



**Women's  
Leadership  
Conference  
2023**

**Defining Leadership**

for Our Lives, Our Careers  
and Our Communities

**March 25, 2023**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to Adelphi University's sixth annual Women's Leadership Conference!

Since we founded this conference in 2017, it has grown to become one of the region's premier leadership training, professional development and networking events. While the world around us continues to change, our goal is the same today as it was then – to empower ourselves, empower each other, and think about how we can develop as we move through our careers.



Leadership comes in many different forms, and this year we focus on Defining Leadership for Our Lives, Our Careers and Our Communities. So many accomplished and ambitious women are here to share the stories and lessons that inspired them to find their definition of leadership. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know them, learn from them, and expand your network.

I want to thank all our panelists and moderators for their insight and dedication to advancing and mentoring women in the workplace and beyond. I'm also grateful to our Student Government Association, Student Affairs and External Relations staff for their outstanding collaboration and planning of this event each year.

I'm excited to share this experience with all of you today as we exchange ideas, ask important questions, and challenge each other to achieve more. Thank you for joining us!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', written over a horizontal line.

Christine M. Riordan, PhD  
President

# 2023 Women's Leadership Conference



Schedule	Saturday, March 25, 2023
11:45 a.m.	<b>Check-in and Networking</b> <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center Lobby</i>
12:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	<b>Welcome &amp; Kick-Off Session</b> “Shift Happens: Navigating Change” <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom, Second Floor</i>
1:45 p.m.–2:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session I</b> Self-Advocacy: What No One Ever Taught Me <i>Performing Arts Center, Clayton Westermann Stage, Concert Hall</i>  Leadership and Parenting: Mothers Know Best <i>Performing Arts Center, Black Box Theatre</i>  Ethical Leadership: The Increasing Importance of Doing the Right Thing <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Room 113-114, First Floor</i>
3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session II</b> Finding Your Leadership Style: What Kind of Leader Are You? <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Room 113-114, First Floor</i>  Access to Opportunity: Advancing Women’s Leadership by Opening New Doors <i>Performing Arts Center, Black Box Theatre</i>  Building Your Brand <i>Performing Arts Center, Clayton Westermann Stage, Concert Hall</i>
4:45 p.m.–5:45 p.m.	<b>Networking Cocktail Hour</b> <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, First Floor Lobby</i>
6:00 p.m.	<b>Awards Celebration &amp; Keynote Dinner</b> <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom, Second Floor</i>
<i>*All speaker biographies can be found towards the back of the program.</i>	

# A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to Adelphi's sixth annual Women's Leadership Conference.

Our University has a rich history of empowering women through education and service. This signature event continues that tradition with women leaders from Adelphi and beyond who create a platform for learning, sharing and lifting up the next generation.

Today's robust and powerful day of learning and networking is themed "Defining Leadership for Our Lives, Our Careers and Our Communities."

Together, we will discover the myriad ways that leaders define and find success for themselves. The takeaways will empower you to further hone your unique leadership style and potential.

You will hear from exceptional leaders about how they navigate an ever-changing world of work and what the future looks like for aspiring women leaders. Our keynote speaker, actress Diane Guerrero, will inspire us with her experiences in film and television and her strong advocacy of social justice and civil rights.

I am deeply grateful to our conference chairs, LeeAnn Black '83, Humera Qazi '93, and Lois Schlissel, JD, as well as to our steering committee members and today's panelists for their commitment to supporting this inspirational annual event.

Thank you for bringing your enthusiasm and experience to today's Women's Leadership Conference at Adelphi University and for helping us to further honor women's history.

Enjoy the conference!



Thomas A. Kline, EdD

Vice President of University Advancement and External Relations





# 2023 CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

## Co-Chairs

LeeAnn Black '83  
Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins

Humera Qazi '93, MBA  
Managing Director, Morgan Stanley

Lois Schlissel, JD  
Of Counsel and Former Managing Attorney,  
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.

## Steering Committee

Pawneet Abramowski '08  
Founder & Principal, PARC Solutions LLC

Laili Paksima  
Director of Advancement, Major & Planned Giving,  
Adelphi University

Addie Backlund  
Principal, Addie Nelson Backlund Consulting, LLC

Lynda Perdomo-Ayala '78  
Administrative Department Head, Health Sciences  
Center School of Medicine, Stony Brook University

Loretta Cangialosi '80  
Retired Senior Vice President and Controller,  
Pfizer, Inc.

Cari Quinn '87, RN, NEA-BC  
Senior Vice President for Pediatrics, Northwell Health  
and Executive Director, Cohen Children's  
Medical Center

Anita D'Amico, PhD '84  
Vice President of Products, Synopsys, Inc.

Marc S. Strachan '81  
Managing Partner, Chief Marketing Officer, Adgile  
Media Group; Founder Coach Marc Consulting, LLC

Hatice Dalton, '94, MBA '96  
Managing Director, Deloitte & Touche

Nicholas Iadevaio, MBA '00  
Vice President, Human Resources  
and Diversity & Inclusion Leader,  
L'Oréal USA

Christine Tiedemann  
NYS Certified Holistic Health Coach

Chelsea (Wollman) Imbriano '14, RN  
Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit,  
North Shore University Hospital

Deborah Viola '84, MBA, PhD  
Vice President, Office of Research and Grants  
Administration at Westchester Medical Center,  
a member of WMCHHealth

Chitrlekha (Pooja) Kar, '18, MA '19, CPA  
Assurance Senior, EY,  
Founder and Facilitator, Bold and Becoming

Thomas Ward, Jr. '93  
Assistant Vice President for Career Development  
and Strategic Partnerships, Adelphi University

Dilpreet Kaur  
Vice President of External Affairs, Student  
Government Association, Adelphi University

Kaitlyn Woods, '12, MBA '15  
Director of External Relations and Special Events,  
Adelphi University

Thomas Kline, EdD  
Vice President of University Advancement  
and External Relations, Adelphi University

Maggie Yoon Grafer, '98, MA '08  
Associate Vice President for External Relations and  
University Advancement, Adelphi University

Joseph Moscola, MBA '06  
Executive Vice President for Enterprise Services,  
Northwell Health

Anna Zinko  
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs,  
Adelphi University

# KICK-OFF SESSION | 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M.

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## SHIFT HAPPENS: NAVIGATING CHANGE

Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom, Ruth S. Harley University Center

Change is happening at a breakneck speed in all industries and walks of life—find out how to navigate challenges and obstacles that arise in your personal and professional lives. Change can have positive or negative impacts and implications, and it often takes a real leader to help navigate how it is managed and perceived.

