



**Women's  
Leadership  
Conference  
2025**

**Empower // Lead // Inspire**

March 29, 2025

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to the Eighth Annual Women's Leadership Conference at Adelphi University—a powerful day of learning and networking for all! We are thrilled to have you join us at a time when exciting new technologies are reconfiguring career landscapes across multiple industries.

How do we prepare ourselves and our students to keep pace with and get ahead of emerging innovations? During this conference, panelists will share their stories and expert advice on how to lead with confidence, prioritize self-care, navigate to get what you want, launch start-ups and side hustles, improve financial literacy, and much more. I encourage everyone to spend time with our terrific guest speakers and learn from their remarkable journeys. Our goal is to inspire, support and engage participants in discussions about how to thrive in any field.

While this conference welcomes all voices, we aspire to motivate women to become leaders in the workplace. Today, just 10 percent of Fortune 500 companies are run by women CEOs, despite research showing that women in leadership roles increase productivity and profit. That's why facilitating equitable women's leadership through action is so important to us at Adelphi.

I appreciate all our panelists and moderators for sharing their knowledge and mentorship with our guests today. I'm also grateful to our Student Government Association, Student Affairs, and University Advancement and External Relations teams for their thoughtful planning and coordination in creating this extraordinary opportunity for our community each year.

I look forward to sharing this experience with all of you as we explore our curiosities and empower one another to strive for excellence. Thanks so much for joining us!

All the best,



Christine M. Riordan, PhD  
President



# 2025 Women's Leadership Conference



Schedule	Saturday, March 29, 2025
10:30 a.m.	<b>Check-In and Networking Brunch</b> <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Lobby</i>
11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	<b>Welcome and Kick-Off Session</b> Stories That Stick: The Irresistible Power of Strategic Storytelling <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom, Second Floor</i>
12:30 p.m.–12:45 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session I</b> Taking Care of You: The Importance of Self-Care <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 113–115, First Floor</i>  Imposter Syndrome: Lead With Confidence <i>Performing Arts Center, Westermann Stage, Concert Hall</i>
1:45 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session II</b> Embrace the Power of No <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 113–115, First Floor</i>  What's Your Next Chapter? How to Get Off the Fence and Make Your Career Move <i>Performing Arts Center, Westermann Stage, Concert Hall</i>
3:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session III</b> Navigating to Get What You Want <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 113–115, First Floor</i>  Beyond the 9-5: How to Launch Side Hustles and Startups <i>Performing Arts Center, Westermann Stage, Concert Hall</i>
4:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m.	<b>Networking Reception</b> <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Lobby</i>
5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.	<b>Awards Celebration and Keynote Dinner</b> <i>Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom, Second Floor</i>
*All speaker biographies can be found toward the back of the program.	
Professional Headshots: Art Gallery   Career Support Hub: Commuter Lounge   Roundtable Discussions: Rooms 118–119	

# A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Conference Participants,

For 128 years, Adelphi has been a place where women have gained the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead. Today, we continue that legacy by bringing together a diverse community of leaders for Adelphi University's eighth annual Women's Leadership Conference. Welcome!

This day is about embracing change, seizing opportunity, and supporting one another as empowered leaders. We'll have meaningful discussions, hear from accomplished professionals, and gain strategies and insights that strengthen networks and inspire the next generation.

Adelphi is honored to welcome two remarkable keynote speakers—Juju Chang, the Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of ABC News *Nightline*, and Kindra Hall, a bestselling author and expert on the power of storytelling. Their keynotes promise to inspire and challenge us to think in new ways.

Beyond the sessions, I encourage you to take advantage of all the resources available—whether it's a professional headshot, career wardrobe guidance, or one-on-one career consultations. These tools are here to support your journey.

A heartfelt thank you to our conference chairs, LeeAnn Black '83 and Humera Qazi '93, as well as our steering committee members and speakers, whose dedication makes this event possible. We are also deeply grateful to our sponsors and donors for their generosity and commitment, which allows Adelphi students to attend this conference at no cost.

We are excited to have you here as part of this powerful community. May we all work together to **Empower**, **Lead**, and **Inspire** going forward. Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Kline, EdD

Vice President of University Advancement and External Relations





# 2025 CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

## Co-Chairs

LeeAnn Black '83  
Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins

Humera Qazi '93, MBA  
Managing Director, Morgan Stanley

## Steering Committee

Pawneet Abramowski '08  
Founder and Principal, PARC Solutions LLC

Cassandra Alvarez '09  
Chief of Staff and Chief Diversity Officer  
NYC Department of Veterans' Services

Loretta Cangialosi '80  
Retired Senior Vice President and Controller,  
Pfizer, Inc.

