



2022 Women in Leadership Signature Series **Going Hybrid: 4 months are in-person and 8 months are virtual**

★ **In-Person Location:** 7:30 – 10:00 a.m. / The Commerce Club / 191 Peachtree Street / 49th Floor
Virtual: 8:00 – 9:30am / Through Subscriber Zoom Link

January 21 Virtual: “Discovering One’s Truth and Standing In it, One Challenge at a Time,” featuring Amy Alvarez, VP, Marketing & Communications, Make-A-Wish Foundation Georgia.

Soak in the enthusiastic energy from this non-profit executive who is passionate about empowerment. As the Vice President of Marketing & Communications for Make-A-Wish Georgia, Amy is responsible for leading the strategic vision for the marketing, communications, and media outreach efforts throughout the state of Georgia. She joined Make-A-Wish Georgia in 2014 after serving in leadership roles with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, PADV and MDA. After a 10-year tenure as a fundraising professional, she shifted her sights on being a chief storyteller; bringing to life the world of wishes through her love of branding, digital and experiential marketing. She also is a Founding Member of #DotheWork, a digital community centered around anti-racism work. A firm believer in the power of human connection, she feels life is best measured by how much of it you give away.

February 25 Virtual: “Inspirational Leadership Within a Refugee Crisis of Global Pandemic Proportions,” featuring Elizabeth Elango, CEO & Head of School at the Global Village Project.

Elizabeth Elango draws on her personal experience of having attended an all-girls school in her native Cameron and her extensive travel across sub-Saharan Africa and more than 50 countries to inform her passionate advocacy for education, youth programming and sustainable development throughout the world. Now she is influencing the global refugee crisis in her work leading the Global Village Project, the only school in the United States designed to meet the unique education needs of **refugee** girls and young women. She has also been named the Co-Chair of the Georgia Coalition of Refugee Stakeholders. Listen in to how Elizabeth’s leadership is impacting a growing refugee crisis around the world.

★ March 25 In Person: *The Commerce Club* “Why Are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria - STILL?; Dialogue With This Country’s Leading Race Psychologist,” featuring Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, Pres Emerita, Spelman College, Best Selling Author, and Nationally Recognized Race Psychologist and Dr. Cherry Collier, Sr. Consultant and Diversity Specialist, TLG.

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum’s landmark publication first appeared in 1997 and 20 years later was updated and re-published. Yet, the question within the title lingers on. In this not to be missed event, Dr. Cherry and Dr. Tatum will dialogue about the critical importance of holding conversations about race in a racially sensitive context. Her book, “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” will be available for purchase and Dr. Tatum has generously offered to sign individual copies at the event.

April 22 Virtual: “Turning Success into Significance; Advocating and Inspiring Women Leaders to the Top,” featuring Kelly Gay, Chairwoman and CEO of OnBoard, Vice Chair of the Technology Association of Georgia, and Past Chair of Venture Atlanta.

Named the 2021 John Imlay Leadership Award recipient by the Technology Executives Roundtable for her “long-lasting impact on Atlanta’s tech scene,” Kelly has leveraged her outstanding success on the business front to make a significant impact in promoting women leaders to the top as the Chairwoman and CEO of OnBoard, the organization dedicated to increase the number of women in executive leadership and on corporate boards. Listen in as Kelly shares her valuable insights to expanding and filling the senior leadership pipelines with qualified women throughout Georgia.



May 20 Virtual: “Making Real Social Impact Happen at The Intersection of Non-Profit and For-Profit,” featuring Ayesha Khanna, Managing Director, CARE Enterprises, Inc.

A proud first generation American with a heritage that includes two countries, India and Ireland, and with a life changing journey to India teaching and conducting research in a small village outside Delhi, Ayesha has become a seeker of diverse perspectives and new ideas, not afraid to take risks, passionate about women’s empowerment. Since joining CARE Enterprises, Inc. in 2020, she oversees creating blended finance impact models focused on women’s economic empowerment with the potential to change lives for women around the world. Come be inspired by this gifted leader to take on big challenges, lead change and give back along the way.

★ June 24 In Person: *The Commerce Club* “Elevating and Empowering Women in Their STEAM Journeys.” Featuring Patti Dismukes, Board President, Women In Technology (WIT) and Penny Collins, President/CEO, WIT.

Patti Dismukes is a Business Development Executive for Cognizant Softvision, a global IT software engineering products company, while serving as the President of the Board for WIT. Penny Collins is the President and CEO of WIT, and former Chief Control Technology Officer for First Data Corporation. Together, they pack a double punch in supporting girls and women pursuing STEAM related careers, through scholarships, certification programs, and job placements. In the past year, they awarded a \$10,000 WIT Girls’ Scholarship and established a Single Mother's Program to certify and place underserved single mothers in cybersecurity jobs, placing 15 in cybersecurity roles in 2021. Women in the workforce have been particularly hard hit by the Pandemic but recent research indicates that 63% of those who left are planning to return and want to return to a STEM-related career. Join us at the Commerce Club to hear these experts on this phenomenon and much more.