### Moderator



**Christine M. Riordan, PhD**  
President, Adelphi University

### Panelists



**LeeAnn Black '83**  
Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins  
Conference Co-Chair



**Humera Qazi '93, MBA**  
Managing Director, Morgan Stanley  
Conference Co-Chair



**Lois Schlissel, JD**  
Of Counsel and Former Managing Attorney,  
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.  
Conference Co-Chair



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## **Christine M. Riordan, PhD**

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President, Adelphi University

Christine M. Riordan, PhD, is the 10th president of Adelphi University and the first woman to hold the role in the University's 126-year history. Dr. Riordan is an established expert in leadership, team building, career success, and diversity, equity and inclusion. She is also a seasoned and respected board member in the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

Since her appointment in 2015, Dr. Riordan's vision has transformed Adelphi into a nationally recognized modern metropolitan university. Under her leadership, enrollment has grown by 10 percent, the University community is more diverse than ever and 50+ innovative academic degree programs launched. *U.S. News & World Report* has consistently named Adelphi a Best College among national universities as well as a Best Value School and a Top Performer on Social Mobility. In 2022, Adelphi received *INSIGHT* Into Diversity's Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the fifth consecutive year.

Dr. Riordan served as chair of the board and a member of the executive committee for New York's Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. She is a member of the board of directors of the Long Island Association and is co-chair of its Women's Collaborative. For more than seven years, Dr. Riordan has served on the board of directors of RE/MAX Holdings, Inc., is chair of the nominating and governance committee, and serves on the compensation committee.

Dr. Riordan has published 70 academic and business press articles and is authoring a book, *Shift Happens: How to Adapt and Thrive in a Rapidly Changing World of Work* ([christineriordan.com](http://christineriordan.com)). Her honors include the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Chief Executive Leadership Award in 2021 and the ATHENA International Leadership Award in 2020. In 2019, Georgia State University honored her as a Distinguished Alumna. For many years, she has been named one of the most influential people on Long Island by the *Long Island Press*, and *Long Island Business News* lists her among its Who's Who in Education, Who's Who in Professional Women and Top CEOs.

Dr. Riordan was previously provost of the University of Kentucky and dean of the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver. She received her MBA and a PhD in Organizational Behavior from Georgia State University and earned her bachelor's degree in Textile Engineering (now called Materials Science Engineering) from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Co-Chair

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## **LeeAnn Black '83**

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Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins

LeeAnn Black, chief operating officer, oversees the firm's global business operations, financial management, and strategic direction. Under Ms. Black's leadership, Latham has experienced considerable growth while maintaining the distinct culture that underpins the firm's success.

Latham has ascended to the top ranks of elite global law firms under Ms. Black's stewardship. She oversaw the firm's global expansion and the evolution of Latham's administrative structure to support the firm's substantial growth. Ms. Black has also been a champion of innovation and a driving force behind the firm's early adoption of technologies that help Latham deliver efficient, market-leading client service.

Ms. Black is a Certified Public Accountant who previously served as a Senior Auditor at Arthur Andersen & Co. She joined Latham in 1987 as the Accounting Manager for the New York office and later served as New York Office Administrator before becoming Chief Operating Officer in 1998. In overseeing all aspects of the firm's financial and operational management, Ms. Black draws on her public accounting background and three decades of leadership experience at Latham.

Ms. Black has earned broad recognition as a trailblazer in the legal sector, including by the *Financial Times*, which named her a 2017 Top 10 Innovative Individual in North America for her work to secure lower interest rates and debt relief for Latham associates.

Outside of Latham, Ms. Black serves as:

- Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Chapin School, an all-girls K-12 school dedicated to academic excellence, personal integrity, and community responsibility
- Member of the Board of Directors of Pro Bono Net, an organization dedicated to increasing access to justice
- Member of Thomas Reuters' Transforming Women's Leadership in the Law (TWLL) initiative

**“Great leaders do good things when no one is watching.  
Don't underestimate humility.”**

—LeeAnn Black





Co-Chair

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## **Humera Qazi '93, MBA**

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Managing Director, Morgan Stanley

Humera Qazi is a managing director at Morgan Stanley, serving as Head of Wealth Management Operations' Client Services Group (CSG). The CSG is responsible for collaborating and partnering with WM Operations stakeholders and business partners to develop and execute strategies to deliver world-class service to internal and external clients. Before joining Morgan Stanley, Humera was a managing director in KPMG's Management Consulting practice.

Humera is a vocal advocate for diversity in the workplace. She is the co-chair for Morgan Stanley's Women's Business Alliance—the largest employee networking group at Morgan Stanley—and co-led Americas D&I for Morgan Stanley Operations before that. At KPMG, Humera served as co-chair of KPMG's Network of Women for Long Island and launched the ATHENA Awards in the New York region. She is co-chair of the Women's Leadership Conference at Adelphi University and has served on the board of directors of the Women's Bond Club.

Apart from women's leadership initiatives, Humera serves on the board of directors for Miracle Corners of the World, an organization dedicated to empowering youth leadership in Africa and around the world. Humera also serves on the board of trustees at her alma mater, Adelphi University.

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***When we see each other as equals, we will be able to work together to create a more just and equitable society for everyone.***

—Humera Qazi



Co-Chair

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## **Lois Schlissel, JD**

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Of Counsel and Former Managing Attorney, Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.

Lois Schlissel is of counsel at Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. She served as the firm's managing attorney from 2002-2017. She is a member of the firm's employment law practice and has counseled clients with respect to federal and state employment laws, compliance issues, and personnel matters and handles claims arising under Title VII, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Family Medical Leave Act.

Schlissel is a member of the Adelphi University Board of Trustees, the Board of Overseers of Northwell Health System, and the Board of Directors of Huntington Hospital. Schlissel is also an active member of Senator Chuck Schumer's screening committee.

In 2018, Schlissel received the Executive Circle Award from *Long Island Business News*. She is rated "AV Preeminent" by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest level of professional excellence. She was honored for her "extraordinary service to the community and superb lawyering" by the Nassau County Bar Association, We Care Fund in 2012. She was also recognized by Long Island Pulse Magazine in 2010 and 2011 as one of the region's "Top Legal Eagles." In 2007, Schlissel was recognized as one of the Best Attorneys on Long Island by the *Long Island Press*. She was named by *Long Island Business News (LIBN)* as one of Long Island's Top 50 Most Influential Women and was admitted into the LIBN Top 50 Hall of Fame. The Long Island Center for Business & Professional Women conferred its Achievers' Award in the Field of Law on Schlissel and she was named a "Woman Achiever Against the Odds" by the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls.

Prior to joining Meyer Suozzi, Schlissel was a law clerk at the New York State Court of Appeals and, thereafter, a litigation associate in the New York City office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. Schlissel received her JD at the University of Buffalo, and earned a BA degree from State University of New York at Oswego.

**“Set your goals without reference to society's expectations. Prepare yourself well. And then... follow your heart.”**

—Lois Schlissel

# BREAKOUT SESSION I | 2:15 P.M.–3:15 P.M.

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## SELF-ADVOCACY: *WHAT NO ONE EVER TAUGHT ME*

Performing Arts Center, Clayton Westermann Stage, Concert Hall

This session, particularly relevant for students and young professionals, focuses on how to evolve and grow as an individuals. Panelists discuss how to find your purpose and voice and how to develop self-love, self-respect, and confidence. Learn how to seek mentors while advancing your academic, professional and personal goals.

