

## Women in Leadership 2017 Seminar Series

7:30 – 10:00 a.m. / The Commerce Club / 191 Peachtree Street / 49th Floor



**January 20: “What I’ve Learned about Leadership from the Public, Private & Nonprofit Sectors”** featuring **Elizabeth (Liz) Blake**, former SVP – Advocacy, Government Affairs & General Counsel of Habitat for Humanity International. In her corporate career, Liz served in various senior executive positions with US Airways Group, GE Power Systems, and Cinergy Corp. She’s past Chair of the OH Bd of Regents; served on the BD of Patina Oil & Gas; and has chaired the BD of Advisors for The Carter Center. A graduate of Smith College and Columbia Law School, Liz is also the recipient of two distinguished honorary degrees. In addition to her intellect, she’s equally known for her wit and charm and for being “one half of one of ATL’s favorite power couples!”

**February 17: “From CNN to Community and Global Activism: Leading from My Heart”** featuring **Susan Grant**, Vice Chair of Heifer International and former EVP, CNN News Services. At CNN her portfolio of businesses was expansive, and included, CNN Digital, CNNMoney, CNN Business Operations and many more. Recognition for her stellar leadership includes a First Amendment Service Award in 2008, a *Womenetics* POW! Award in 2013 and a “Hall of Fame” award from New Tier High School. A proud Vassar grad, Susan’s known as a collaborative, down-to-earth, values-driven and caring leader. She serves as Vice Chair of the BD of Trustees of Morehouse School of Medicine, on the BD of Leadership ATL, and is a member of the advisory boards of CHRIS Kids and Agnes Scott College.

**March 24: “From Plato to Philanthropy: Lessons in Leadership and Life”** featuring **Dr. Robiaun Charles**, VP of College Advancement – Agnes Scott College. Before joining ASC in 2015 and taking on the completion of a \$100M capital campaign, Dr. Charles was at UT Austin as AVP and executive director of development in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Prior to that, she worked at the University of Evansville and at Johnson C. Smith University. Known for her dynamic personality, Dr. Charles is an ATL native, graduated from Rollins College with a major in philosophy, received her masters from GSU and her doctorate from Vanderbilt. Among her many awards are the Young Alumnus of the Year (Rollins 2004); Distinguished African American Woman (Austin 2013); and Leadership America (Class of 2015). She’s also a trustee of Salem Academy and College.

**April 28: “Football & Family, Author & Nonprofit Leader: Reflections on a Full Life”** featuring **Carolyn Curry**, PhD, Founder and Director of Women Alone Together. She’s also the author of *Suffer and Grow Strong: The Life of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas 1834-1907*. Dr. Curry has spoken on women’s issues across the country and has served on numerous boards from the American Heart Association to Young Harris College. Dr. Curry earned her PhD in History from GSU and has received many honors, including the YWCA Distinguished Woman of Achievement (KY 1993); Distinguished Alumni Award (GSU 2011); and Outstanding Alumna Award – Service to the Community (ASC 2014). Other “achievements” include being grandmother to 7, mother of 2 and wife to football legend, Bill Curry.

**May 26: “An Entrepreneur’s Journey: Learning, Winning and Giving Back”** featuring **Tom Beaty**, CEO of Insight Sourcing and a 2016 Leadership Character Award recipient. With over 20 years in strategic sourcing and management experience, Tom has created, turned-around and led multiple enterprises. In 2012 he was Emory University’s Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year; Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year finalist in 2014; and *Supply & Demand Executive Magazine’s* “Pro to Know” since 2008. Tom also founded and leads the nonprofit, Witness to War Foundation, dedicated to preserving the oral histories of combat veterans. His efforts have been featured in various national media outlets. He’s also married with 3 children and holds an MBA from Goizueta Business School.

**June 23: “Creating a Climate and Culture for Success”** featuring **Kim Bearden**, Co-Founder of the Ron Clark Academy and the 2016 Leadership Character Award recipient in Education. “Never make a promise to a child that you can’t keep” is Kim’s motto and it characterizes her 30+ years as an educator and especially her work at the highly acclaimed Ron Clark Academy. Kim has received the Disney American Teacher Award and the Milken Award for Excellence in Education and through her training of other teachers; she’s touched the lives of over 10M students around the globe. A sought-after speaker, an author, and “Momma Bear” to her students, Kim is also a mother to 3 African sons. Personally and professionally, Kim is an inspiration to all she meets.

