MWM-Ei Mentor Program

Million Women Mentors Entrepreneurship Initiative Mentor Program’s goal is to strengthen women-owned businesses or Women Business Enterprises (WBE) whose organizations provide goods or services related to science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Wells Fargo sponsors this effort.

MWM-EI Benefits

- A mentor relationship for growth and sustainment of your business.
- A meeting once a month for 12 months.
- Assigned a Financial Mentor from Wells Fargo.
- Receive feedback on business development.
- Contact information and Bios of all Mentors and Mentees.
- Access to resources (from Wells Fargo, STEMconnector & Mentor’s Business).
- Profiles on website (www.millionwomenmentors.com/mwm-ei).
- Access to up-to-date knowledge, expertise, and best practices.
- Assess your business S.W.O. T. and create a Strategic Plan for 2019.
- Education sessions & Networking opportunities.
- Access to a Community of Professional Women & Entrepreneurs.
- Attend Enterprising Women Conference (March 2019, Ft Lauderdale, FL).
- Attend Million Women Mentor Conference (October 2019, Washington, DC).
Mentor

Deepti Malhotra
CEO, VMD Corp

Deepti Malhotra co-founded VMD Corp in 2002 and today serves as its Chief Executive Officer. For more than a dozen years, the firm has provided superior homeland security, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure and agile engineering services to its customers.

Under Malhotra’s leadership, VMD has grown to over $40M in revenue, with a staff of 400, serving customers in six locations across the United States. It counts the United States Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense and Department of State as its clients, among others, as well as numerous municipal airport authorities around the country.

As an organization, VMD is intently and intensely focused on the missions and visions of its customers. Underscoring and in many ways enabling that focus is Malhotra’s commitment to mentorship and professional development for VMD staff. Additionally, she and her team work hard to build and maintain an inclusive and supportive culture within the company.

Malhotra is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and holds a master’s in public health from the University of Texas School of Public Health. She has been named one of 50 Most Influential Minorities in Business and VMD has been on the Inc 5000 list of fastest growing companies.

Mentee

Estefania Arregui
CEO, Abaco Strategy

Estefania Arregui is the co-founder, President and CEO of Abaco Strategy, LLC. (Abaco), a HUBZone and Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Business (EDWOSB) based in the heart of Leesburg, VA. Estefania is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of company operations, as well as the design, development, and implementation of strategic plans and related service offerings. In addition, Estefania leads the effort to define and socialize Abaco’s values, mission, vision, growth strategy, and corporate culture based on the core values of transparency, empowerment, collaboration, integrity, agility, and positive change in our communities.

Estefania is passionate about agile transformation for her customers, driving efficiency, responsiveness, and productivity, ultimately saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Estefania is an accomplished motivator, problem-solver, and visionary that utilizes her 20+ years of experience supporting commercial and federal customers in the areas of Management Consulting, IT Support Services, Product and Software Development, Quality Management (CMMI, ISO, ITIL), Portfolio, Program, and Project Management (Agile SCRUM, Kanban, PMBOK®).

Previously, Estefania served various IT management and consulting roles supporting federal customers in the planning, development, and oversight of IT Investments throughout the different phases and control gates in their System Development Life Cycle (SDLC). Some of her customers include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Department of Treasury (OCC, FMS, BPD, DMS, IRS, Fiscal Service), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the U.S. House of Representatives (HoR), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of Education (DoED), as well as quasi government institutions, such as the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) System.

Estefania earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Organizational Management and Information Systems from George Mason University. Estefania is a Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified SCRUM Master (CSM), Certified Agile Leader (CAL), and certified ITIL v3 professional.

When not working, Estefania enjoys spending time with her family, reading, travelling, and cooking.
**Mentor**

Alexandra Jung  
Investor & Global Business Leader

Alexandra Jung is an investor and a global business leader and with over 24 years in the investment management and financial services sector, 12 of which were based on London. In addition to her deep global financial markets experience, she has extensive board and committee experience with expertise in driving strategic change, business development, M&A, financing and restructuring across a diverse set of sectors internationally.

Ms. Jung is currently a Partner and Head of European Investments at Oak Hill Advisors, L.P. Oak Hill Advisors is a global alternative asset management firm with approximately $32 billion of AUM specializing in leveraged loans, high-yield bonds, distressed, structured products, and private equity investments in the North American and European markets.

Since 2009, Ms. Jung has led the build out of the European business of Oak Hill Advisors driving a four-fold growth in AUM and generating best in class returns. As a lead investor, she has served on a series of corporate and advisory boards and stakeholder committees where she has been deeply involved in strategy and lead the negotiation and execution of restructuring, refinancing, M&A and equity public offering transactions across a broad set of industries including homebuilding, industrial, power, consumer, retail and services. Ms. Jung serves as Chairman on three European Oak Hill boards and management committees as well as serving on the Global Investment Strategy Committee, various fund Investment Committees and the firm’s Valuation Committee. She currently serves on the Board of NVR Inc. (NYSE:NVR).