### Moderator



**Chitralkha (Pooja) Kar '18, MA '19, CPA**

Assurance Senior at EY

Founder and Facilitator, Bold and Becoming

### Panelists



**Swati Bhisé**

Producer & CEO

Cayenne Pepper Productions



**Abigail (Paulion) Bryant '14**

Director of EOP Student Success

SUNY System Administration



**Karimot Odebode**

Poet, Gender Equality Activist

and Founder of Black Girl's Dream

# BREAKOUT SESSION I | 2:15 P.M.–3:15 P.M.

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## LEADERSHIP AND PARENTING: *MOTHERS KNOW BEST*

Performing Arts Center, Black Box Theatre

Working moms and mothers returning to the workforce after taking time off to raise children: learn to lead! This session focuses on finding a balance between working and parenting, developing a supportive “mom community,” and securing your place as a leader, nurturer and engaged professional.

### Moderator



**Maria Collin Goodman**

Co-Founder  
Mama’s Got Mojo

### Panelists



**Andrea Bombino**

Founder & Career Coach  
Andrea Bombino Coaching & Consulting



**Kristen Capezza, MBA '12**

Vice President of Enrollment Management and University  
Communications, Adelphi University



**Chotsani Williams West, MA '07**

Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and  
Belonging and Adjunct Professor, Adelphi University



# BREAKOUT SESSION I | 2:15 P.M.–3:15 P.M.

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## **ETHICAL LEADERSHIP: *THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF DOING THE RIGHT THING***

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Room 113-114, First Floor

Disinformation and misinformation pervade the current corporate and political climate, and ethical leaders are needed now more than ever. Learn how to discern fact from fiction, identify and instill important values in others in a meaningful way, tackle challenging topics, advocate for the greater good and become a positive changemaker in your career and community.

### **Moderator**



**Pawneet Abramowski '08**

Founder & Principal  
PARC Solutions LLC

### **Panelists**



**Kevin Goodman '00, MBA '03**

Global Director of Member and Customer Enablement,  
LinkedIn; Adelphi Board of Trustee Member



**MaryAnne Hyland, PhD**

Dean, Robert B. Willumstad School of Business  
Adelphi University



**Khadijah Tribble**

Founder and Chief Strategy Officer  
Marijuana Policy Trust

# BREAKOUT SESSION II | 3:45 P.M.-4:45 P.M.

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## FINDING YOUR LEADERSHIP STYLE: *WHAT KIND OF LEADER ARE YOU?*

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Room 113-114, First Floor

Are you a consensus builder, a transformational manager, or a participative leader? Leaders come in all shapes and sizes, and by discovering your true leadership style, you'll grow in new ways and find even greater success. No worries if you don't want to climb the ladder to the top--there are many ways to leverage your leadership style in your own way.

### Moderator



**Maureen Evers-Wilcox**  
Managing Partner  
KPMG

### Panelists



**Chaka Adams**  
Vice President Marketing  
Jovia Financial Credit Union



**Sharon Cunningham '90**  
Managing Director  
Morgan Stanley, The Cunningham Group



**Jennifer Rosado**  
Chief Customer Officer  
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# BREAKOUT SESSION II | 3:45 P.M.–4:45 P.M.

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## ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY: ADVANCING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BY OPENING NEW DOORS

Performing Arts Center, Black Box Theatre

Underrepresented groups are attaining leadership positions in the corporate world more than ever as diversity, equity, and inclusion are recognized and prioritized. Learn how our speakers broke down barriers, opened new doors, and dealt with the challenges of being underrepresented in an industry. We'll discuss advocating for yourself and others, making moves that advance your career, and how to deal with "imposter syndrome" when you're among the few in your field.

### Moderator



#### **Deborah Viola '84, MBA, PhD**

Vice President, Office of Research and Grants Administration, Westchester Medical Center, a member of WMCHealth

### Panelists



#### **Anita D'Amico, PhD '84**

Vice President of Cross-Portfolio Solutions and Strategy, Synopsys Software Integrity Group



#### **Mara Johnston**

Managing Principal  
Keystone Global



#### **Emily Ladau '13**

Author of *Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to be an Ally*; Adelphi Board of Trustee Member

# BREAKOUT SESSION II | 3:45 P.M.–4:45 P.M.

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## BUILDING YOUR BRAND

Performing Arts Center, Clayton Westermann Stage, Concert Hall

To build a personal or professional brand that showcases you as a leader, you need to know yourself and your audience. Find out the best way to consistently and authentically create and communicate your story, build a strong, supportive and receptive network around your brand, select the appropriate social media channels to achieve your goals, and maintain and improve perception of your brand.

### Moderator



**Marc S. Strachan '81**

Principal and Chief Marketing Officer, Adgile Media Group  
Founder, Coach Marc Consulting, LLC;  
Chair, Adelphi Board of Trustees

### Panelists



**Renu Dalessandro**

Chief Marketing Officer  
Jovia Financial Credit Union



**Judy Jackson**

President  
JLC Ventures (Judy Loves Culture)



**Monique Manso**

Founder  
M2Exponential



# TYPEFOCUS

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As part of your registration for the Women's Leadership Conference, you have access to utilize the TypeFocus Assessment. The TypeFocus will help you understand your unique behavior profile, identify areas of strength, and know your personal values. Instructions on how to complete the TypeFocus are as follows:

Before you start, watch this brief video on the TypeFocus:  
<https://youtu.be/RWyqsx9TY3o>

### Then follow each step below:

- Enter the site using the QR code below.
- Click the green REGISTER button and follow the prompts.
- You will create a password for your account
- If the site asks you for an access code, use Adelphi2020.
- Once signed in, click the "Step 1: Self-Assessment" tab (left side of main page).
- Take the assessments in the order in which they appear: Personality first, Interests second, Skills, Values, and then Success Factors.



## LINKEDIN HEADSHOTS

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Your profile picture is a key element of your LinkedIn presence. Research shows that just having a picture makes your profile 14 times more likely to be viewed by others.

All participants will have the opportunity to take a LinkedIn headshot during the conference located in the **Ruth S. Harley University Center, Room 118-119** on the first floor.

# MODERATED KEYNOTE | 6:00 P.M.

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## ACTRESS AND AUTHOR DIANE GUERRERO

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom

Hollywood was first introduced to Guerrero from her role as inmate Maritza Ramos on the critically acclaimed Netflix drama “Orange Is the New Black” and later played Lina Santillan on “Jane the Virgin,” opposite Gina Rodriguez. Her most recent roles in “Encanto” and “Doom Patrol” have earned her even more visibility. As her profile has risen, Guerrero has arrived at a place of ease and self-acceptance, and she’s exploring new facets of her identity. She’s repairing her relationships with her family and she’s re-examining what it means to be successful.