Sharon Cunningham '90  
Managing Director/Senior Portfolio Management  
Director and Financial Advisors, The Cunningham  
Group, Morgan Stanley

Anita D'Amico, PhD '84  
President, Cotopaxi Consulting LLC

Joanne DeFino  
Partner, KPMG, LLP

Emily Dorko '13  
Associate Athletic Director for External Relations/  
SWA, Adelphi University

Trish Graffigino  
Assistant Vice President, Marketing,  
Jovia Financial Credit Union

Donna Haynes  
Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships,  
Adelphi University

Nicholas Iadevaio, MBA '00  
Vice President, Human Resources  
and Diversity and Inclusion Leader, L'Oréal USA

Judy Jackson, P '24  
President, JLC Ventures (Judy Loves Culture)

Kelly Ann Keenan  
Senior Associate Director, Special Events,  
Adelphi University

Thomas Kline, EdD  
Vice President of University Advancement  
and External Relations, Adelphi University

Eu'nice McCoy '14  
Director, Event Marketing, National Urban League

Jennifer Muccioli  
Director, Corporate Affairs, KPMG, Lakehouse

Ashleigh Nixon-Joseph  
Assistant Director of Auxiliary and Event Services,  
Adelphi University

Lynda Perdomo-Ayala '78  
Chair and Founding Member, Adelphi Women's  
Giving Circle

Victoria Rodriguez  
The LeeAnn Black '83 Women's Leadership  
Intern, Adelphi University

Shawana Singletary  
Assistant Vice President, Chief Enrollment Officer,  
Adelphi University

Megan Stewart  
Director of Alumni Relations, Adelphi University

Marc S. Strachan '81  
Principal and Chief Marketing Officer, Adgile Media  
Group; Founder Coach Marc Consulting, LLC  
Chair, Board of Trustees, Adelphi University

Deborah Viola '84, MBA, PhD  
Vice President, Office of Research and Grants  
Administration at Westchester Medical Center,  
a member of WMCHHealth

Carrie Wen '16  
Senior Practice Group Manager,  
Crowell & Moring LLP

Chotsani Williams West, MA '07, EdD  
Assistant Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
and Belonging, Adelphi University

Kaitlyn Woods '12, MBA '15  
Director of External Relations and Special Events,  
Adelphi University

Maggie Yoon Grafer '98, MA '08  
Associate Vice President for University Advancement  
and External Relations, Adelphi University

Deborah Mochon Zawisza '80  
Senior Principal, Datos Insights

Anna Zinko  
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs,  
Adelphi University



Co-Chair

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## **LeeAnn Black '83**

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Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins

LeeAnn Black, chief operating officer, oversees the firm's global business operations, financial management, and strategic direction. Under her leadership, Latham has experienced considerable growth while maintaining the distinct culture that underpins the firm's success.

Latham has ascended to the top ranks of elite global law firms under Black's stewardship. She oversaw the firm's global expansion and the evolution of Latham's administrative structure to support the firm's substantial growth. She has also been a champion of innovation and a driving force behind the firm's early adoption of technologies that help Latham deliver efficient, market-leading client service.

Black is a certified public accountant who previously served as a senior auditor at Arthur Andersen & Co. In overseeing all aspects of the firm's financial and operational management, Black draws on her public accounting background and three decades of leadership experience at Latham.

Black has earned broad recognition as a trailblazer in the legal sector, including by the *Financial Times*, which named her a 2017 Top 10 Innovative Individual in North America for her work to secure lower interest rates and debt relief for Latham associates.

Outside of Latham, Black serves as:

- Council member of Adelphi University's President's Advisory Council
- Chair of the board of trustees of The Chapin School, an all-girls K-12 school dedicated to academic excellence, personal integrity and community responsibility
- Member of the board of directors of Pro Bono Net, an organization dedicated to increasing access to justice

**“Great leaders do good things when no one is watching.  
Don't underestimate humility.”**

—LeeAnn Black



Co-Chair

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## **Humera Qazi '93, MBA**

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Managing Director, Morgan Stanley

Humera Qazi is a managing director at Morgan Stanley, serving as head of Wealth Management Operations' Client Service and Reporting Group (CSRG), responsible for developing and delivering service and reporting strategies and support to wealth management advisors and clients. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Qazi was a managing director in KPMG's Management Consulting practice.

Qazi is a vocal advocate for diversity in the workplace. She is the co-chair of Morgan Stanley's Woman's Business Alliance, the largest employee networking group at the firm and co-lead Americas D&I for Morgan Stanley Operations before that. At KPMG, she served as co-chair of KPMG's Network of Women for Long Island and launched the ATHENA Awards in the New York region. She is co-chair of the Women's Leadership Conference for Adelphi University and has served on the board of directors of the Women's Bond Club.

Apart from women's leadership initiatives, Qazi serves on the board of trustees at her alma mater, Adelphi University, as chair of the Audit Committee. She also served on the board of directors of Miracle Corners of the World, an organization dedicated to empowering youth leadership in Africa and around the world.

***“As a leading institution of higher education, Adelphi's objective for our annual Women's Leadership Conference is to continually elevate its purpose by examining the current and upcoming societal landscape and its impact on women. The panel topics for this year have been carefully curated to provide an enlightening experience for all our attendees.”***

—Humera Qazi

# CAREER SUPPORT HUB

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**Ruth S. Harley University Center, Commuter Student Lounge, First Floor**  
**10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

Stop by the **Career Support Hub** where you can consult with counselors and career professionals who will review resumes, assess LinkedIn profiles, conduct mock interviews, and provide general career and professional guidance. No registration is required. Stop by for a quick visit or stay as long as you would like.

The **Adelphi Career Closet** is for current students who can shop for professional work attire for interviews, conferences, and other professional opportunities, all free of charge. All student conference attendees are eligible to take home one piece of clothing from the career closet. Stop by and pick up a new item for your closet!

Conference participants will have a chance to drop off their donations at the conference. Contact [engage@adelphi.edu](mailto:engage@adelphi.edu) for the most up-to-date information and for drop-off locations.

# ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

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**Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 118–119, First Floor**  
**12:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**

Attend one of these smaller roundtable discussions. Stop by and discuss with members of the **Valley National Bank** team about your **financial literacy**. This session will provide you with valuable takeaway information and allow you to meet with professionals from these areas to discuss one-to-one questions.

