

## 2023 Women in Leadership Signature Series

### First Quarter

**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 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.

### Second Quarter

**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 ZEPHYRUS 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.

### Third Quarter

**July 21 Virtual: “Navigating the Leadership Challenges of the 21st Century,”** featuring **Julie Untener**, Vice President & Chief of Staff to the President & COO, NCR

NCR, shortened for National Cash Register, had its beginnings in Dayton, OH in the 19th century, at the height of the industrial age and in a place where engineering inventions flourished, including the invention of flight. Over its history, NCR evolved into a software-and services-led enterprise technology provider, a leading provider to the banking, retail, and hospitality sectors. Julie Untener also had her beginnings in Dayton, then joined NCR in 1986, and took on ITS roles of increasing responsibility including global assignments. Listen as we explore the leadership challenges she faced, including working through a personal battle with breast cancer, and continues to face as NCR transforms in the 21st century.

**August 18 Virtual: “Exciting the Next Generation to Solve Real World Problems,”** featuring **Nancy Conrad**, Founding Chairman, The Conrad Foundation, Author, Speaker, Entrepreneur, and Educator

Nancy has become a recognized leader in transformative education and named one of the top 100 leaders in STEM education, serving as a featured speaker at national and international conferences. Nancy has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and Technology detailing how the Conrad Foundation exemplifies the use of partnership to improve STEM education. She is the wife of the late astronaut Pete Conrad, who during the Apollo 12 mission became the third man to walk on the moon. Along with her husband Pete, she founded (4) companies to make space travel more accessible and following his tragic death, she pursued initiatives to assist small and rural hospital emergency services and advocate for patient safety. Multi-faceted and energetic, she has used her public platform to make the world a better place through engaging youth across the globe to use STEM, innovation and entrepreneurship to create commercially viable products that solve real world problems.

**\*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, **Veronica Maldonado-Torres**, President and CEO, Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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?

## Fourth Quarter

**October 20 Virtual: “The Most Powerful Places are in the Blank Spaces”** featuring **Chanel Frazier, JD**, *Managing Director at BlackRock, Head of Business Strategy for the Portfolio Management Group & Head of the Atlanta Innovation Hub*

In her 2022 TED X talk, Chanel connects the dots between the blank spaces of her early life – meaning, the chances to explore a variety of experiences, primarily in the arts – with today’s powerful places to creatively solve and innovate around current and complex global issues. We’ll be exploring together how she uses her sharpened abilities of creative and innovative thinking to design strategic solutions for one of BlackRock’s largest investment teams as the Head of Business Strategy and as Head of the Atlanta Innovation Hub, one of BlackRock’s newest growth businesses. Listen in as we discuss how she continues to build her innovation prowess, even through the pursuit of stand-up comedy! It is no wonder she has been recognized by Savoy Magazine as one of the 2022 Most Influential Black Executives in Corporate America.

**November 17 Virtual: “Meet the Driving Force of Georgia’s #1 Woman-Owned Company”** featuring **Marcia Taylor**, *Owner, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of Bennett Family of Companies*

Marcia Taylor is more than a business owner. She is the matriarchal leader of a highly successful, Atlanta-based, family-owned and family-run, international diversified trucking, supply chain, and transportation conglomerate. Nationally recognized as one of the top women-owned companies, Bennett Family of Companies was recently ranked No.1 on Atlanta Business Chronicle’s Top 20 Women-Owned Firms in 2022, for the 19th consecutive year. Marcia’s leadership at Bennet was also honored by Ernst and Young with the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award for being an outstanding and inspiring leader and entrepreneur. You’ll want to hear what’s behind her remarkable success, leading and dominating the trucking and transportation industry and how she’s replicating that for the generations to come.

**\*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.