Guerrero says the trauma of her parents’ deportation shaped not only her early life, but how she saw her career. This led her to be a passionate human rights activist and served as the host and executive producer of an NPR podcast titled “Yeah No, I’m Not OK,” where she candidly discussed mental health issues affecting communities of color.

Together in conversation with Chotsani Williams West, MA ‘07, Diane hopes to continue to use her platform to inspire others, influence change, and push for immigration reform.

Guerrero urges all students, no matter their background, to get involved as best they can to create change in anything they believe in.

“This is the time when your voice matters the most...” Guerrero said. “Do what’s in your power, whether it is to vote or participate in discussion, and stay diligent.”

### Keynote Speaker

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#### **Diane Guerrero**

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Diane Guerrero is a Colombian American actress and author. She is known for her roles as inmate Maritza Ramos on the *Netflix* series *Orange Is the New Black* and Lina on *Jane the Virgin*. Guerrero grew up in Boston and remained there after the rest of her family were deported to Colombia. She is an advocate for immigration reform. Her role on *Orange Is the New Black* has contributed to three consecutive wins for the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

Guerrero is the author of *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*, a memoir about her parents being detained and deported when she was fourteen. She currently stars as Jane in the HBO Max action-drama series *Doom Patrol*. She recently starred in *BLAST BEAT* for Sony Pictures and recorded voiceover for the role of Isabella in Disney’s most recent animated feature, *ENCANTO* with Lin Manuel. A passionate human rights activist, Diane was also recently the host and exec producer of her NPR podcast “Yeah No, I’m Not OK”, where she candidly discussed mental health issues affecting the BIPOC community.



# MODERATED KEYNOTE | 6:00 P.M.

Keynote Moderator

## **Chotsani Williams West, MA '07**

Executive Director, Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Belonging,  
and Adjunct Professor, Adelphi University

Chotsani Williams West serves as the Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for Adelphi University, while also leading the award-winning Mentoring Program as the inaugural Director. She teaches as an Adjunct Professor within the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Health Sciences. Chotsani obtained a Master's degree from Adelphi in Educational Leadership & Technology in 2007 and holds professional certifications from Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City Center for Training & Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service: Skills to Mentor Youth and Mentoring Supervision.



In pursuit of her life's work in education and social services, she made a purposeful career change from a thriving career in broadcast journalism and the television industry with Children's Television Workshop – Sesame Street, Home Box Office (HBO), and Showtime Networks, to name a few. Through volunteerism for community-based organizations, she found her passion as a youth and social justice advocate. She has a fulfilling career spanning over 20 years in youth and professional development, mentoring leadership and school reform using a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens.

As an equity minded professional, with a flair and natural affinity as a skilled public speaker, Chotsani serves as a facilitator and coach to advance diversity efforts, with an emphasis in the areas of Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, and antiracism practices. Lending expertise to panel discussions and radio programs such as 1240AM WGBB, she is a sought-after presenter and consultant. Her greatest joy is working with leaders and youth of profit organizations such as MENTOR New York, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of New York City, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.'s Leadership Development Institute (LDI) and Successful and Victorious Youth (S.A.V.Y), as well as the Office of Mental Health (OMH), within a growing portfolio. Chotsani continues to coach and guide youth and adults on evidence-based best practices for mentoring and youth development programs with a holistic and bold approach.

Chotsani serves on the Board of Directors for the Southern Scholars Initiative, which ensures that college students in the rural south have a rewarding collegiate experience. She proudly leads their mentorship initiative training participants, guiding program implementation, and offering direct service support for Scholars. Chotsani is a Doctoral Candidate, in the Molloy University Educational Leadership for Diverse Learning Communities Program, which focuses on the importance of diverse curricula, diversity, social justice and equity in educational spaces. Her research explores leveraging the power of mentoring relationships, access to education and equitable resources.

Married with two children, family life keeps her on her toes. Chotsani enjoys creative art projects: Exuberant Creations, LLC: About / Biography ([exuberantcreationsllc.blogspot.com](http://exuberantcreationsllc.blogspot.com)) and spending quality time with family.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **PAWNEET ABRAMOWSKI '08**

Pawneet Abramowski is a recognized Compliance and Risk Management Executive with over 25 years of comprehensive public and private sector experience, offering unparalleled knowledge in shaping the institution's risk and compliance ecosystem to achieve strong business outcomes with a digital transformation.

She is the founder of PARC Solutions LLC, an advisory firm with expertise in business strategy development, repositioning of products/services to align with regulatory standards, and devising an infrastructure framework to help financial institutions and other disruptors move the world forward through financial innovation. She has been responsible for the business' digital transformation, strategy and delivery focused on modernizing how the clients utilize technology for risk/compliance controls.

Ms. Abramowski has held roles as a Head of Financial Crimes Risk & Chief Compliance Officer at The Bancorp Inc. and banks focused on payments and the Fintech sector. Previously, she also held compliance leadership roles at CIT Group Inc., RBC Capital Markets and Morgan Stanley. Prior to private sector roles, Ms. Abramowski spent several years in investigative and intelligence capacity with government agencies ending with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law/Distinguished Lecturer at Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Financial Integrity Institute, teaching in the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. She is quoted regularly as a financial crimes and compliance expert in media publications on key topics and is a regular speaker in the financial services industry, focusing on supporting innovation by finding a balance between risk and business growth.

Ms. Abramowski holds an MBA from Adelphi University's Robert B. Willumstad School of Business and an MA in Government and Politics and BA in Public Administration from St. John's University.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **CHAKA ADAMS**

A communications professional with 20+ years of experience, Chaka Adams joined Jovia Financial Credit Union in 2021 as Vice President of Marketing and Community Relations. Chaka's passion and commitment to being both a leader and brand ambassador for the credit union are evident in her ability to bring people together, igniting their creativity and bringing out the best in them. Known for her charismatic personality and fearless approach, Chaka champions the ideas of her team to cultivate go-to-market concepts that are embraced by her colleagues, peers and senior C-level leadership.

As VP of Marketing and Community Relations, Chaka is responsible for the organization's strategic marketing efforts and tactical implementation through all channels, including advertising, communications, web, social, and media relations. In addition to implementing senior-level directives and communications with Jovia's Board of Directors, Chaka oversees the credit union's community relations and corporate partnerships, leading by example in nonprofit initiatives and community sponsorship and engagement.

Chaka grew up in Queensbridge, N.Y., and served in the United States Navy for four years where she received her high school GED. She then graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations, Advertising and Journalism from Temple University where she was a Gates Millennium Scholar. Chaka started PrettyGirlsRead, an independent, nonprofit publishing imprint that empowers women and at-risk teenage girls through the love of books and literature.