Find out how the synergy between **scientific rigor and spiritual depth** can redefine leadership. In this engaging session, members from **Emerge Integrative Wellness** will help you discover how mastering your physiological responses can lead to clearer communication, sharper decision-making, and more impactful leadership presence.



# KICK-OFF KEYNOTE | 11:15 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

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## STORIES THAT STICK: THE IRRESISTIBLE POWER OF STRATEGIC STORYTELLING

KINDRA HALL, *WALL STREET JOURNAL* BESTSELLING AUTHOR, AWARD-WINNING STORYTELLER

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom

Through compelling research, profound case studies, and captivating stories of her own, Hall will elevate individuals on all levels of your company. The outcome of this keynote is attendees feeling empowered, excited and capable of making a simple shift to telling more strategic stories to captivate customers, influence behavior and transform business.

Keynote Speaker

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### Kindra Hall

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Kindra Hall told her first story in the spring of 1992.

Long before storytelling became a business buzzword, she was fulfilling a fifth grade language arts assignment by reading a story to a room full of out-of-control third graders. Instead of reading from the pages, Hall set the storybook aside and told the story herself. Within the first few sentences, she held those unruly third graders in the palm of her hand and knew, in that moment, she had stumbled upon something powerful.

Since that time, Hall has become the go-to expert for storytelling in business and beyond. She is the bestselling author of *Stories That Stick: How Storytelling Can Captivate Customers, Influence Audiences, and Transform Your Business*. *Stories that Stick* debuted at No. 2 on the *Wall Street Journal* bestseller list, and companies like *Forbes* and Gartner said it “may be the most valuable business book you read.” Her second book, *Choose Your Story, Change Your Life* is one of the Next Big Idea Club’s top 10 happiness books. Her newest book, *The Story Edge*, inspires leaders to harness the power of stories to win in business.



Kindra Hall is a sought-after storytelling keynote speaker trusted by global brands to deliver messages that inspire teams and individuals to better communicate the value of their company, their products and their individuality through strategic storytelling. Hall is also the former chief storytelling officer at *Success Magazine* where she shared the inspiring, often untold, stories of achievers like Daymond John, Deepak Chopra, James Altucher and Misty Copeland in print and on the podcast *Success Stories* with Kindra Hall.

# BREAKOUT SESSION I | 12:45 P.M.–1:45 P.M.

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## TAKING CARE OF YOU:

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CARE

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 113–115, First Floor

In the rush to be productive and achieve our goals, self-care often falls by the wayside. But successful leadership requires more than professional skills—it also means caring for your mental health and encouraging your friends and colleagues to do the same. We'll explore how to make self-care a priority for yourself and your team—and part of your workplace culture. We'll even do a mindfulness meditation practice to get you started on the road to well-being.

## Moderator



### **Joanne Corbin, PhD**

Dean, School of Social Work  
Adelphi University

## Panelists



### **Cicely Horsham-Brathwaite, PhD**

Psychologist and Executive Coach  
Brathwaite Psychological Consulting, PLLC



### **Diana Lillo '05**

Co-Founder, CEO and COO, InspireDesign  
Co-Founder, MOSS Wellness Workspace



### **Jasmine Travers '09, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing

# BREAKOUT SESSION I | 12:45 P.M.–1:45 P.M.

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## IMPOSTER SYNDROME: LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

Performing Arts Center, Westermann Stage, Concert Hall

Do you feel like you're playing the role of a competent, confident leader but negative thoughts are pulling you down? That's impostor syndrome—and if you feel that way, you're not alone. Even successful women like Sheryl Sandberg, Tina Fey and Michelle Obama have admitted to feeling like a fraud sometimes. And studies show women experience this far more than men. In this session, you'll learn how to embrace your strengths, document your achievements, build confidence and lead with authenticity.

### Moderator



**LeeAnn Black '83**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Latham & Watkins

### Panelists



**Gabriella DiSilvio '14**  
Lead Learning Solutions Attorney  
Lawline



**Charlene Grabwoski '95**  
Partner  
Pathfinder Strategies, Leadership Development



**Malika Grayson '11, PhD**  
Manager  
Northrop Grumman

# BREAKOUT SESSION II | 2:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M.

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## EMBRACE THE POWER OF NO

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 113–115, First Floor

As women, we often find ourselves saying “yes” to everything: chairing committees, being the class mom or helping a friend with their term paper. While there’s nothing wrong with being that person everyone depends on, overcommitting can prevent us from focusing on our own goals and lead to burnout. In this panel, we’ll explore the hidden costs of people-pleasing. We’ll dive into how to say no without guilt and without losing the connections that truly matter, and when to say yes.

### Moderator



**Irene Quarshie '98**

SVP Global Supply Chain and Logistics  
Target Corporation

### Panelists



**Taja Dockendorf '00**

Founder, Owner and Chief Creative Director  
Pulp+Wire



**Kristin Graham**

President  
Sacred Heart Academy



**Humera Qazi '93, MBA**

Managing Director  
Morgan Stanley



# BREAKOUT SESSION II | 2:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M.

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## WHAT'S YOUR NEXT CHAPTER?

### *HOW TO GET OFF THE FENCE AND MAKE YOUR CAREER MOVE*

Performing Arts Center, Westermann Stage, Concert Hall

Ready to take the leap into your next big career move but stuck in analysis paralysis? The change can feel overwhelming, whether you're starting college, switching careers, transitioning to part time or going solo. In this session, you'll learn how to decide if the time is right, weigh the pros and cons, and take actionable steps.

