



## 2023 Women in Leadership Signature Series

**\*Quarterly In-Person Events:** 8:00 –10:00 a.m. / The Commerce Club / 191 Peachtree Street / 49th Floor  
**All Other Events are Virtual:** 8:00 – 9:30am / Through Member Zoom Link

**January 20 Virtual:** *“Unleash Your Noble Purpose,” featuring Lisa McLeod, Author, Keynote Speaker, and HBR Contributor*

Google “noble purpose,” and find multiple descriptions of Lisa’s celebrated research and reporting on how customer-centric, purpose-driven organizations create meaningful employee experiences at work and positive financial results for all. Lisa has authored (3) books, *Triangle of Truth*, *Selling with Noble Purpose*, and *Leading with Noble Purpose*. She is a sought-after speaker, corporate consultant and executive coach supporting leaders and organizations to engage their people and their customers through life-changing meaning and purpose.

**February 17 Virtual:** *“How to Lead with Impact for the Business, Clients, and Community,” featuring April Estes, Partner, PwC*

April leads PwC’s Accounting Methods and Fixed Asset tax services practice. In this role, she advises clients on an array of tax methods, including tax implications from GAAP standard changes, to help clients achieve their strategic tax and business goals. She is involved in the community and is part of Leadership Atlanta’s Class of 2023. At the end of 2022, she posted a leadership challenge: “While we are moving at a pace of change that is faster than ever, I challenge each of us to slow down, reflect on where we are and where our businesses, clients, communities and the world need us to spend our time.” Register to hear how businesses and leaders should use their talents to help meet societal needs while ensuring profitability.

**\*March 24 In Person Commerce Club:** *“NEXT Gen: Gifted and Giving to Make the World A Better Place featuring Dr. Nikki Schmitt, Oncological Surgeon, Researcher, and Professor, Emory University; Elizabeth Rowe, Environmental Management Consultant & Founder, E. Rowe Consulting, LLC; Bintou Tunkara, Business Transformation Consultant, IBM*

Meet three young women who are pursuing their passions each shaped by childhood. Dr. Schmitt, who grew up with limited healthcare, wanted to help those who are least able to afford quality healthcare through tackling cancer, the most debilitating of diseases for the under-resourced. Elizabeth, who formed a respect for the land growing up in the rural South, is focused on consulting communities, looking at climate innovation, technology, and strategic solutions. Bintou, a Gambian American and young Muslim black woman, turned the limited cultural expectations of girls and women into a pursuit of education, a consulting career, and social responsibility.

**April 21 Virtual:** *“Leadership Lessons from a President, CEO, and Champion of World-Class Healthcare and Those Who Deliver It,” featuring Candice Saunders, FACHE, President & CEO, Wellstar Health System*

Learn how Candice went from Critical Nurse to CEO & President of one of the largest and most integrated healthcare systems in GA with revenue reported at \$2.1B annually. For the fourth time, Great Place to Work® and Fortune named Wellstar Health System, as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For®, on their 2021 national list of honorees. In her rise to the top, Candice has been recognized as a leader and an innovator who cares, about the well-being of the people of Wellstar as well as those in the community it serves. We’re honored to hear how she makes it all happen!

**May 19 Virtual:** *“Bouncing Back from Astronomic Failure” featuring Dr. Erika Hamden, Astrophysicist, Asst. Professor – University of Arizona, and TED Talk Speaker*

Dr. Hamden (Erika) and the team she led spent 10 years building FIREBall, a telescope designed to hang from a giant balloon 130,000 feet in the stratosphere and observe clouds of hydrogen gas. Unfortunately, the balloon had a hole in it and after a decade of hard work, the telescope crashed along with the hopes and the confidence of Erika and her team. This 2019 TED fellow, astrophysicist, and galactic explorer now instructs others how to turn failure into fuel to move onward and upward. Her TED talk ([https://www.ted.com/talks/erika\\_hamden](https://www.ted.com/talks/erika_hamden)) has been widely acclaimed. Hear how her fascination with the workings of the universe and a realization that failure is not only inevitable but necessary, inspires other girls and young women to confidently pursue their dreams in STEAM-related careers.

**June 16 In Person Commerce Club: “Leadership Lessons from the Office of The Mayor,”** featuring Mayors **Kim Learnard** of Peachtree City, **Patti Garrett** of Decatur, and **Bianca Motley Broom** of College Park

Meet our distinguished Mayors – Kim Learnard, Patti Garrett, Bianca Motley Broom, J.D., highly successful professionals in their chosen careers. Each chose to serve their communities through the mayor’s office. Women mayors are in the minority in the U.S., being far outnumbered by their male counterparts. Yet, women mayors are acknowledged as purpose-driven, effective influencers, and inclusive. Join us at the Commerce Club as we explore what drives each to serve, how they use their leadership abilities to inspire and influence the vision they hold for their cities and manage the leadership challenges they face along the way.

**July 21 Virtual:** *To Be Announced*

**August 18 Virtual: “Creating and Sustaining Great Places to Work”** featuring **Katherine Spencer Lee**, EVP & Chief Administrative Officer, Robert Half

Meet Katherine Spencer Lee, a 27-year veteran of Robert Half, a global talent solutions and business consulting firm. Katherine has been named several times to the Staffing Industry Analysts' Global Power 150 — Women in Staffing list, as a top leader and influencer in the global staffing industry. She is recognized for her work in building an inclusive workforce at Robert Half, serving as the Executive Sponsor for the company’s Black Employee Network Group. Robert Half is consistently honored as a Best Place to Work and most recently was named to the Fortune Best Workplaces for Women list. In a recent survey, 94% of Robert Half employees say it’s a great place to work. Listen in as we explore their formula for success and how you can apply it to your workplace.

**\*September 15 In Person Commerce Club: “Celebrating Women in Leadership - 20 Years Strong”** featuring **Shan Cooper**, Founder, Journey Forward Strategies; **Virginia Hepner**, Corporate Director of Cadence Bank, National Vision Inc., and Oxford Industries

This will be a not-to-miss celebration of the Women in Leadership Signature Series, the longest consecutively running women supporting women program of its kind. We’ve asked a few of our favorite featured guest presenters to return to the platform as we explore how women leaders have evolved and continue to evolve over the past 20 years. What has changed and what has remained the same, as women fulfill leadership roles at every level?

**October 20 Virtual:** *To be Announced*

**November 17 Virtual:** *To be Announced*

**\*December 15 In Person Commerce Club: “The ‘Counsel’ of Coaches”** featuring Executive Coaches, **Barbara Reilly, PhD**, **Michael Sessions, PhD**, and **Patricia Thompson, PhD**

Wrapping up the 20-year celebration of Women in Leadership with (3) top Executive Coaches who together have more than 75 years of experience coaching and developing leaders at all levels. We’ll explore what they are seeing, especially as they coach women leaders. What are the biggest challenges being faced by their female clients and what approaches do they use with them as they discover and unleash their full potential. What leadership challenges do you face? Bring them and ask our experts.