She is actively involved in several philanthropic endeavors, including Commerce Plaza, a school-based program on Long Island, N.Y., that provides real-world business skills to young students. Most recently, Chaka was honored as one of the Power Women of Long Island by Schneps Media, an award given to fearless females who help make Long Island a thriving and vibrant place to work, live and do business.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **SWATI BHISÉ**

Swati Bhisé's career spans over four decades as a visionary arts promoter. A classically trained Bharatanatyam dancer—as well as a choreographer, educator, writer, producer and director, she has performed extensively at prestigious venues like the UN General Assembly.

She is the director, writer and producer of a true period drama film, *The Warrior Queen of Jhansi*, released in 2019 and the first Hollywood action film with a brown female lead, and *The Man Who Knew Infinity*.

She founded the Warrior Queen Project, a nonprofit advocacy organization and movement aimed at closing the gender gap and promoting the economic empowerment of women through a civic, activist and legislative agenda crafted and driven by women.

In 2012, Bhisé founded The Sadir Theatre Festival in Goa. She also founded the Sanskriti Centre, a nonprofit organization that promoted Indian artists and introduced Indian classical arts to a generation of American youth. Her original Carnatic-jazz fusion compositions have been featured at the Newport Jazz Festival and at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Bhisé has recently been the recipient of the 2023 Asian Arts Game Changer & Visionary Award by the Asia Society. Her Warrior Queen toolkit is in the second semester at the University of Las Vegas as part of the curriculum. In 2022, she also received the "Leadership Award" by Arts4All Foundation.

## **ANDREA BOMBINO**

Andrea Bombino is a Career and Business Coach focused on helping women step into a new mindset that fits their career aspirations perfectly, with motherhood built right in. Becoming a mother in 2020 was the catalyst for Andrea diving into her own self-discovery journey. After 13 years of mentoring and coaching others to reach their full potential at companies like LinkedIn, Andrea set her sights on bringing to light the outdated social systems that hold women back from "having it all."

Andrea has a bachelor's degree in sociology and is a certified Motherhood Studies Practitioner, which means she understands the link between the way we are raised to think about motherhood and how these beliefs play into the way we see ourselves and our careers once we become mothers. As a certified Life Coach, Mama Rising® Coach, and Seasons of Matrescence® Educator, Andrea utilizes matrescence theory and coaching frameworks to keep the mother at the center of the conversations.

Andrea works with women one-to-one and in group settings, and works with corporate businesses to enhance maternity leave policies and support, and create employee resource groups to increase employee retention and satisfaction.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **ABIGAIL (PAULION) BRYANT '14**

Abigail Bryant is a Brooklyn native with a master's degree in sociology with a concentration on race, class & gender. Abby, as she likes to go by, has over 9 years of experience in higher education. She specializes in student success, which she defines as self-actualization through deep learning with respect to community cultural wealth, and radical hope. At the core of Abby's work and education is to be an agent of social change, influencing students to strive toward excellence. She possesses extensive experience in promoting opportunity and access to students who are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Afforded the luxury of working with some of the most resilient students in higher education today, Abby currently serves as the Director of EOP Student Success at SUNY System Administration. There she coordinates with over 54 campuses to create the necessary conditions for students to thrive throughout their educational journey. Abby is fueled by firsthand experience of the inequities and pitfalls that exist in our current education system. Education is liberation, so Abby continues to have radical hope for an intersectional future.

## **KRISTEN CAPEZZA, MBA '12**

Kristen Capezza currently serves as Vice President of Enrollment Management and University Communications at Adelphi University, New York. Her expertise in admissions, financial aid, retention and marketing strategies has produced multiple years of record-setting enrollments. She is responsible for the leadership and development of a 100+ person team spanning Communications and Marketing, University Admissions, and One-Stop Student Services, inclusive of Financial Aid, Student Accounts, and Registrar divisions.

Frequently called upon for her expertise in higher education and leadership, Kristen has been recognized with a number of professional awards, including Long Island Premier Business Woman (2022), the Nassau Counselors' Association College Counselor of the Year (2018), the Adelphi University Mentoring Excellence Award (2018), the LIBN Top 40 Under 40 Professionals of Long Island (2017), the KPMG Athena Young Professional Leadership Award (2017), and the NACAC Rising Star Award (2012).

Kristen holds a BSBA in Marketing and Finance from Bryant University, an MBA in Marketing from Adelphi University, and a Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Adelphi University.

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## **SHARON CUNNINGHAM '90**

Sharon has dedicated her entire career to providing highly customized life stage financial planning and investment growth strategies to individuals, families, organizations and nonprofits. Her approach includes a thorough planning process and a commitment to providing outstanding service and advice delivered with passion and integrity.

Sharon has been focusing on women's financial issues since she began working as an advisor in 1990. Recognizing that women were often excluded from financial discussions, she set out to change the industry norm. She has dedicated much of her efforts to empowering women through workshops designed specifically for them. More recently, she is credited with creating the HER Way at Morgan Stanley initiative—a cross-platform community providing women with access to lifestyle information and professional resources to help them live their best lives. Sharon also takes an active role in supporting women's organizations, such as Mothers2Mothers, Women for Women International, and the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York. She is also passionate about understating and integrating socially responsible investing (SRI) issues into her investment decision-making process.

Over the years, Sharon has been recognized for her commitment to her clients and the organizations she supports. The Cunningham Group, led by Sharon, was named to the inaugural Forbes/SHOOK Research Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams list in 2023. In 2022 and for the past five consecutive years, Sharon was named to the Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors and Best-In-State Women Advisors lists, which recognize experienced Financial Advisors across the country who are setting the standard for professionalism, dedication and exceptional client service. In 2023 Sharon was also recognized on the Forbes America's Top Women Advisors list, and by Working Mother Magazine & SHOOK Research as a Top Wealth Advisor Mom from 2017 through 2021.

This honor is given to a select group of women who, while pursuing careers as successful Financial Advisors, also juggle the responsibilities of having one or more children at home. At Morgan Stanley, Sharon's commitment to giving back, mentorship, and advancing women's issues earned her a spot in Morgan Stanley's MAKERS "Class of 2018," a platform celebrating the firm's trailblazing women. Sharon was also the recipient of the firm's 2014 John J. Mack Leadership Award. Sharon's career began in 1990 as a Certified Financial Planner TM with IDS Financial Services. A graduate of Adelphi University with a degree in business management and finance, she obtained her certificate in financial planning from New York University. Sharon currently resides in Rye Brook, N.Y., with her husband, Brian, and their two children, Olivia and Griffin.