## Moderator



### **Marc S. Strachan '81**

Founder, Head Coach, Coach Marc Consulting, LLC  
Chair, Adelphi University Board of Trustees

## Panelists



### **Anita D'Amico, PhD '84**

President  
Cotopaxi Consulting LLC



### **Alexandria Faith '15**

Vice President, Global Marketing  
Citigroup



### **God-is Rivera**

Founder  
God-is Rivera Consulting, LLC

# BREAKOUT SESSION III | 3:15 P.M.–4:15 P.M.

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## NAVIGATING TO GET WHAT YOU WANT

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Rooms 113–115, First Floor

What's standing between you and getting that promotion, flexible hours or leadership role on an important project? Knowing how to get what you want. Studies show men are more likely to negotiate—and get what they want—than women. This panel will explore how women manage challenges and obstacles. Then we'll give you the tools and strategies to confidently make your case and navigate your way to success.

### Moderator



#### **Bonnie-Jill Laflin**

First Female Scout in the NBA/Sports Reporter  
Author, *In a League of Her Own: Celebrating Female Firsts In Sports*

### Panelists



#### **Valerie Graves**

Creator and Executive Producer  
AFROGAMES



#### **Angela Guy**

CEO  
GUYDEIA, LLC



#### **Maureen Paradine**

Partner, Chief Human Resources Officer  
EisnerAmper

# BREAKOUT SESSION III | 3:15 P.M.–4:15 P.M.

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## BEYOND THE 9-5:

### HOW TO LAUNCH SIDE HUSTLES AND STARTUPS

Performing Arts Center, Westermann Stage, Concert Hall

Whether you're looking to earn extra income on the side or ready to take a serious shot at turning your big idea into your next career, this workshop is for you. You'll learn how to assess whether to start small or go all in and, if you're ready, to leave the steady paycheck behind and navigate the road to entrepreneurship.

## Moderator



### **Cynthia Pong, JD**

Founder and CEO  
Embrace Change

## Panelists



### **Judy Jackson, P '24**

President  
JLC Ventures



### **Lan Phan**

Author  
*Do This Daily*



### **Kadisha Phillips**

Founder and Creative Director  
Cecilia's House

# CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

**ADELPHI**  
UNIVERSITY  
NEW YORK



1 - Ruth S. Harley University Center

2 - Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

## SENSORY ROOM

### **Ruth S. Harley University Center, Mindfulness Center, Third Floor**

The sensory room provides a calm space for students and others in the campus community who are neurodiverse and have sensory-related needs.

This is a space for individuals to regulate themselves by utilizing tools should they experience hyperstimulation or hypostimulation in their senses.

We would like to thank the Bridges to Adelphi program for supplying the equipment to transform this space into a sensory room.



# TYPEFOCUS

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As part of your registration for the Women's Leadership Conference, you have access to utilize the TypeFocus assessment. The TypeFocus will help you understand your unique behavior profile, identify areas of strength and know your personal values. Instructions on how to complete the TypeFocus are as follows:

Before you start, watch this brief video on the TypeFocus:

<https://youtu.be/RWyqsx9TY3o>

Then follow each step below:

- Enter the site using the QR code below.
- Click the green REGISTER button and follow the prompts.
- You will create a password for your account.
- If the site asks you for an access code, use Adelphi2020.
- Once signed in, click the "Step 1: Self-Assessment" tab (left side of main page).
- Take the assessments in the order in which they appear: Personality first, Interests second, Skills, Values, and then Success Factors.



## PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

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Ruth S. Harley University Center Art Gallery

10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Your profile picture is a key element of your LinkedIn presence. Research shows that just having a picture makes your profile 14 times more likely to be viewed by others.

All participants will have the opportunity to take a professional headshot during the conference and will receive their photos approximately two weeks after the conference.

# MODERATED KEYNOTE | 5:00 P.M.

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## EMMY AWARD-WINNING CO-ANCHOR OF **ABC NEWS NIGHTLINE**

Ruth S. Harley University Center, Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom

Keynote Speaker

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### **Juju Chang**

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Juju Chang, one of the most prominent women in broadcast news, the Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of *Nightline* and a regular contributor to *Good Morning America* and *20/20*, has a superpower. It's an incredible amount of compassion that shines through in everything she does—from always being willing to lend a helping hand to inspiring others, especially with her storytelling abilities. Throughout her career reporting on the most pressing issues of our time, Chang has become a symbol of hope and resilience—shining a light on the best of humanity in the hardest of times. Byron Pitts, co-anchor of *Nightline*, said it best when describing his work colleague: “When there’s goodness, there’s Juju.” And everyone who has ever met her agrees.



An ABC News veteran, Chang’s work has been recognized with numerous awards, including multiple Emmys, Gracies, a DuPont, a Murrow and Peabody Awards. Prior to her current roles at ABC, she was a producer for *World News Tonight*, a co-anchor on the overnight show *World News Now* and news anchor for *Good Morning America*.

With the rise of hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, Chang leveraged her platform to become a much-admired champion of social change. She made U.S. broadcast history co-anchoring the 2021 ABC News Live special *Stop The Hate: The Rise In Violence Against Asian Americans* alongside fellow Korean American co-anchor Eva Pilgrim and a cast of AAPI journalists, thought leaders, lawmakers and celebrities. Chang’s highly visible reporting on Asian hate is the culmination of decades of covering everything from natural disasters to terrorism, mass shootings, immigration, violence against the LGBTQIA+ community and, most recently, the inequities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Known for her in-depth personal narratives and long-form storytelling, Chang has won acclaim for stories with underlying themes of civil and women’s rights and social justice.