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Jung managed investments in credit, distressed debt and equity at Goldman, Sachs & Co. as one of the founding members of the European Special Situations Group, and later as a Managing Director at Greywolf Capital. Ms. Jung started her career at Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin in the Financial Restructuring Group.

In 2016 Ms. Jung was the recipient of the 100 Women in Hedge Funds European Leadership Award. In 2017, she was recognized as one of 50 Leading Women in Hedge Funds by The Hedge Fund Journal in association with Ernst & Young. She is a member of Women Corporate Directors Foundation, serves on the advisory board of the Kellogg Finance Network, and is a selected member of the Committee of 200. She earned a Master of Management from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and a B.A., cum laude, from Bucknell University.

**Mentee**

Zawadi Bryant  
CEO, Nightlight Pediatric Urgent Care

Zawadi Bryant is the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Nightlight Pediatric Urgent Care and has over 20 years of leadership, operations, technology, marketing and strategy experience. Zawadi is a highly sought-after speaker on leadership and team development and is featured in multiple podcasts including Business Schooled hosted by Alexis Ohanian, Small Giants, Forbesbooks Radio and The Best Team Wins.

Zawadi’s passion is to develop leaders to reach their maximum potential and make an enduring impact on other’s lives. Nightlight has a network of eight urgent care clinics in the Greater Houston area and recently launched a teledmedicine option for virtual visits with providers. Nightlight is open evenings, weekends and holidays and treats children ages 0 to 21.

Nightlight has been honored by Ernst and Young, Forbes and Inc Magazines as well as the Houston Business Journal, Small Business Administration, Better Business Bureau, US Chamber of Commerce, Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce, Texas Black Expo and Lone Star College. Bryant received her B.S. and MEng in Operations Research & Industrial Engineering and an MBA in Operations Management from Cornell University. She is an alum of the Goldman Sachs 10K Small Business program, a board member of Houston Business Development Inc and the Texas Black Expo.
Mentor
Roz L. Alford
Founder, ASAP Solutions Group

Roz L. Alford received a Bachelor of Science from the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Institute in Frankfurt, Germany and the University of Chicago. In 1989, Roz founded ASAP Solutions Group, LLC, an IT Professional Services company servicing fortune 100 companies. Roz sold her company and retired in 2015.

In March 2011, Roz was appointed to the National Women’s Business Council for a three-year term. The NWBC is a bi-partisan federal advisory council created to serve as an independent source of advice and policy recommendations to the President, Congress and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners.

In addition to her multiple business memberships, Roz is very community minded and promotes philanthropic endeavors.

She has served as Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director, Executive Committee Member and Board Director of the following organizations: Committee of 200, Women Presidents Organization, Women Impacting Public Policy

She is a current member and supports the following organizations:

Committee of 200, Women Presidents Organization, Women Impacting Public Policy, American Red Cross, United Way, The Partnership Against Domestic Violence, WBENC, Junior Achievement.

Mentee
Barbara Cobas
Co-Creator, Hola Ink

With a flight attendant mother and travel agent father, Barbara was almost literally born into the travel industry. After graduating Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI) with a degree in Spanish and Business, she literally embarked on the journey of a lifetime when she began working on a cruise ship with Royal Caribbean International in 2003. She spent 2 years shipboard as Cruise Staff and an Assistant Cruise Director, then was asked to join the company in their Miami headquarters. In Miami, Barbara worked 7 years in Hotel Operations working with everyone from our Cruise Directors, Hotel Directors and an Onboard Revenue team.

Then in 2012, Barbara went back to her Travel Agent roots by joining the Sales Organization at Royal where she oversaw their Inside Sales team (30), Onboard Cruise Sales team (100), Sales Training (4), Trade Marketing & Strategy (10) and Special Events team (5). During that time, she oversaw all global Ship Launches, Sales Meetings, Conferences and even Board Meetings. In 2013, she was nominated as Travel Weekly’s Rising Stars under 30 in the Cruise Industry. Then as her global travel intensified and her girl/boy twins turned 2 years old, her heart changed, and she decided to take make a huge career change and leave Royal Caribbean after 13 years to work fulltime growing her husband’s successful Branding company – C Photodesign Inc.

In 2017, Hola Ink was born. Working with her husband and their growing team they are in a 10k sq ft fun and creative warehouse space in Miami. They specialize in graphic design, printing, branding and events for the Cruise and Hospitality industries. They are doing everything from graphic design to concept creation and event management to wrapping cars on private islands! They have seen their business double year over year thanks to an intense focus on creating a family of inspiring individuals who believe fully in what Hola Ink is doing. Hard work, passion, creativity and fun are the foundation to what they are building in Miami. In her spare time, she serves on the board of The Mom Economy, volunteers her time at Vous Church as a Women’s Group Leader and was formerly a Board Member and Buddy pair for many years with Best Buddies South Florida. She is passionate about supporting women through mentoring and changing the workplace for mothers to allow flexibility.
**Mentor**

**Gloria Bohan**  
Founder, Omega World Travel

Gloria Bohan founded Omega World Travel in 1972 and has transformed it into a global travel management company with annual sales revenues over $1 billion. Omega is the largest woman-owned and operated travel management company. Gloria has built an organizational reputation for expertise, quality service, and innovative technology in the corporate, government, meetings, cruise, and leisure markets. As a result, Gloria has been frequently recognized for her work.

