

Women in Leadership 2021 Seminar Series

Note: Virtual Program via Zoom, 8:00-9:45 a.m., Until Further Notice
7:30 – 10:00 a.m. / The Commerce Club / 191 Peachtree Street / 49th Floor

January 22: “A Multifaceted Career: Leadership with a Purpose” featuring *Tisha Tallman, Executive Director of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth*. NAEHCY supports teachers and advocates who in turn serve 1.3 million children and youth in our public schools. A highly respected, accomplished leader, and attorney, Tisha is the former President of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and SE Director of the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund. She’s also a think tank fellow, public policy analyst, media expert, published author, part time law school adjunct faculty, and part time municipal judge. She has received numerous awards including an NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award and a ‘Most Influential Atlantan’ honor by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Tisha holds both J.D. and MBA degrees.

February 26: “Removing Internal and External Challenges for Underrepresented Groups: A Personal & Professional Perspective” featuring *Njeri Nginyo, VP & Assistant General Counsel, ADP*. As an African American and openly gay woman and leader, Njeri knows her topic well. Honored as the 2020 Diversity Champion in the ABC’s Corporate Counsel Awards, she leads a team of 20 attorneys and compliance officers at ADP, chairs the Women in Leadership Group, serves on the Conference Board Leadership Council on Advancing Women, and she is on the steering committee of ADP’s African American BRG and a member of their LGBTQ and Ally BRG. Njeri holds both J.D. and MBA degrees and is passionate about professional and personal development, as well as co-captained ADP’s 2019 Cycle for the Cause, a 275-mile fundraising bike ride for HIV/AIDS.

March 26: “Leading & Serving in Private, Public and Nonprofit Organizations: Yes, You Really Can Do It All” featuring *Karen Robinson Cope, Executive Chairman, Ongev*. Karen is an Atlanta dynamo with many titles including serial entrepreneur, visionary, innovator, CEO of 4 high growth companies, angel investor, prolific fundraiser, keynote speaker, Committee of 200 protégé, and TLG Leadership Character Award recipient. She also mentors other entrepreneurs, especially women in underdeveloped countries. Previous roles include founder of Mara6, SVP of NanoLumens, Managing Director of Atlanta Technology Advisors, and CEO, President, and Board Member of Prime Point Media. Karen is also a dedicated wife and mother, serves on the board of ACG and Outdoor Partner Media, a Canadian public company.

April 23: “How a Communications & Public Relations Major Became a Multi-Disciplined Leader” featuring *Deisha Barnett, Chief Brand & Communications Officer & Head of Diversity & Inclusion & ChooseATL for the Metro Atlanta Chamber*. Since joining the MAC in 2018, Deisha has had a tremendous impact, i.e., fresh energy, new strategy, heightened creativity, new visual identity, and a revamped approach to social media. Her leadership has also increased cross collaborations internally and externally. Previously, she spent nearly two decades leading communications for Walmart, Earthlink, Proctor & Gamble and other major brands. She holds a B.A. in Mass Communications / Media Studies from Clark Atlanta University and serves on the Executive Advisory Council for University of GA’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

May 28: “Building Great Teams, Leading Large Transitions, and Battling a Pandemic: All in a Day’s Work” featuring *Vicki Cansler, SVP & Chief People Officer, Piedmont Healthcare System*. In 2020, Vicki was the Chief Human Resources Officer of the Year for the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s HR Excellence Awards. She has led extraordinary growth in a number of hospitals (11), employees (23,700+) and locations (250+), all while maintaining a Great Place to Work ranking. Her global and transformational experience includes positions as Principal of the Leadership Research Institute, SVP of HR for HealthMarkets, SVP of People Services for BlueCross BlueShield of TN, Principal & HR Director for Booz, Allen & Hamilton, and Senior Manager at Delotte & Touche.

June 25: “Promoting Equity Across the Region: The Right Focus and a New Era” featuring *Frank Fernandez, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta*. A dynamic and transformational leader, formerly SVP for the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Frank leads one of America’s top 20 largest community foundations. His goal is to leverage the full range of foundation assets to pursue equity of opportunity through servant leadership, sustainable change, and inspired philanthropy to fulfill CFGA’s mission. Frank is a highly respected expert in global giving, health access, social justice initiatives as well as affordable housing, and economic development. Son of Cuban immigrants, he’s a Florida native, holds a B.A. from Harvard, an M.P.A. from the University of Texas, worked on Wall Street, and has been honored with multiple awards including the 2012 Ernst and Young Social Entrepreneur Award.