## **ANITA D'AMICO, PHD '84**

Dr. Anita D'Amico is a research psychologist and software security specialist who has led the development of innovative technologies to improve human performance in cybersecurity for over 20 years. She currently serves as Vice President of Cross-Portfolio Solutions and Strategy at Synopsys, Inc. Software Integrity Group. Prior to that, she was the CEO of Code Dx, Inc., an application security start-up that she founded, got funded with venture capital, and sold to Synopsys. Her roots are in experimental psychology and human factors. She has conducted extensive research and published work on the intersection of technology and human decision-making, including how to visualize complex cybersecurity data. She got her start in cybersecurity at Northrop Grumman, where she launched its first Information Warfare team. In earlier stages of her career, she applied her research psychology expertise to the manned space station program and the merchant marine industry. Dr. D'Amico was named as one of "100 Fascinating Females Fighting Cybercrime" in the 2019 book *Women Know Cyber*.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **RENU DALESSANDRO**

Renu Dalessandro is the Chief Marketing Officer at Jovia Financial Credit Union, where she oversees all aspects of the Westbury-based credit union's marketing, community programs and member-focused initiatives and experiences. In addition, she oversees Business Development and new market expansion. Since joining Jovia in May of 2019, Renu has been instrumental in overseeing the rebranding efforts leading into the official launch, which entails implementing a comprehensive marketing plan within the organization and to members, as well as executing a ubiquitous advertising campaign targeting much of Long Island.

Ultimately, she is tasked with growing the brand and building an audience while delivering exceptional member experiences across myriad touch points. Her portfolio of responsibilities includes market research, member knowledge, data marketing integration, sales and service under everything member experience, business development, communications, social media, advertising and public relations. In furthering Jovia's evolution toward being the region's most innovative and member-centric credit union, Renu has been rolling out a number of improvements to member services and building new data and digital marketing capabilities throughout the credit union.

Additionally, she is leading efforts to ensure Jovia's commitment to sustainability, diversity, equity, inclusion and employee engagement. Renu is a certified Diversity, Equity and Inclusion professional and is committed to bringing education about such practices across the organization.

Renu joined Jovia from Popular Bank US in New York where she was the head of marketing (U.S.). While there, the bank successfully executed a corporate rebranding in early 2018, and she was a key player in leading the ongoing transformation of the digital bank concept, its branches, direct bank and its marketing approach. Prior to Popular Bank, she held the position of first vice president, marketing, at Sterling National Bank in New York from 2006–2014. She was also an assistant vice president of marketing at Astoria Financial Corp. on Long Island from 2001–2006. She is a graduate of St. John's University and is proud to call Long Island her home.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **MAUREEN EVERS-WILLOX**

Maureen Evers-Wilcox is a risk management partner and the Office Managing Partner for KPMG's Long Island office.

As the managing partner of the Long Island office, she is responsible for the strategic direction, growth and culture for the office. She represents the firm and the Long Island office in the business and philanthropic communities. She serves as lead partner for one of the KPMG's priority Life Sciences clients. She also leads and supports strategic initiatives for the firm's risk and independence function.

During her 29 years with the firm, Maureen has worked as an audit professional where she served multinational public company audit clients.

Maureen was named to Long Island Business News Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business in 2018 and the Long Island Business News Top 25 Accountants in 2021 and 2022.

She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. She serves on the boards of the KPMG Foundation, Molloy University and the Long Island Association. She also serves on the Tilles Center Board of Advisors. Maureen graduated from Manhattan College, where she received a BS in Accounting.

## **KEVIN GOODMAN '00, MBA '03**

Kevin Goodman is Global Director, Go To Market, at LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network and a division of Microsoft. Throughout his nearly two decades of corporate leadership experience, Goodman has driven revenue growth, innovation and business transformation for Fortune 100 and mid-market companies. Prior to LinkedIn, he was senior vice president of business operations, marketing and strategy at INAP, a global provider of hybrid technology infrastructure solutions. He also previously served as vice president of mergers and acquisitions portfolio integration and strategic innovation at NTT, a global technology services company. Goodman is also an executive coach, founder and adviser for startups and cryptocurrency initiatives. Elected to the Adelphi University Board of Trustees in 2022, Goodman was a member of Adelphi's President's Advisory Council from 2019 to 2022. He earned his BS in Business and his MBA from Adelphi and is known among Panthers as having been co-captain of one of the University's most successful men's basketball teams.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **MARIA COLLIN GOODMAN**

Maria Collin Goodman is the co-founder of Mama's Got Mojo, an organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering mothers to rediscover their inner mojo and realize their full potential beyond motherhood. Originally from Sweden, Maria immigrated to the US in 2002, bringing a unique perspective on motherhood, gender equality and paid parental leave from her Scandinavian background.

As a mother who experienced postpartum depression after the birth of her son, Maria founded Mama's Got Mojo to create a community for mothers to come together to share their stories and discuss issues that impact the modern mom. By hosting events on topics ranging from redefining motherhood and work-life balance, to self-care and mental health, Maria helps moms feel empowered and in charge of their lives.

With a degree in marketing and advertising communication from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, Maria's professional experience spans industries including Fintech, PR, web design, and fine jewelry. She lives with her British husband—who is her partner in Mama's Got Mojo—and 10-year-old son in New Jersey.

Today, Maria is a voice for change, her passion for empowering mothers is a testament to her unwavering commitment to women's leadership and excellence.

## **JUDY JACKSON**

Judy Jackson, best known for her candid, straightforward approach and her unmistakable laugh, is driven by bringing out the best in others while maintaining her authentic self. Judy is a well-respected thought leader in human resource management who was, until recently, the Head of Culture and Engagement at WPP, the largest advertising holding company in the world.

Judy recently established her own consulting company, JLC Ventures, to help build inclusive cultures and coach leaders to lead with empathy, authenticity and humanity. She develops bespoke programs to support underrepresented groups in their career growth, development and well-being. Earlier leadership positions include Chief People Officer roles at Wunderman Thompson, IPG Mediabrands and Digitas, and People Leadership roles at Time Inc., ABC Disney and Planned Parenthood.

She has contributed to several articles and books on human resource management and has received several awards, including the 4A's 2022 Gladiator Award. She serves on the board of directors for BRIDGE, an organization dedicated to addressing the gap in inclusion, representation, equity and belonging in media, marketing and the advertising industry. She is the co-founder of We All Rise Together, created to minimize the impact of the pandemic on communities most at risk. She is also the proud mom of a 2023 Adelphi University graduating senior.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **MARA JOHNSTON**

Mara Johnston is the Co-Founder and Managing Principal at Keystone Global. Mara advises clients on strategic growth opportunities, through M&A, key personnel identification or growing into new markets and regions. Keystone aligns clients with key partners on projects, obtains competitive financing and helps determine the most successful procurement approach. Mara has dedicated her entire career to the build environment and has a strong passion for the construction industry.

Mara is also the Co-founder and Partner at Amaracon Testing & Inspections, LLC. Amaracon focuses on providing streamlined materials testing and inspections service for projects and the needs of contractors. Before joining Keystone Global, Mara spent four years at both Zurich and AIG, where she built strong relationships with some of the largest and most influential contractors in North America. Before her entrance into the insurance industry, Mara worked in the Environmental division at STV, preparing EIS and Transportation Feasibility studies and as a consultant to Milligan and Company, where she worked with the State of Pennsylvania and contributed to a national FTA study on emergency preparedness.