# MODERATED KEYNOTE | 5:00 P.M.

Keynote Moderator

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## Christine M. Riordan, PhD

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President  
Adelphi University

Christine M. Riordan, PhD, is the 10th president of Adelphi University and the first woman to hold the role in the University's 128-year history. Dr. Riordan is an established expert in leadership, team building, career success, and diversity, equity and inclusion. She is also a seasoned and respected board member in the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

Since her appointment in 2015, Dr. Riordan's vision has transformed Adelphi into a nationally recognized modern metropolitan university. Under her leadership, the University community has grown more diverse than ever and 50+ innovative academic degree programs have been launched. *U.S. News & World Report* has consistently named Adelphi a Best College among national universities, a Best Value School and a Top Performer on Social Mobility. In 2024, Adelphi received *INSIGHT* Into Diversity's Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the seventh consecutive year.

For more than nine years, Dr. Riordan has served on the board of directors of RE/MAX Holdings, Inc., is chair of the nominating and governance committee, and serves on the compensation committee. She previously served as chair of the board and a member of the executive committee for New York's Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities and is also a member of the board of directors of the Long Island Association.

Dr. Riordan has published 70 academic and business press articles and is authoring a book, *Shift Happens: How to Adapt and Thrive in a Rapidly Changing World of Work* ([christineriordan.com](http://christineriordan.com)). Her honors include the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Chief Executive Leadership Award in 2021 and the ATHENA International Leadership Award in 2020. In 2019, Georgia State University honored her as a Distinguished Alumna. For many years, she has been named one of the most influential people on Long Island by the *Long Island Press and City & State New York*, and *Long Island Business News* lists her among its Long Island Business Influencers – Dynamic Women Leaders.

Dr. Riordan received her MBA and a PhD in Organizational Behavior from Georgia State University and earned her bachelor's degree in Textile Engineering (now called Materials Science Engineering) from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **LEEANN BLACK '83**

LeeAnn Black is the Chief Operating Officer of Latham & Watkins, where she oversees the firm's global business operations, financial management, and strategic direction. Under her leadership, Latham has expanded significantly while maintaining the culture that defines its success.

Black has been instrumental in Latham's rise as a top global law firm, overseeing its international growth and operational evolution. She has championed innovation and the early adoption of technologies to enhance efficiency and client service.

A certified public accountant, Black began her career as a senior auditor at Arthur Andersen & Co. and now draws on three decades of leadership experience at Latham. She has been recognized as a trailblazer in the legal sector, and she was named one of the Top 10 Innovative Individuals in North America by the *Financial Times* in 2017.

Black serves on the Adelphi University President's Advisory Council, chairs the board of trustees of The Chapin School, and is a board member of Pro Bono Net, an organization dedicated to expanding access to justice.

## **JOANNE CORBIN, PHD**

Dr. Joanne Corbin has served as dean of the Adelphi University School of Social Work since July 2023, bringing extensive leadership experience from the University of Connecticut and Smith College.

Dr. Corbin's research focuses on the mental health needs of communities affected by armed conflict, particularly in Northern Uganda, where she has studied the social and economic disruptions caused by war and developed community-based interventions. She has also contributed to psychosocial research in Tanzania and South Africa.

She earned her PhD and Master of Philosophy in Epidemiology and Public Health from Yale University, focusing on parental involvement in public schools and health policy. She also holds a Master of Social Service from Bryn Mawr College and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wellesley College.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **ANITA D'AMICO, PHD '84**

Anita D'Amico, PhD '84, is an experimental psychologist who has built a career by applying her skills in research methods and analysis to the field of cybersecurity. She is both a researcher, with many internationally cited publications, and a successful business executive.

Dr. D'Amico is one of the few innovators who have completed the journey that starts with a novel idea, progresses to prototyping and early sales, and then completes the climb to a successful commercial product. As founder and CEO of Code Dx, she grew the business from a six-month research project into a venture-funded commercial supplier of B2B application security software and eventual acquisition by a large publicly traded company.

As a vice president at Synopsys, Dr. D'Amico led the products team, responsible for product management, engineering and research, behind a \$400 million-per-year application security product portfolio. She went on to lead Synopsys' software supply chain security business strategy, as well as the product strategy for the secure adoption of artificial intelligence in the software development life cycle.

Dr. D'Amico started Cotopaxi Consulting to offer services to other entrepreneurs and start-up investors who wish to commercialize nascent technology into usable and widely adopted products.

## **GABRIELLA DISILVIO '14**

Gabriella DiSilvio is the lead learning solutions attorney at Lawline, where she develops innovative Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for legal professionals. She is passionate about creating engaging content that enhances attorneys' practical skills and long-term professional growth.

Before transitioning to legal education, DiSilvio practiced civil defense litigation in New York and Connecticut, handling cases from inception through trial. Her experience in high-stakes matters informs her approach to designing impactful learning experiences.

At Lawline, she leads content strategy, coaches attorneys, and ensures programming remains at the forefront of legal education. She holds a Juris Doctor from New York Law School and a bachelor's degree in political science from Adelphi University.

