SBA– designated Women’s Business Centre on the west coast of Florida to help nascent and aspiring entrepreneurs across six counties.

In addition to serving on the National Board of the AWBC, she is very active in the Tampa Bay Community. She is a member of the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, the Athena Society, the Board of Governors for the Centre Club and is a charter member of Women’s Executive Leadership. She is a strong advocate for women’s advancement. To that end she created the highly successful Waves of Change Women’s Leadership event honoring nationally prominent women including legendary feminist Gloria Steinem, powerhouse billionaire Sheila Johnson and Tampa’s first female mayor Sandy Freedman.

Susan Mazza, CEO
Clarus Works

Susan Mazza works with leaders and their organizations to elevate their performance as a business consultant, leadership coach and motivational speaker. Founder/Author of the highly acclaimed blog Random Acts of Leadership™, Co-Author of The Character-Base Leader and Energize Your Leadership, Susan has also been named a Top 100 Thought Leader by Trust Across America in 2013/2015 and a Top 50 Innovator in Leadership in Inc. in 2016. She has recently released the Leading in Action System™, an innovative and pragmatic approach to developing and elevating leadership capability at all levels.



Nancy McLain, Reporting Coordinator
WESST, NM

Nancy is a native of New Mexico. She has been the Reporting Coordinator for WESST since 2008. Early in her service she upgraded the data reporting system to VistaShare’s Outcome Tracker. Nancy enjoys mentoring WBC staff in their data gathering and reporting functions. Her use of humor and analogies make her presentations entertaining and insightful. The standards she has set for recording information have created a solid foundation for WESST’s ability to gain and continue funding through the SBA and other agencies.

Amber Miller, WBC Director - Greater Milwaukee Area
WWBIC, WI

Amber Miller, is currently the WBC Director for The Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) Greater Milwaukee area and is going in her 7th year of employment. Under her leadership, the Business Education Group has met or exceeded its goals, including exceeding participation of the state-wide *Wisconsin Saves Campaign*.

Ms. Miller holds a B.A. in Business and Management from Alverno College, Masters of Business Administration and Master of Higher Education Administration along with being a Certified HP LIFE and NxLevel Instructor. She is also the recipient of the 2015 Women in Champion Small Business Administration (SBA) Award for her efforts helping female small business owners’ start or expand their business state-wide.



Sharon Miller, Chief Executive Officer
Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, CA

Sharon Miller is the CEO of Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, a position she had held since 1999. During her tenure, Renaissance became the San Francisco US Small Business Administration Women’s Business Center (1999), added locations in Bayview Hunters Point (2001), East Palo Alto (2007), Marin (2012), and Richmond (2014), introduced Spanish language programming, and assumed the programs and services of Women’s Initiative, due to their closure (2014). Most recently Sharon received the Alliance

Française of San Francisco’s 2016 Community Leadership Award and the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Bay Area Chapter, Women’s Business Advocate of the Year award. She serves on the Board of the Association of Women’s Business Centers (AWBC).

Speakers

Juli Monroe, Director of Women's Business Center

Community Business Partnership, VA

Juli is the Director of the Women's Business Center, a program of the Community Business Partnership. Before beginning with the WBC, she was an entrepreneur, and her business focused on coaching clients in growing their business through effective networking and word of mouth marketing. Juli continues that work with new business owners from pre start-up to two years in business. Through the WBC, she also counsels clients and teaches classes in all aspects of starting and growing a new company.

Her approach to life and business revolves around building relationships, both in person and online. She uses Twitter, Facebook and other online platforms to maintain the relationships she makes in-person and to find new friends she's yet to meet "in real life." Juli is excited to have published a book entitled, *The Enthusiastic Networker*, which helps readers find their unique networking presence and voice.



Erin Moos, Senior Manager of Strategic Philanthropy

Community Business Partnership, VA

Erin Moos is Senior Manager of Strategic Philanthropy at Intuit where she manages the corporate product donation programs, financial literacy initiatives, and consumer tax philanthropy through her work with the Intuit Financial Freedom Foundation. Through partnerships with TechSoup Global, B Labs, ASBDC, SCORE and AWBC, Moos facilitated the donation of QuickBooks products to over 20,000 qualifying non-profits and small business training partners across the country each year.

