

WIL Highlights – 8/22/2008

“Global Leadership on a Local Level” - featuring Sylvia E. Anderson, President – AT&T Georgia. Sylvia’s External Affairs responsibilities are broad and deep including all corporate legislative and regulatory matters. She’s also considered the “face of the corporation” in the community and serves in numerous leadership roles with the GA Cancer Coalition, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Allies, GA Partnership for Excellence in Education, Woodruff Arts Center and Atlanta Landmarks. In 2007 she was selected as a Woman of Excellence by Business To Business magazine. A graduate of the Rutgers School of Law, she has been with AT&T since 1992.

Key take-aways:

- We really are in control of our own life and destiny. Book reference: “The Secret”
- There’s more than one path to the top. Women and minorities often take a different path.
- Overall things are indeed better for women in the workplace, but there still should be / needs to be more women in the pipeline across all industries.
- It is good to see a growing network of women supporting other women, “women’s women.”
- Factors influencing career progression: hard work, substantive knowledge, getting good results, and teamwork.
- Having mentors and champions - male and female, formal and informal, inside and outside your company – can and often does contribute to career progression.
- Do not be adverse to asking for help, or asking for what you want.
- Be positive, upbeat and nice.
- You can also learn a lot in tough times – when you think you might jump ship, instead try staying the course and learning from the challenges.
- For individuals, one of the best ways to be competitive in a global marketplace is to be open to working in different regions, countries, and cultures.
- Chart a course to be happy. If you like your work, you’ll be better at it.

Personal & professional focus:

- Diversity and change
- Philanthropy
- Education