Beyond her career, she is active in community service through the Junior League of Long Island and lives on Long Island, New York, with her husband and son.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **TAJA DOCKENDORF '00**

Taja Dockendorf is the founder and chief creative director of Pulp+Wire, an Inc. 5000 agency specializing in branding, packaging and web services for consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies. As the leader of an agency 100 percent founded and run by women, she has helped hundreds of brands grow while fostering a collaborative, intuitive leadership culture.

Dockendorf has been recognized with awards including Entrepreneur of the Year, *Ad Age's* Small Business of the Year for Culture, and multiple Stevie Awards. She is the host of the *Brand Alchemist Podcast*, where she highlights brand owners in the CPG space, and has contributed leadership insights to *Forbes*, *Entrepreneur* and *Insider*.

An investor in emerging brands and technologies, she has also served on the board of the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs and the Susan Curtis Foundation. She founded Ladies Wine & Design-Maine, a network for women in creative industries.

## **CHARLENE GRABOWSKI '95**

Charlene Grabowski is a partner at Pathfinder Strategies, specializing in executive leadership development, career counseling, coaching and advocacy. A retired executive with more than 30 years at GE Healthcare, she most recently served as GM and vice president of the West Zone and Canada, leading a \$1.3 billion commercial operations and sales team.

Previously, Grabowski was director of sales for QuickBooks at Intuit, overseeing P&L and a 500-person contact center, and GM of sales force excellence at GE Healthcare, where she led sales distribution, compensation, and learning development. She also served as chief learning officer for GE Healthcare's commercial organization and led the United States and Canada X-ray and women's healthcare business.

Grabowski coaches for Harvard's Anne Klibanski Scholar Program and Stanford Business School's SEED Program (West Africa). She has held leadership roles on multiple boards, including the American Heart Association, Out & Equal, Milwaukee Urban League, and Tucson Medical Center.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **KRISTIN GRAHAM**

Kristin Lynch Graham has served as president of Sacred Heart Academy since 2016, becoming the first lay woman to lead the all-girls Catholic high school sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph on Long Island. She oversees the strategic direction and advancement of the institution, which enrolls approximately 650 students and has a network of over 12,000 alumnae.

With an accomplished background in institutional advancement, alumni relations, and strategic planning, she previously held leadership roles at Fordham University, serving as director of alumni relations and later assistant vice president for alumni relations and annual giving. She has also worked in development and alumni relations at Columbia Law School and The Schools of St. Mary in Manhasset, New York.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature and a master's degree in education from Fordham University, along with an executive leadership certification from the University of Notre Dame. She lives in Port Washington, New York with her husband and two daughters.

## **VALERIE GRAVES**

Valerie Graves is an advertising industry pioneer with over 25 years of experience as a chief creative officer for firms including Vigilante/Leo Burnett, UniWorld Group and Motown Records. *Advertising Age* named her one of the "100 Best and Brightest" in the industry.

She has led award-winning campaigns for General Motors, Ford, AT&T, Burger King and Pepsi, among others. Her memoir, *Pressure Makes Diamonds*, was an official selection of the 2017 PEN World Voices International Festival and won the 2017 African American Literary Award for Biography.

She has received numerous accolades, including the 2019 President's Award from The Advertising Club of New York and the 2007 ADCOLOR Legend Award. She has also served as a creative consultant to the National Basketball Association and on the steering committee of I'mPART, The Advertising Club of New York's diversity initiative.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **MALIKA GRAYSON '11, PHD**

Dr. Malika Grayson is the Founder of STEMinist Empowered LLC, an organization dedicated to advancing diversity in STEM through mentorship and leadership programs. She has mentored more than 30 women in advanced degree programs through her STEMinist Empowered cohorts.

A technology program manager in the aerospace and defense industry, Dr. Grayson has led teams in systems engineering, software development, R&D, and strategic planning. She earned a PhD in mechanical engineering from Cornell University, specializing in wind energy, and a bachelor's degree in Physics from Adelphi University.

A global speaker and bestselling author of *Hooded: A Black Girl's Guide to the PhD*, Dr. Grayson has been honored with awards including the SWE Advocating Women in Engineering Award, Adelphi's 10 Under 10 Young Alumni Recognition Award, and BEYA STEM's Modern Day Technology Leader Award.

She also serves in leadership roles with DiscoverE, STEMNoire, and the National Girls Collaborative Project and is an Alumni Advisory Board member at Cornell University.

## **ALEXANDRIA FAITH '15**

Alexandria Faith is the vice president and global marketing lead at Citi. She oversees content strategy and creative development to enhance brand visibility and engagement across global markets. She specializes in multichannel campaigns and data-driven marketing strategies and has led initiatives that have significantly increased consumer engagement.

Prior to Citi, Faith held multiple roles at AllianceBernstein, including AVP of social media, where she managed digital strategy for private wealth management. She has a strong background in marketing and finance, blending creative storytelling with analytical insights to drive business growth.

In addition to her corporate career, Faith is the founder and owner of Social Story, a full-service marketing agency for small businesses, which she has operated since 2017. She earned her BA in Communications with a concentration in Journalism from Adelphi University.

## **ANGELA GUY**

Angela Guy is a business consultant and strategist specializing in workplace diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). She previously served as chief DEI officer for L'Oréal North America, where she shaped the company's inclusion strategy across the United States and Canada.

During her 12-year tenure at L'Oréal, Guy spearheaded initiatives highlighting diverse beauty and led the company's first DEI Advisory Board. She previously held executive roles in marketing, sales and general management at Johnson & Johnson and Levi Strauss & Co.