Prior to joining Intuit in January 2011, Moos was a Senior Associate with Dewey Square Group, a public affairs practice in California, serving as Deputy Program Director for the "WE Programs", women's empowerment programs created and championed by former California First Lady, Maria Shriver. Largest of these was WE Connect, a program helping to connect California's working families to programs and services which could help them keep more money in their wallet. In this role, Moos also managed the presence of the programs at The California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women (The Women's Conference) in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Prior to her work in philanthropy and social works programs, Moos worked in advertising sales at NBC's owned-and-operated station in San Diego and KRON 4 in San Francisco as Special Projects Coordinator and Sales Associate.

Shannon Mulkey, Administrative Services Sr. Manager

REI Oklahoma, OK

Shannon Mulkey serves as the Administrative Services Sr. Manager for REI Oklahoma. Serving in different capacities of the organization, she has been a part of expanding Oklahoma's prosperity for 25 years. A graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business, Shannon is responsible for payroll as well as the financial management and reporting of 9 federal and state grants. She is recognized as a Certified Grants Management Specialist through the National Grants Management Association.



Bonnie Nawara, CEO

Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW), MI

Bonnie Nawara is the CEO of Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women, (GROW) a Women's Business Center in Grand Rapids, MI. A former business owner, she is a facet in the local business community and was recognized as one of the Top Fifty Most Influential Women in West Michigan by Grand Rapids Business Journal in 2012 and 2014 and 2016.

Amanda Park, Training and Communications Coordinator

Mercy Corps Northwest, OR

Amanda is a native Portlander and she believes that "we" can always push for something better. She has traveled and spent three years working with NGOs around the world: consulting micro-enterprises in Namibia, helping rural women crafters set-up businesses, and developing empowerment programs for women and children. Previous to Mercy Corps NW Amanda was the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator at Resolutions Northwest a social justice conflict resolution organization. She studied economic development and natural resource economics in her undergrad and received her MBA from Portland State University focusing on marketing and strategy.



Speakers

Antonella Pianalto, President and CEO *Association of Women's Business Center (AWBC)*

Antonella Pianalto has served as the President and CEO of the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC) since September 2014, providing leadership to support the network of Women's Business Centers. Her priorities include enhancing the AWBC's visibility and influence in the women's business development arena, increasing the membership and member engagement and creating long-term sustainability.

Prior to joining AWBC, Pianalto served as Vice President of Government Affairs for American Express, where she managed a broad portfolio of policy issues. She partnered with the White House, Small Business Administration, and small business groups on initiatives, including the Give Me 5% and ChallengerHer government contracting programs and led the Small Business Saturday efforts in Washington, DC. Ms. Pianalto served at the U.S. Embassy in London as Senior Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and at the White House served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel. She also served as Associate Administrator for Management and Administration for the Small Business Administration.



Bruce Purdy, Deputy Assistant Administrator *SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership*

In July 1997, Bruce Purdy began his career with the Small Business Administration as a Presidential Management Intern working initially in the Microenterprise Development Branch before moving into a position to work on SBA's electronic lending solutions and risk management strategies for SBA's loan programs.

In January 2005, Bruce was asked to serve as the Acting Chief of the Microenterprise Development Branch until June 2006, when he took a leave of absence from SBA to participate in the Alfa Fellowship Program in Moscow, Russia, focusing on small and medium size enterprise development. Upon returning from Russia in 2007, Bruce served as a Senior Program Analyst in the Office of Entrepreneurial Development, working with all of SBA's entrepreneurial development programs analyzing risk and program performance. In 2009, Bruce was one of 4 individuals at SBA honored to participate in the Annenberg Fellowship Program. This five month leadership program provides rising leaders the opportunity to learn best management and leadership practices. The participants used lessons learned in the classroom and worked with SBA leaders to develop innovative, actionable strategies and recommendations on SBA's Information Technology Acquisition Process.

In January 2010, Bruce was selected to serve as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Women's Business Ownership, overseeing the Women's Business Center Program, the position he currently holds. .