July 22 Virtual: “Following A Passion for Race Equity, Leading to A Purpose of Equality for All,” featuring Nikki Lanier, Founder/CEO of Harper Slade, and former SVP and Regional Executive of the Louisville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Growing up rooted in the critical importance of advocacy - particularly for the downtrodden, minorities, and especially black people - Nikki has made it her life’s mission to help shape decisions, policies, and practices in the workplace to more positively impact people. She is recognized as an accomplished thought leader and compelling keynote and plenary speaker on topics related to progressive HR strategies, transformational leadership, community and economic development, economic education and advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism, corporately and civically. Her advice and counsel have been sought after by governors, mayors, candidates for elected office, Federal Reserve leaders and college presidents. Nikki is now the CEO of Harper Slade, a racial equity advisory firm focused on helping organizations and communities advance equity for some and equality for all.

August 26 Virtual: “Leadership Lessons from A Life Dedicated to Public Service,” featuring Lynne Riley, President, Georgia Student Finance Committee and former State Treasurer.

Lynne Riley has been a public servant of Georgia citizens since 2004. Most notably, Governor Brian P. Kemp appointed Lynne Riley to serve as Georgia’s first woman to hold the office of State Treasurer in May 2019. Lynne has also served as State Revenue Commissioner and served four years in the General Assembly representing House District 50. In 2015, Governor Nathan Deal appointed Lynne to serve as State Revenue Commissioner, a role she performed for over 4 years. Her most recent public role came about as the Board of Commissioners of the Georgia Student Finance Commission appointed her as the agency’s President on July 10, 2020. Lynne’s reputation is as a skillful leader with strong integrity. She was a Principal of Riley Accounting Services for over 30 years and remains involved in serving the community of Johns Creek. Discover valuable lessons of leadership from this remarkable public servant.

★ September 23 In Person: *The Commerce Club* “Journey From the Front Line to the C-Suite, through Authentic Leadership,” featuring Allison Ausband, Executive Vice President & Chief Customer Experience Officer, Delta Air Lines.

After joining Delta in 1985 as a flight attendant, Allison went on to serve as V.P. of Reservation Sales and Customer Care before leading the In-Flight Service team as the Senior Vice President. Allison has played a major role building and leading teams through significant historical challenges such as an airline merger, emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and most recently through the global pandemic. Despite the challenges, Delta has received more awards and acclamations for its customer service, than any other airline. The airline industry is complex requiring agility from its leaders. You won't want to miss hearing from this down to earth Georgia native who models authentic leadership character while navigating an industry that is forever changing.

October 21 Virtual: “How to Create Something of Enduring Value and Change Lives Along the Way,” featuring Emily Sanders, CPA and VP, Goldman Sachs Personal Financial Management.

Emily is all about building something of enduring value whether it is serving clients or creating a business. In 1994, Emily launched Sanders Financial Management, a financial advisory and investment management firm which endured for 18 years and beyond as it became part of United Capital Financial Advisors, LLC in 2012 and later Goldman Sachs Personal Financial Management. She currently guides the Atlanta office of Goldman Sachs Personal Financial Management on a strong growth path within the Consumer and Investment Management Division, and mentors the development of professional colleagues. Before becoming an entrepreneur and launching Sanders Financial Management, Emily served as Assistant Treasurer at BellSouth Corporation where she managed investments, as well as mergers and acquisitions and global banking. She has been employed in various financial management roles by the Coca-Cola Company and Charter Publishing Company in NYC and was a financial consultant to The Home Depot. Hear from this experienced entrepreneur, how to align one's mission to a meaningful purpose.

November 18 Virtual: “Growing an Organization’s Culture, the Ultimate Competitive Advantage,” featuring Polina Zlatev, VP, Talent, Learning, & Culture at Emory Healthcare

Before being appointed as Emory Healthcare's VP in 2021, Polina was the VP of Talent Management, Learning and OE and held progressive Human Resources leadership roles at Novelis. Polina's most impactful contributions to Novelis include an impressive business turnaround journey led by changing the company's culture and uncovering its purpose. Polina has worked in the HR field since 2005 with roles at Rock-Tenn Company, currently WestRock, Flagstar Bank, and Best Buy. Her global background and multi-lingual skills (speaks 5 languages including Japanese, Bulgarian, and Russian), enables her to help shape a workplace of inclusiveness, understanding, and respect. Emory Healthcare is a growing network of 11 hospital locations and more than 250 provider locations throughout Atlanta. The news reported throughout 2021 about the toll that COVID-19 took on healthcare staffing. How has this talented HR leader managed within a context of fast paced growth, a pandemic, and shifting demographics to strengthen the talent and the culture at one of Atlanta's most respected organizations? Another not to miss opportunity to learn from a gifted leader.

★ December 16 In Person: *The Commerce Club* “Created for A Time Such as This; Impacting A Changing World,” featuring Paige Alexander, President & CEO of the Carter Center.

Growing up in Atlanta in a family that lived and breathed political campaigns, community engagement, and social equity, Paige was blessed with amazing early life experiences. Her favorite memories are “kitchen table dinners” with top leaders of the day including John Lewis, Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson. Paige's career includes working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and travelling extensively, e.g., from Europe to Africa. Her career also spans multiple sectors: political campaigns (e.g., Clinton-Gore); government roles (two Senate confirmed USAID leadership positions); academia (Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government); NGOs; nonprofit (founder of IREX in Europe, a civil society, democracy and educational NP); and lastly, the international development sector (the European Cooperative for Rural Development (EUCORD). In June, 2020 she was named as the CEO of the Carter Center, in the midst of political/social strife and the Pandemic. Not ideal, but her perspective is clear and her mission is sure. We are privileged to hear about her journey that has brought her to a time such as this.