July 23: “An Expert’s Perspective on Women’s Progress: Challenges and Opportunities” featuring *Carolyn Stefanco, Ph.D., SVP, Lindauer Global*. Dr. Stefanco leads her firm’s higher education practice. Previous roles include President of The College of Saint Rose in NY, Academic Affairs Dean at Agnes Scott College, and Women’s Studies Program Director, Founding Dean of the History Department, CA State University System. Dr. Stefanco is a major thought leader in women’s leadership and international education and in 2019, received a Helen Gurley Brown Genius Award Grant for her lifelong accomplishments. As a first-generation college student, she’s a passionate advocate for student success, raising \$3M+ for women’s initiatives. She was a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Croatia with additional work in Saudi Arabia and Bulgaria.

August 27: “What It Takes to Succeed at Work and in Life: Try Grit and Gratitude” featuring *Jamine Moton, Founder & CEO of Skylar Security, 2019 ATP Startup Disruptor Award recipient*. Jamine is a former collegiate track and field star, national champion, Olympic alternate, and future hall of famer who also earned her master’s degree from Clemson and served as a Clayton County Police Sergeant. She has taken her ability to give 100%+ to the next level in her own private security business. Her differentiators are her focus on client support, success, and retention plus a new business model: above the industry standard with customizable solutions and word-of-mouth referrals. Jamine is a 2017 Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI) alumna, Entrepreneur in Residence for GSU’s Main Street Entrepreneurship Seed Fund, and a Goldman Sachs Small Business Ambassador & Alumni.

September 24: “From Entry Level to Corporate President: Pathways to the Top” featuring *Venessa Harrison, President of AT&T – Georgia*. This North Carolina native from a family of 10 children raised by a single mother is an exemplary role model for personal and professional success. Venessa began her AT&T career as an operator 40+ years ago in Raleigh. She advanced to the very top becoming AT&T’s N.C. president. Along the way, she led the push for early fiber deployment and was honored by being inducted into TechWire’s Hall of Fame. In 2017, Venessa stepped into her current position in GA which includes legislative, business, and civic responsibilities. In 2020, she was honored as the Women in Technology (WIT) Woman of the Year in Technology and as the Civic Diversity Champion in the Atlanta Business Chronicle Diversity & Inclusion Awards.

October 22: “The Reluctant Leader: What You Can Achieve When You Put Others First” featuring *Dr. Amy Stevens, Ed.D, LPC – Chief of Women’s Programs & Healthcare Officer, VETLANTA & Founder of Georgia Military Women*. Dr. Stevens (Amy) is truly multifaceted; a military veteran clinical consultant & EAP counselor, specialist in program development and coalition building, well-known clinical trainer for topics like PTSD, stress and sexual trauma, and passionate advocate for all vets. Previously, she served as Director of Psychological Health, GA National Guard, Sr. Project Manager, U.S. Dept. of Labor, and Naval Officer, Director of Education & Training for Navy Tel-Com, Washington, D.C. Amy’s degrees include an Ed.D from Argosy University, M.S. from Johns Hopkins; M.Ed. from The Citadel, and a B.S. from Liberty University.

November 19: “Passion: One of Three Secrets to Starting a Global Business from the Garage. Literally” featuring *Joan Sullivan Garrett, Founder and Chairman of MedAire*. Hailing from a family of nurses, Joan has always had a passion for helping those who need it the most. She is a 1979 graduate of Mesa Community College and went on to become a critical care registered flight nurse. While on the job, Joan realized the need for remote medical care after assisting an 8 -year-old boy who was suffering from life threatening injuries in a remote desert area. Today, her company is credited with establishing the world’s first global emergency response center. Joan has been recognized for her entrepreneurial drive, innovation, and impact on an entire industry by the Flight Safety Foundation’s Business Aviation Meritorious Service Award, Ernest & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Arizona State University, National Business Aviation Association Meritorious Award Winner, and International Aviation Women’s Association Aviation Industry Woman of Excellence Award. In 2020, she was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame and recognized for pioneering aeromedicine around the world.

December 17: “My Time of 100% Flexibility: Life 3.0” featuring *Susan Hitchcock, TLG Advisory Board & WIL Founder*. At the end of 2020, Susan exited TLG after almost 3 decades (Life & Career 2.0), preceded by 25 years in corporate leadership (Life & Career 1.0). Moving on to Life 3.0 (Life Beyond Career), Susan has a fresh perspective to share: reflections, renewal, and new ventures. While continuing to lead and serve in the community at large, Susan focuses on her lifelong passion for women’s advancement, leadership, and her support for Agnes Scott, including the Athletic Advisory Council, Outstanding Alumnae Awards Committee Co-Chair & Class Fund Co-Chair (former Alumnae Board President and Trustee). Rumor has it Susan is working on a new writing project, a 2021 version of her “SHEroes Profiles.” Stay tuned....