Melanie Rae, Managing Director *Guided Business Plan*

Melanie Rae's mission is to inspire disadvantaged heads of households to seek economic independence through entrepreneurship. She developed the GUIDED Business Plan™ entrepreneur education platform to provide "instructions to build a better business." Her award-winning format has become the cornerstone of some of the largest business development centers in the U.S. She has the ability to simplify concepts for various learning styles. Melanie has taught more than 1,100 software and business development courses to adult students. She has created high-impact initiatives for Marsh, Lamps Plus, John Hancock Financial Services, Small Business Development Centers and Women Business Centers to name a few. She shares her international outlook having spent more than a month in each country: Spain, China, Dominican Republic and Eritrea. Melanie earned a B.S. in Business Management with a concentration in Finance from Boston University.



Barbara Rackley, Program Manager *REI's Women's Business Center, OK*

As the first director of a newly created Women's Business Center at REI Oklahoma, Dr. Barbara Rackley was able to develop a program to assist women entrepreneurs that has continued to modify as the program expanded to provide resources for small business owners. Celebrating its 15 year anniversary, the REI WBC has grown from one SBA contract serving one quarter of the state to two SBA contracts serving the entire state of Oklahoma. In 2011 she was named Program Manager of REI's Women's Business Center with responsibility for the statewide program.

Speakers



Annie Rorem, Director of Policy and Research *National Women's Business Council*

Annie is the Director of Policy and Research for the National Women's Business Council. To this role, she brings a background in quantitative analysis, the belief that good public policy requires good data, and a desire to better understand—and improve—the experiences of women in the labor force.

Prior to joining NWBC, Annie was a research and policy analyst in the Demographics Research Group at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. In that position, she conducted demographic data analysis for a wide variety of locality, state, and private clients. In addition, she authored several reports on poverty and the social safety net, and wrote frequently about gendered income disparities. Annie has also served as a lecturer at University of Virginia, most recently offering a course on "data wrangling" in Stata.

Annie holds a Master of Arts in mathematics from Wesleyan University, where she also completed her undergraduate education, as well as a Master of Public Policy from The Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia. In 2015, Annie was named Top 30 Thinker Under 30 by Pacific Standard Magazine.



Robert Saarinen, Business Development Consultant *IBISWorld, Inc.*

Robert has been working with IBISWorld for over three years. In that time, he has worked with and implemented IBISWorld as the premier research tool for many different development agencies. As the world's largest independent publisher of U.S. industry research, IBISWorld's team of expert analysts cover over 1,300 different industries assisting clients with everything from business plan writing to consulting."

Cherylynn Sagester, MM Director

Veteran Business Outreach Center (VBOC), Old Dominion University Center for Enterprise Innovation

Ms. Sagester has over 25 year's business and economic development, government contracting, strategic planning, networking and innovative coaching and consulting experience within public, private and non-profit sectors. Customers have included: DoD, all branches of U.S. military, Veterans Administration (VA), entrepreneurial, small to mid-size and large businesses, primarily in the Mid-Atlantic area of Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland; and the Central Florida area. Cherylynn went on to open her own Woman-Owned small business coaching and consulting firm, Ideal Life Management (ILM) in 2004, as founder and President in Orlando, FL. For over seven years she coached and consulted executives and small businesses in the Central Florida area. In March, 2013, she joined the Veteran Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Old Dominion University Research Foundation (ODURF), Center for Enterprise Innovation (CEI) as the Director and Senior Business Advisor for the SBA's Office of Business Development's (OBVD's) Region III (VA, WV, DE and PA). Cherylynn's academic experience includes a Masters of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Old Dominion University. Cherylynn recently acquired her certification as a Professional grant writer from the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business. She is also an Adjunct Professor for Tidewater Community College (TCC), Webster University and Barry University, teaching entrepreneurship, business management, finance and marketing courses to both undergraduate and graduate students.



Tracee Seals, Director

The Houston Galveston Women's Business Center, TX

Tracee Seals, serves as The Houston Galveston Women's Business Center Director. She is also a Program and Education Director for health-related non-profits as well as educational organizations. She serves as an Advocate for Healthcare and Wellness. Tracee works within the community educating individuals on aspects of healthy living and disease processes. In addition, she's a Branding, Imaging, and Marketing Consultant who works with Independent Artists, Public Speakers, and Spoken Word Artist. In addition, she offers 501c3 document preparation for start-up nonprofit organizations. Tracee holds a B.S.B.A degree in Business Administration and Literary Arts, Masters in Healthcare Administration, from Belhaven Christian University and currently working on her PhD in Healthcare Administration.