Named to *Savoy Magazine's* 100 Most Influential Blacks and Black Enterprise's Top 75 Women in Business, she also serves as an advisory board member for the Global Diversity Colloquium and is a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **CICELY HORSHAM-BRATHWAITE, PHD**

Dr. Cicely Horsham-Brathwaite is a licensed psychologist and executive coach specializing in leadership development, confidence-building and team culture. She works with executives and high-potential employees to strengthen their leadership skills and create equitable, high-performing teams.

A former tenure-track professor at the University of Bridgeport, Dr. Horsham-Brathwaite taught multicultural counseling skills. She has provided workshops and coaching to hundreds of professionals, drawing from her executive leadership experience and background in employee assistance programs.

Her expertise has been featured in *Essence*, *Entrepreneur*, *CNBC Making It*, *SELF*, *HuffPost*, and the *BBC World Service*. She is the author of *Better Daily Self-Care Habits (2021)* and *Self-Care Activities for Women (2024)*.

Dr. Horsham-Brathwaite earned her PhD in counseling psychology from Temple University and continues to be a sought-after speaker and consultant in leadership, workplace wellness and professional development.

## **JUDY JACKSON, P '24**

Judy Jackson is a respected thought leader in human resource management, known for her candid, authentic approach and commitment to bringing out the best in others.

In 2023, she founded JLC Ventures, a consulting firm dedicated to building inclusive workplace cultures and supporting underrepresented professionals in career growth and well-being. As an executive coach, she helps leaders develop strategies for fostering diverse, equitable and inclusive environments where employees feel valued and empowered.

Jackson has held senior people and culture roles at WPP, Wunderman Thompson, IPG Mediabrands, Digitas, Time Inc., ABC Disney, and Planned Parenthood NYC. She has contributed to articles and books on HR leadership and has been recognized with awards including the 2024 Ad Color Lifetime Achievement Award and the 4A's 2022 Gladiator Award. She serves on the board of BRIDGE and co-founded We All Rise Together, supporting communities most impacted by the pandemic.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **BONNIE-JILL LAFLIN**

Bonnie-Jill Laflin is a trailblazing sports broadcaster, TV personality, author and philanthropist. She made history as the first and only female NBA scout, serving in a front-office role with the Los Angeles Lakers. She is also the first woman to dance professionally for three teams across two sports—the NBA’s Golden State Warriors and the NFL’s San Francisco 49ers and Dallas Cowboys. She holds six championship rings—one Super Bowl ring with the 49ers and five NBA championships with the Lakers.

A respected sports journalist, Laflin reported for the Dallas Cowboys on the first all-female NFL show and has worked with ESPN, NBA TV, NBC and CBS Sports. She is the author of the bestselling book *In a League of Her Own*, which celebrates female sports pioneers.

Beyond broadcasting, she founded Hounds and Heroes, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting wounded veterans through animal rescue. She currently serves as a TV host and reporter for the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, Dallas Mavericks, Texas Longhorns and MMA.

## **DIANA LILLO '05**

Diana Lillo is a visionary entrepreneur and designer, dedicated to transforming healthcare and commercial spaces. She co-founded InspireDesign in 2008, a Northeast-based firm specializing in interiors, artwork and signage, with a focus on biophilic design to enhance well-being.

Recognizing the need for flexibility and community in the modern workplace, Lillo co-founded MOSS Wellness Workplace in Garden City, New York, a collaborative space for professionals, entrepreneurs and remote workers. MOSS integrates wellness services such as mindfulness and art therapy, allowing members to prioritize self-care while maintaining productivity.

With a career spanning healthcare and interior design since age 21, she is passionate about fostering community, empowering others, and creating spaces that promote personal and professional growth. She believes in collaboration, continuous learning and design as a tool for well-being.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **MAUREEN PARADINE**

Maureen Paradine is a partner and chief human resource officer at EisnerAmper, with more than 30 years of leadership experience in human capital management across education, retail, and professional services.

As a key member of EisnerAmper's leadership team, she drives transformation and change initiatives, oversees compensation and benefits, and champions diversity, equity and inclusion. She plays a critical role in shaping the firm's cultural evolution and employee engagement strategies as the company expands and innovates.

Previously, Paradine was senior vice president and CHRO at one of the largest U.S. college bookstore operators, leading human resources for a 15,000-person workforce across multiple business units. She also held senior HR leadership roles in the floral and gourmet food retail industry, managing global HR operations.

Paradine was inducted into the Long Island Business Hall of Fame in 2022 and named one of the 50 Most Influential Women on Long Island in 2015. She actively supports women's leadership as a board member and adviser for the ATHENA Women's Leadership Program and the Hofstra University Women in Leadership Program.

## **LAN PHAN**

Lan Phan is a renowned author, speaker, and master trainer, specializing in purpose-driven leadership and mindset cultivation. Her book, *Do This Daily: Secrets to Finding Success, Happiness, and Purpose at Work and Life*, was published in April 2024.

A sought-after consultant, Phan advises CEOs and executives on navigating the evolving business landscape. She has built a strong digital presence, garnering millions of views annually on LinkedIn and YouTube, where she shares insights on leadership and personal growth.

Phan holds an honors degree in psychology from Stanford University, where she received the J.E. Wallace Sterling Award for her contributions to leadership and volunteerism. She earned a master's degree in teaching and curriculum from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

## **KADISHA PHILLIPS**

Kadisha Phillips is an award-winning marketing leader with more than 10 years of experience in B2B and B2C marketing across entertainment, SaaS and tech. She specializes in direct response, brand, and growth marketing, utilizing social media, email, paid media and influencer strategies to drive engagement and customer acquisition.