Mara was named to the 2022 Top 20 Under 40 Nationally from *Engineering News-Record* and in 2021, Top 20 Under 40 Young Professionals from Professional Women in Construction. She was awarded the 2017 Next Generation of Women Builders from the Women Builders Council and on the team for an Innovation Award from Business Insurance in 2016. She is the Past President of the NYC Construction Financial Management Association.

In addition, she holds her Series 24, 79 and 63 Licenses from FINRA and NASAA, her Insurance Brokers License in the State of New York, and is proficient in Spanish. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in the Growth and Structure of Cities and holds her master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in city and regional planning with a focus on transportation and infrastructure.

## **CHITRALEKHA (POOJA) KAR '18, MA '19, CPA**

Chitralekha (Pooja) Kar is a bold and brave United Nations (UN) activist, a Levermore Global Scholar and a global citizen, who embraces diversity to the fullest and loves to connect the dots and realistically solves various global problems. She is also the founder of Bold and Becoming, an initiative to empower, encourage and enable women and youths around the world. Kar is the retired founder and president of United Nations Association – USA Adelphi Chapter and completed her bachelor's and master's in accounting from Adelphi University, New York. She has been residing in the magical New York for the last seven and a half years. Currently, Kar is working as an Assurance Senior in Ernst and Young and as a Certified Public Accountant. (Her friends call her an accountant with a passion to solve global problems and to make a better working world!) As much as she values finding solutions for complex global problems and working toward achieving the SDGs, she feels the same about empowering, encouraging and enabling women all over the world. Cultivating confidence, courage, self-respect and self-love among women to help them acknowledge their fullest potential and to guide them to lead meaningful and purposeful lives is one of her greatest missions and passions.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **MONIQUE MANSO**

Monique Manso is a bilingual/bicultural media executive who thrives at the intersection of audience development and marketing/product innovation. A pioneer in developing large-scale, multiplatform experiences for publishers and agencies, Monique has an unparalleled understanding of what it takes to grow and sustain a compelling brand in today's complex media marketplace. She's a leading authority on evolving multicultural audiences, with expertise in the Latino/Latinx segment.

She is a proud champion of diversity in the workplace and leads with an entrepreneurial and inclusive style that fosters accountability, urgency, and performance. Monique draws upon her blue-chip experience to guide marketers, agencies, media companies, and content creators in both the US Hispanic and general market space. Through M2Exponential, her strategic consulting practice, Monique advises new and established companies on sales strategy, marketing strategy, business development, live events, M&A, and setting up sales and marketing operations.

Monique began her practice after steering *People en Español* through an extended period of growth and innovation that bolstered the brand's position as the most trusted voice in Hispanic culture, with digital/mobile experiences and live events that raised the bar for audience engagement and understanding. As Vice President and Publisher, Monique grew *People en Español* from a \$3M print entity to a \$20M omnichannel brand while confronting secular changes in the industry as well as *People's* transition from Time Inc. to Meredith and eventually Dotdash Meredith.

Monique's success at *People en Español* followed years of industry leadership at Time Inc. and Condé Nast, where she instituted multiplatform buying on a large scale and oversaw sales teams that handled the largest multimillion-dollar advertisers. She began her career at Ammirati Puris Lintas Worldwide, where she focused on global and pan-regional media planning and buying for the Unilever account. Monique studied Business Administration and Marketing at Pace University in New York. She is fluent in English and Spanish.

## **EMILY LADAU '13**

Emily Ladau is a passionate disability rights activist, writer, storyteller and digital communications consultant whose career began at the age of 10, when she appeared on several episodes of *Sesame Street* to educate children about her life with a physical disability. Her writing has been published in outlets, including *The New York Times*, CNN, *Vice* and HuffPost and her first book, *Demystifying Disability*, was published by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House, in September 2021. Emily has spoken before numerous audiences, from the U.S. Department of Education to the United Nations. Central to all of Emily's work is harnessing the power of storytelling to engage people in learning about disability.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **KARIMOT ODEBODE**

Karimot Odebode is a poet and lawyer from Ibadan, Nigeria. She is the founder and project lead of Black Girl's Dream Initiative.

Karimot was a key contributor to the Transform Education summit at the UN Headquarters in New York where she co-presented the Youth Declaration on transforming Education at the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

She is one of 17 SDGs Young Leaders recognized by the United Nations.

Karimot was recognized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Oyo State Government as one of 100 most influential young people for her advocacy.

She is the author of *a woman has many names*, a poetry collection with 107 poems. Her poetry has been featured by Global Education Summit, Plan International, BBC Media Africa, ITU, UNICEF, UNGEI and more.

## **JENNIFER ROSADO**

As Chief Customer Officer at JOOR—the world's premier digital wholesale software platform—Jennifer is responsible for creating, implementing and overseeing the strategy for the client services teams, with a focus on building brand awareness, sales and growth marketing, and retention. At JOOR, she oversees a team of 35 managers and individual contributors across the brand's operations organization. Jennifer has 20 years of experience in sales, operations and marketing management in industries, including finance, beauty and media/technology. Prior to JOOR, Jennifer provided her operational expertise to companies such as JPMorgan, Estee Lauder - Bumble and bumble, and L'Oreal, and to large-scale consumer marketplaces including XO Group.

## **MARC S. STRACHAN '81**

Marc S. Strachan has been elected chair of Adelphi's Board of Trustees. He joined Adelphi's board in 2017 and has served as Board Chair since 2022. A generous supporter of our University who established four multicultural scholarships in 2019, Marc is now the first male African American chair of Adelphi's board. A senior level marketing and advertising executive, Marc is chair emeritus of ADCOLOR, an organization that celebrates and advocates diversity in the creative and technology industries. He previously held positions as executive vice president and chief client officer at Publicis Sapient, North America, and vice president of on-premise strategy and multicultural marketing, and director of brand marketing for Cîroc Vodka and Tanqueray Gin at Diageo, North America. In 2018, Marc earned a Certificate in Strategies for Leading Successful Change Initiatives from the Harvard University School of Continuing Education. Marc completed the University of South Florida's Muma College of Business' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace program in 2021. He is founder and head coach for Coach Marc Consulting and principal and chief marketing officer of The Adgile Media Group, the nation's first data-driven truck-side advertising/media company.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **KHADIJAH TRIBBLE**

Khadijah Tribble is one of the most respected experts on social responsibility and equity and inclusion. As a credible and forward-thinking founder and activist, she advises cannabis investors, government regulators, entrepreneurs and main-stream businesses.

Known as a committed advocate for fair and equitable policies for the betterment of veterans, LGBTQ, POC and individuals from marginalized communities, Khadijah has been on the forefront of interrupting systems for more than two decades. She is a savvy strategist and a dynamic leader known for her inspiring and passionate style. Whether giving TEDx talks or leading panel discussions, she empowers through educating everyone from the corporate boardroom to the operating rooms that marijuana matters.