Speakers

Rana Shanawani , Executive Director *Women's Center for Entrepreneurship Corp., NJ*

Rana Shanawani is the Executive Director for the Women's Center for Entrepreneurship Corp. in Chatham, NJ (WCEC). Before working at the WCEC, she was a non-profit consultant helping international organizations in strategic management. In 2004, after working as a UN consultant for several years, she served as the CEO of BIDAYA, a chapter of the Prince's Youth Business International in Syria. BIDAYA's main objective was to provide under-served entrepreneurs with training, micro-loans, and mentoring. During her tenure there she received the Takreem Achievement Award for Best Young Entrepreneur and was selected to meet with President Barack Obama and Secretary Clinton at the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship. Ms. Shanawani has received her Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins, and her Bachelors in biology from Cornell University.



Jennifer Shieh, Chief Scientist and Senior Technology Policy Advisor *U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Investment and Innovation*

Dr. Jennifer Shieh advances technology commercialization through the Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs, building partnerships and coordinating policy across the 11 participating Federal agencies. Previously, she managed the Small Business Program for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and served as a Program Director at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) SBIR Development Center, having joined NCI as a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow. She was involved in product and customer development at Syapse, a precision medicine-focused startup, and mobile games startup Subversus Interactive. Dr. Shieh studied brain and cognitive sciences at MIT, then earned her PhD in neurosciences at Stanford University. She is co-author of the textbook Guide to Research Techniques in Neuroscience.



Tim Shoemaker, Project Manager and Trainer/Consultant *VistaShare*



Tim Shoemaker has served as a project manager and trainer/consultant for VistaShare customers since 2007. Tim has extensive experience working with the SBA and helping Women's Business Centers to implement Outcome Tracker. Tim, his wife Tama, and their three children live in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dave Smucker, President *VistaShare*

Dave Smucker leads VistaShare in the development and delivery of Outcome Tracker, a cloud-based client management system for nonprofit organizations and networks. Dave has been involved with economic development organizations since 1994 and software development since 1986. He holds an MBA in Economic Development from Eastern University in St. Davids, PA. Prior to joining VistaShare, Dave spent 15 years developing, implementing, and selling administrative software for colleges and universities.



Parker Stewart, Director *Veteran's Business Outreach Center at Mississippi State University*



Parker Stewart is the Director of the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) at Mississippi State University. His office serves thousands of veterans within the states of Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana in starting businesses. Parker is a serial entrepreneur who currently operates a profitable small food company with his family.

Gayathri Subramanian, Senior Director Corporate Market Insights *ADP*

Gayathri Subramanian is Senior Director, Corporate Market Insights at ADP and leads a range of analytical research functions including strategic market research, thought leadership research, competitive intelligence and market sizing analytics that enable data-driven decision-making for Senior Management.

Before ADP, Gayathri worked at Deloitte Consulting LLP where she led several financial transformation engagements with top banks on The Wall Street. The projects involved detailed analysis of banks' P&L that led to identification of 10-20% cost saving opportunities.

Gayathri grew up in India and Singapore. She holds a Computer Science degree from National University of Singapore and an MBA in Finance and Marketing from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. She lives with her husband in Jersey City, NJ and enjoys reading and hiking in her spare time.



Speakers

Nancy Swift, Founding Director *Jefferson Economic Development Institute (JEDI), CA*

Ms. Swift is a staunch champion of entrepreneurs worldwide. With 25 years of experience in micro and small business development, local wealth creation and community economic development, Ms. Swift is the Founding Director of Jefferson Economic Development Institute (JEDI), a pioneer program in rural far northern California.

Over the years, Ms. Swift has developed a keen interest in women entrepreneurs and has committed much of her professional life to advancing women's economic opportunities. JEDI was designated a US Small Business Administration Women's Business Center in September 2014 which brings new resources and inspiration for rural women entrepreneurs and an expanded territory for service.