**July 21: “Career and Leadership Insights: From Planes to Paper & Packaging”** featuring **Shan Cooper**, Chief Transformation Officer - WestRock. She also leads the company’s procurement, logistics, IT and recycling operations. Previously, Shan served as Vice President /General Manager of Lockheed Aeronautics Co. Her many honors include Georgia Trend Magazine’s “Most Respected Business Leader” in 2015 and a “Most Influential Georgian” from 2012-2016. Additionally, she received a Pioneer Award from U.S. Black Engineer & IT Magazine in 2013. Shan serves on the executive board of the Metro ATL Chamber, the BD of Councilors of The Carter Center, Emory’s BD of Trustees and the Woodruff Arts Center. She holds an Emory MBA & is a graduate of Rutgers Executive HR Master’s Program.

**August 25: “What Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro Can Teach You”** featuring **Ginger Martin**, President & CEO at American National Bank – Oakland Park, FL. Climbing to raise awareness and funds for human trafficking victims, Ginger’s team collectively raised over \$800,000 in 2015. In 2016 she climbed the Grand Teton Mountains. As a business and community leader, she’s been recognized many times, including a 2015 Laureate by Jr. Achievement Hall of Fame, a Profiles in Leadership honoree, and an “Influential Business Woman” by South Florida Business Journal. A member of JA’s Circle of Wise Women, she also serves on the BD of Taylor’s Closet and The Executives’ Assoc. of Ft. Lauderdale. Ginger is a CPA, holds an MBA, and is a John Maxwell certified speaker, trainer and coach.

**September 22: “Learning and Leading in a Family Business”** featuring **Allison Bolch Moran**, CEO of Racetrac. Joining her family’s 80+ year old business in 1994, Allison has worked in many roles including operations, VP of HR, and SVP. She succeeded her father as CEO in Jan. 2013. Along with three of her siblings, she’s leading the transition to the next generation. Among her Board roles are Herschend Family Enterprises, The Westminster Schools, Rhodes College, and the Association for Convenience Retailing. In 2013 Allison was honored as the “Top Woman in Convenience” and in 2016, Southeastern Executive of the Year. She received a BA degree in Psychology from Denison University and is a Kellogg Scholar at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

**October 27: “Teamwork, Strategic Thinking and a Love of People: Key Lessons in My Leadership Journey”** featuring **Christine Hurtsellers**, CEO – Voya Investment Management, a segment of Voya Financial, Inc. She assumed her current role in Sept. ‘16, and previously, was head of Structured Finance. Christine is on the Pomona Capital BD, a member of the U.S. Treasury Borrowing Council, and was named one of Money Management Executive’s “top women in asset management” in 2014. Professionally she leads by the core values of stewardship and service with a focus on culture and employees. Personally Christine’s passionate about helping the weak and oppressed, especially the world’s children. Serving on UNICEF’s Southeast board and the BD of Councilors of The Carter Center, her key issues are mental health and global women’s rights in emerging countries.

**November 17: “Public Service Inspired by Chemistry, Law and Theology”** featuring **Rita A. Sheffey**, PhD, JD, Assistant Dean for Public Service at the Emory University School of Law. Prior to Jan. ‘15, Rita practiced law with Hunton & Williams for 27 years. A 2016 "Inspirator nominee" for Turknett's Leadership Character Award, Rita is both a distinguished lawyer and highly respected community leader. In 2015, she received the prestigious Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award from GSU; was a Womenetics POW! Hall of Fame honoree in 2012; served as president of the ATL Bar Association, and ATL Legal Aid Society; currently serves on the National Conf. of Bar Presidents Executive Council and the American Bar Assoc. Standing Committee on the American Judicial System.

**December 15: “A Multifaceted Life: Banking, Education, Music and Philanthropy”** featuring **Cathy Callaway Adams**, EVP & Chief Operations Officer, FHLBank Atlanta. Since she joined the bank in 1986, Cathy’s responsibilities have steadily increased and include IT strategies, cyber and physical security, HR, shareholder financial operations, and much more. She serves on Mercer University’s BD of Trustees and executive committee and chairs the advisory council of Mercer’s Center for Leadership and Ethics. She’s also board chair for The ATL Opera and on the board of the ATL Baroque Orchestra. As a professional musician, Cathy has accompanied The Georgia Festival Chorus since 1995. She’s a member of the International Women’s Forum; the Downtown Rotary; and holds an MBA from Georgia State University.