Prior to the mainstream discussion of cannabis, she took a huge risk to her reputation and brand by creating Marijuana Matters (M2), a cannabis education and advocacy incubator. M2 was created while Khadijah was a Cheng Fellow at the Social Innovation and Change Initiative.

Khadijah Tribble has served on many boards and advisory groups, including Women in the Life Association, CTF Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, Human Rights Campaign's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board, Not for Profit Hospital (United Medical Center) Board of Directors, National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce Supplier Diversity Committee and the Community Wellness Collective.

Recognizing the need for trustworthy and experienced equity and inclusion diversity consultants in the cannabis industry, Khadijah Tribble has combined her knowledge of cannabis ecosystem with expertise in the diversity and inclusion field to create the Marijuana Policy Trust (MPT). MPT provides expertise in developing, managing and leading programs designed to foster productive outcomes that lead to an inclusive and diverse cannabis industry.

## **DEBORAH VIOLA '84, MBA, PHD**

Deborah Viola, PhD, is Vice President, Office of Research and Grants Administration (RGA) at Westchester Medical Center Health Network. The office functions as the Protocol Activation Committee for investigator-initiated, government agency and industry-sponsored human subject clinical studies to ensure each proposal has been reviewed for human subjects' protection, legal, regulatory, data security and financial compliance. The RGA also provides oversight for network-wide grants and proposals that fund capital, educational, patient care or community-based programs. She is a member of the Life Sciences Taskforce in Westchester County; in her role she supports regional business development with an emphasis on translational cellular therapy studies.

Dr. Viola is co-founder of the Doctoral Program in Health Policy and Management and the Center for Long Term Care Research & Policy at New York Medical College. She remains on the faculty as Adjunct Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management. She received a doctorate in economics from the Graduate School at the City University of New York as a Robert E. Gilleece Fellow. She is a proud Panther ('84) and current member of the Steering Committee for the Women's Leadership Conference; Dean's Advisory Board at the School of Business; President's Advisory Council; and Women's Giving Circle.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **HONORABLE HELEN VOUTSINAS**

Justice Voutsinas began her career at a private law firm handling various types of civil cases from inception to trial. Thereafter, she began her career in government as an Assistant Town Attorney and Counsel to the Board of Zoning and Appeals for the Town of North Hempstead. She later served as Deputy Majority Counsel to the Nassau County Legislature advising the Majority Caucus on the implementation of policies and laws in Nassau County. From 2005 to 2011, she served as Principal Law Clerk to the Hon. Steven M. Jaeger, in the County, Family, and Supreme Courts. As a law secretary she took part in forming the first Judicial Drug Diversion part in Nassau County.

Thereafter, Justice Voutsinas was elected to the Nassau County District Court from 2011-2018. In January of 2012, she was assigned as the presiding judge of the Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Part until 2015, when she was assigned to the Misdemeanor DWI Part. In 2017, she was assigned to a general Criminal Trial Part. Judge Voutsinas was elected to the Supreme Court, Nassau County in 2018 and served in a Matrimonial Part, until her assignment in a Civil IAS Part wherein she handled hundreds of cases until their resolution through the Pandemic. In January of 2021, Justice Voutsinas was appointed to the Appellate Term, 9th and 10th Judicial Districts wherein she presided over civil and criminal appeals from the lower courts. In 2022, Justice Voutsinas was appointed by Governor Hochul to the Appellate Division, 2nd Department.

## **CHOTSANI WILLIAMS WEST, MA '07**

Chotsani Williams West is the executive director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for Adelphi University. She also leads the award-winning Mentoring Program as the inaugural director and teaches as an adjunct professor. In pursuit of her life's work, she made a purposeful career change from a thriving career in broadcast journalism and the television industry with Children's Television Workshop – Sesame Street, Home Box Office (HBO) and Showtime Networks, to name a few.

Through volunteerism with community-based organizations, she found her passion as a youth and social justice advocate.

Chotsani obtained a Master's degree from Adelphi in Educational Leadership & Technology and earned professional certifications from Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City Center for Training, and the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.



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Adelphi University thanks the following sponsors for their commitment to leadership training and professional development.

Thank you for your generosity and for all that you do for the University.

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# Morgan Stanley



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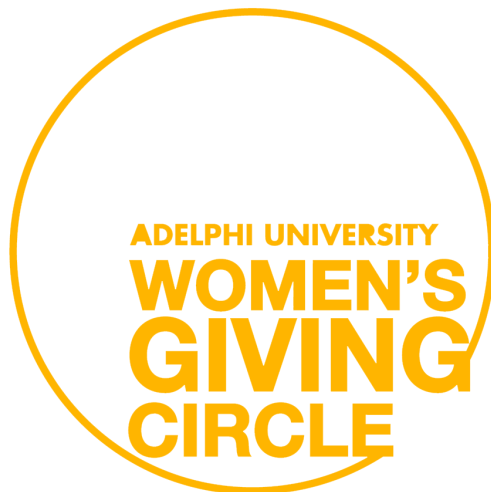


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Alpha Omega Chapter

# WIFI ACCESS FOR GUESTS

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Accounts and wireless access information for visitors of Adelphi University's campus and centers.

## How to Access WiFi As a Guest

1. Select the wireless network "adelphi-guest"
2. Input your information
  - Name
  - Mobile carrier and phone number  
(If your carrier is not available, you can leave this blank)
  - Email address
  - Accept terms and register
3. Your login information will be emailed/texted to you
4. Select "adelphi-guest" again and log in using the information provided.

Account access is good for one week.



Stop by our bookstore  
and receive 10% off as a  
thank you for attending the  
2023 Women's Leadership  
Conference.



**BOOKSTORE**

# CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

**ADELPHI**  
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1 - Ruth S. Harley University Center

2 - Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall or Black Box Theatre

## SENSORY ROOM

The sensory room provides a calm space for students and others in the campus community who are neurodiverse and have sensory related needs.

This is a space for individuals to regulate themselves by utilizing tools should they experience hyper-stimulation or hypo-stimulation in their senses.

We would like to thank the Bridges to Adelphi Program for supplying the equipment to transform this space into a sensory room.

The Sensory Room for the Women's Leadership Conference will be located in **The Mindfulness Center on the third floor of the Ruth S. Harley University Center.**







## Women's Leadership Fund



For over 125 years, Adelphi has been preparing women for leadership roles in their workplaces and communities. Today, in collaboration with its philanthropic partners, Adelphi is committed to building on this legacy to ensure the next generation of young women have the opportunities needed to develop into leaders and the change makers of tomorrow.



***Scan the code to Empower Future Women Leaders***

The Women's Leadership Fund will support the annual Women's Leadership Conference, ensuring robust programming and underwriting the cost of attendance for Adelphi students, as well as providing leadership activities, professional development, and other opportunities that support the growth and empowerment of Adelphi women.

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