Elena Vasconez, Director Denver Women's Business Center *Mi Casa Resource Center, CO*



Elena Vasconez has more than 15 years of experience in business development, strategic planning and organizational development. As a bilingual business consultant, she has helped launch more than 250 businesses and has taught a variety of business courses both in English and Spanish. As the Director of the Women's Business Center at Mi Casa Resource Center she leads a team of consultants that help more than 800 startup and existing businesses annually through affordable entrepreneurial training, micro lending, computer training, financial literacy, and individual business counseling. Under Elena's leadership, the Small Business Administration recognized the Denver Women's Business Center as the 2014 Women's Business Center of Excellence for Region VIII. In 2017 the WBC was recognized as the National Women's Business Center of Excellence.

Elena is an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the Association for Talent Development (ATD, formerly ASTD). She serves in the Advisory Board for Colorado Enterprise Fund, Advisory Board for Social Enterprise at Mi Casa Resource Center and, is the Chair of the Advisory Board for the Business Program at Arapahoe Community College. She is also a Board Member and Treasurer for the Association of Women Business Centers (AWBC)

Elena has an MBA and a Masters degree in Organizational Development from Azusa Pacific University. She also owns High Impact Solutions, LLC, a firm dedicated to helping businesses and organizations achieve higher levels of productivity and profitability by empowering their human capital.

Nicholas Walker, Financial Examiner *U.S. Small Business Administration*

Nicholas Walker has worked as a Financial Examiner in SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development for five years. Prior to joining the government he worked in commercial banking, where he has experience in compliance, foreign exchange, and electronic payments. He earned degrees in business and information technology from Boston University, and is a member of the Association of Government Accountants.

Ann Marie Wallace, Executive Director *Women's Business Center, UT*

Ann Marie grew up on a dairy farm in northern Utah. Her cow milking days ended when she started attending Snow College and later transferred to Utah State University where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. After working in hotel management for ten years, she became a WBC Client, launched her own small business, and was later hired to mentor other women. Now she oversees the center which helped her become an entrepreneur.



Speakers



Sandra Wells, Program Analyst
U.S. Small Business Administration

Sandra received her Bachelor's degree in Christian Education from the Andersonville Theological Seminary in Georgia in 2013. She currently works for the United States Small Business Administration, Office of Women's Business Ownership, a division of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development, as a Program Analyst. Sandra worked for the federal government for 20+ years and her primary function is to oversee approximately 25 women's business centers from the mid-west to the west coast and territories of the United States.

Rachel Werner, Owner and CEO
RBW Strategy

Rachel Werner, Owner and CEO of RBW Strategy, has over 14 years of grants, consulting, communications, writing, strategic planning, training, and project management experience. Rachel Werner's career has spanned the corporate, nonprofit, and public sectors. She provides support to clients on the full-lifecycle of grants activities and proposal development, project management, and strategic planning. Since the beginning of her career, she has helped to garner over \$20 million in grants and contracts.

While serving as a management consultant, she was considered a grants subject matter expert within Deloitte Consulting, LLP's Federal Services practice where she supported federal grant making organizations in the areas of full-grants lifecycle, project management, business process improvement, and policy development. A sample project required the management of grant programs to distribute \$2 billion in federal funds to state and local entities. She has also served as a grants management specialist implementing a compliance system for large U.S. Department of Education No Child Left Behind funds within charter schools across the U.S.

She graduated from Vassar College with a Bachelor in Arts and received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. She has also obtained a Certificate in Grants Management, is a certified Project Management Professional, and is a Certified Grants Professional. She is actively involved in the Grant Professionals Association and conducts trainings at national and local conferences.



Colette Williams, Vice President of Operations
OutreachSystems

Colette Williams is the Vice President of Operations at OutreachSystems. She has been with OutreachSystems since 1988 when it was a sub-division of Softshare. In 2010, OutreachSystems became its own entity, and Ms. Williams became more actively involved in the development of the Neoserra Customer Relationship Management software. Ms. Williams has traveled extensively to work directly with economic development organizations worldwide to learn about their needs, requirements and wishes.

Ms. Williams has two Bachelor of Arts, one in business economics the second in Pre-Law from the University of California in Santa Barbara, with a minor in Computer Science. Ms. Williams's experience includes an extensive background in customer service and technical implementation.

Glenwood Williams, Grants Management Officer
Small Business Administration - OWBO

Glenwood Williams currently serves as a Grants Management Officer for the US Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO) in Washington, DC. In that role, he reviews federal grant applications and proposals, conducts budget analyses, prepares various types of award documents, monitors grant activities and performs a myriad of other duties. As a Grants Management Officer, he helps to capacitate female entrepreneurs with starting and expanding successful businesses, mobilizing resources and connecting with scores of women entrepreneurs in underserved markets with an array of cutting-edge and robust programs.