Phillips has successfully managed multimillion-dollar marketing budgets, created high-impact organic and performance marketing campaigns, and led data-driven growth strategies. A recognized thought leader, she has been featured by NPR, NBC, Reuters and the BBC and has spoken at Google, Chase, Pinterest and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Colleagues and clients describe her as visionary and results-driven, with a strong ability to execute marketing strategies that deliver measurable impact.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **CYNTHIA PONG, JD**

Cynthia Pong, JD, is an award-winning executive coach and speaker, empowering women of color to advance into leadership roles. She is a *Forbes* contributor and LinkedIn Top Voice for Job Search and Career, with features in the *Harvard Business Review*, *The Atlantic*, NBC, CBS, and NPR.

As founder and CEO of Embrace Change, Pong leads an elite all-BIPOC coaching team that has helped high-performing women of color break barriers and collectively negotiate over \$750K in salary increases. Her Anthem Award-winning Leadership Accelerator has propelled clients to fellowships, promotions and top graduate programs.

Her book, *Don't Stay in Your Lane: The Career Change Guide for Women of Color*, has solidified her reputation as a leading expert on career advancement, negotiation and thought leadership.

## **HUMERA QAZI '93, MBA**

Humera Qazi is a managing director at Morgan Stanley. She leads Client Service and Reporting for Wealth Management Operations and is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to support wealth management advisors and clients.

Previously, she was a managing director at KPMG's management consulting practice, where she built a career advocating for diversity and leadership development in financial services.

Qazi co-chairs Morgan Stanley's Women's Business Alliance, the firm's largest employee network. She previously co-led Americas D&I for Morgan Stanley Operations and served as co-chair of KPMG's Network of Women for Long Island, where she launched the ATHENA Awards.

She serves on the Adelphi University board of trustees, where she chairs the Audit Committee, and has held leadership roles with Miracle Corners of the World, empowering youth leadership globally.

## **IRENE QUARSHIE '98**

Irene Quarshie is the senior vice president of global supply chain and logistics at Target Corporation. She oversees more than 65 supply chain facilities that ensure seamless operations. She also leads network strategy, operational planning and process engineering while managing Target's multibillion dollar recommerce and unsaleables business.

Previously, Quarshie was senior vice president of indirect, reverse, and third-party supply chain functions, overseeing inventory, transportation and logistics of e-commerce returns. She has also held key leadership roles in product safety, enterprise risk management and corporate responsibility.

Before joining Target, Quarshie spent five years in strategy and management consulting at Booz Allen Hamilton. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Adelphi University and a master's degree in public policy from American University.



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES | A-Z

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## **GOD-IS RIVERA**

God-is Rivera is a marketing and strategy expert known for driving inclusive, culturally resonant campaigns for global brands. She served as a marketing executive at Twitter for more than four years, ensuring the platform's campaigns reflected diverse and connected audiences. She later became VP of Inclusive Marketing at The Walt Disney Company and Chief Content Officer at Essence Ventures.

Earlier in her career, Rivera held leadership roles at VMLY&R, iCrossing and T3, specializing in channel strategy and inclusion-focused marketing. In 2024, she launched God-is Rivera Consulting, LLC, where she advises top global brands on marketing, strategy and inclusivity.

She has been recognized by *Ad Age* (Women to Watch), *Adweek* (Disruptor), *BET* (Top 100 Most Innovative Executives) and *Fortune* (40 Under 40). She was inducted into the American Advertising Federation's Hall of Achievement (2023) and honored with a Bronx Walk of Fame induction for excellence in marketing.

A highly sought-after keynote speaker, Ms. Rivera continues to influence the marketing landscape through thought leadership and executive consulting.

## **MARC S. STRACHAN '81**

Marc S. Strachan is a marketing and advertising industry leader with more than 35 years of experience spanning music, film and brand strategy. He is the founder and head coach of Coach Marc Consulting and has held executive leadership roles at ADGILE Media Group, Publicis-Sapient, and Diageo North America.

Strachan was a founding partner of Vigilante, an urban-based marketing firm launched with Leo Burnett, and co-founded the S/R Communications Alliance, a multicultural advertising holding company. He has served on numerous boards, including the Association of National Advertisers (ANA), the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and ADCOLOR, where he is chair emeritus.

A proud Adelphi University alumnus, he currently serves as chair of the board of trustees.

## **JASMINE TRAVERS '09, PHD**

Dr. Jasmine L. Travers is an assistant professor at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and a leading nurse-scientist focused on transforming long-term care and aging policy. Her research examines nursing home quality, long-term services and supports (LTSS), and workforce challenges, shaping national conversations on elder care.

Dr. Travers was a member of the National Academies' Committee on Nursing Home Quality, where she contributed to bold recommendations that led to proposed minimum staffing standards. She also worked with AARP's LTSS State Scorecard to address equity in long-term care.

Her Congressional testimonies on COVID-19's impact and nursing home workforce issues have influenced federal and state policy changes. Committed to improving elder care and strengthening workforce conditions, Dr. Travers continues to be a driving force in healthcare reform.

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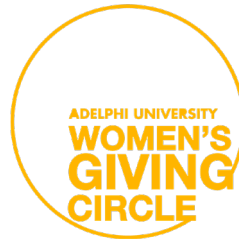


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