Prior to joining OWBO, he served as a Grant Management Officer for SBA's Office of Grants Management (OGM) in Washington, DC. While with OGM, he provided financial oversight to a number of SBA's grant programs and cooperative agreements. His portfolio consisted of over fifty SBA awards totaling well over \$100 million in Federal funding. In this role, he provided high-level customer service, technical assistance and guidance to Federal award recipients and other SBA employees. He was instrumental in designing, implementing and facilitating OGM's Grant Coordination Training in FY17, where over twenty Program Managers received new and/or refresher knowledge on SBA's grant lifecycle, with strong emphasis on program oversight and compliance. He was also instrumental in updating SBA's SOP 00 18 for the management of grants and cooperative agreements.



Speakers



Sheila Williams, WBC Program Team Lead, Regions 2, 3 and 8 *Small Business Administration - OWBO*

Sheila Williams was recently promoted to programmatic team leader for the Women's Business Center Program. For the previous four years, she was the program manager overseeing women's business center grants in Regions 2, 3 and 8 (a role she continues until the position can be filled). Sheila has a long history in grants. Prior to joining the SBA Office of Women's Business Ownership in 2011, she served on the grants review team at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Earlier experience was with the D. C. Department of Housing & Community Development and the National Institutes of Health.

Tommi Wolfe, CEO and Chief Dreamer *Top 6 Business Coach*

Tommi Wolfe is the CEO of Top 6 Business Coach, a company dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs.

Tommi supports a network of talented business coaches in 3 countries, all of whom specialize in helping solopreneurs to create abundant, lucrative and meaningful businesses. They are known for their proven methodologies, entrepreneurial mastermind programs, their "no-bs" coaching methods and getting results.

Tommi takes full advantage of her entrepreneurial privileges and home is wherever she feels like, usually Colorado or California.



Michelle L. Wright, Group Sales Executive, Mid-Atlantic Business Banking *Capital One*

Michelle Wright is the Mid Atlantic Group Sales Executive for Business Banking at Capital One. In her current position, she is responsible for overseeing the business banking teams supporting business owners located in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia. Michelle is a seasoned executive with over 23 years of experience in the financial services and banking industries with extensive experience in Consumer banking, Small Business Banking as well as Private Banking.

Michelle joined Capital One in May 2017. Prior to that Wright spent six years with SunTrust Bank as a Market Executive and eleven years with Wachovia/Wells Fargo as a Community Bank President for the Greater Washington area. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Management and Marketing from the College of Notre Dame in Maryland.

Jacqueline Young Perrins, Washington D.C. Market Manager and Managing Director *JP Morgan Chase & Co.*

Jackie Perrins is a Managing Director and the Market Manager of J.P. Morgan's Washington, D.C. Private Banking office. She leads a team of 50 professionals who oversee more than \$18 billion in assets from local families, public and private foundations, and endowments. She also is a key member of the firm's Market Leadership Committee for the greater Washington D.C. area.

She joined J.P. Morgan in 1995 as a sales trader in J.P. Morgan's Institutional Foreign Exchange Group. In 1996, she joined the Private Bank as an investor serving clients in the Southeast U.S., then in Europe and the Middle East. In 2001, she was asked to build out the investment platform for the D.C. business. Until her promotion to Market Manager in 2015, she acted as clients' Chief Investment Officer and headed the team's investment practice.

Jackie received her MBA from Kenan-Flagler at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Bachelor's degree in Economics with honors from Bucknell University. Barron's Magazine named her a Top Advisor to the Ultra Affluent.



Katherine Zuga, Program Director for North American DreamBuilder *DreamBuilder*

Katherine Zuga is the Program Director for North American DreamBuilder, an online business plan program co-created by Thunderbird School of Global Management and the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. In this capacity, she oversees program implementation and partnership development for DreamBuilder in the United States. She also manages Project DreamCatcher, an initiative for Native American women entrepreneurs. She has more than 20 years of experience launching and directing programs for education and non-profit organizations. She holds an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management and a BSFS from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.