Her list of accolades also includes the Washington Business Hall of Fame, Executive Lifetime Achievement Award during the Executive Women’s Forum at TravelCom, American Society of Travel Agents’ Travel Agent of the Year Award, one of the 25 Most Influential Leaders in the Travel Industry by Tour and Travel News, one of the Most Powerful Women in Washington by Washingtonian Magazine, and the Lifetime Achievement Award and Doctor of Law from Marymount Manhattan College. Gloria serves as a board member for multiple organizations, including the World Affairs Council. She is a member of The Zenith Group and SmartCEO and is active in various civic groups, and a sponsor of Junior Achievement.

Gloria is a pioneer in Government travel and is a co-founder of Space Adventures, which sent the first tourists into space. Cruise.com and TravTech were started in 1997; today, Cruise.com is one of the internet’s largest online cruise agencies and TravTech is a leader in online technology services. Omega’s MICE division is recognized for its expertise on meetings, incentives, conference planning, and events. Gloria, a former teacher, decided to change careers after honeymoon and anniversary cruises aboard the QE2. She is grateful for a career that rewards her for innovation and creativity and believes in fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. “Thinking like an entrepreneur, and being one, has been the high point of my life.” The Dan and Gloria Bohan Foundation fosters entrepreneurship within travel and other industries. ASTA Entrepreneur of the Year program is funded by the Foundation. Omega is celebrating their 46th anniversary and plans to keep counting!

**Mentee**

**Sherrell Dorsey**  
Founder & CEO, BLKTECH

Sherrell Dorsey Sherrell Dorsey is a data journalist, inclusive ecosystem strategist, speaker, and founder of BLKTECH Interactive—Charlotte's first inclusive startup hub advancing Black technologists and entrepreneurs.

She is also the founder of daily tech newsletter, ThePLUG—an investigative Black tech news publication covering the Black innovation economy. Her work has been featured in Fast Company, City Lab, The Root, VICE, Black Enterprise, The Charlotte Observer, Inc., Bloomberg, and other notable publications.

As a speaker, moderator, and journalist, Sherrell has shared stages with notable business leaders including Steve Case, founder of AOL, and Daymond John of ABC’s SharkTank among others. She has also presented at SXSW, Amazon, and the Brookings Institution. She has been a contributing reporter to Fast Company, The Root, Charlotte Observer, The Atlantic’s City Lab, and more.

Her past work includes serving as a marketing manager for Uber where she established the first UberMENTOR campaign in Charlotte connecting female executives with millennials. Sherrell also served as a contractor with Google Fiber helping to activate free high-speed internet in public housing complexes.

Sherrell holds a Master’s in Data Journalism from Columbia University and a Bachelor’s in International Trade and Marketing from the Fashion Institute of Technology.
Maryland.

Dr. Deleveaux originates from the Bahamas, loves international travel and lives in Glenn Dale Maryland.

background:
- Noted speaker and thought leader on strategic approaches to address the national STEM pipeline challenge. Passionate about mentoring, educating and creating opportunities for youth, women and minorities: [https://hbr.org/2018/04/6-things-successful-women-in-stem-have-in-common](https://hbr.org/2018/04/6-things-successful-women-in-stem-have-in-common); Invited Speaker: 2018 Society of Women Engineers National Conference - Tech Talk on Research and Development Advanced Projects; Center for Talent Innovation Panelist on Successful Women in STEM; 2017 Georgetown University-Provocative Questions at the intersection of Technology, Law and Social Justice
- Community Servant and Leader: 2019 Black Engineer of the Year Conference Selection Committee; Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital STEM Strategy Group; Founding member, Penn State Graduate School Alumni Board & Fellowship committee Chair; Senior Advisor Booz Allen African American Forum; Awardee for community impact, STEM Girls 4 Social Good Program (Booz Allen & Girls Inc); Penn State Advisory Board for Women in the Science and Engineering; Advisor Penn State College of Engineering Industrial Partnership for Action; USA Science and Engineering Festival Nifty Fifty national speaker
- Former Assistant Professor of Systems Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University and Morgan State University; Led research programs for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Motivated self-starter and entrepreneur; co-founded and led a management consultancy - creating innovative partnerships and business models to expand markets and increase growth.
- Earned achievement awards and sustained recognition; receiving the 2010 Black Engineer of the year Career Achievement and DHS Under Secretary awards in 2011 & 2014 for excellent service
- Ph.D. in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, Pennsylvania State University; S.M. in Engineering Science, Harvard University; B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Deleveaux is an accomplished executive who brings over 25 years of experience as a change agent for government, academic institutions and commercial organizations. As a leader in Booz Allen’s Science and Technology (S&T) practice, she drives growth and creates value for research and development clients - advising executives on effective strategies to successfully launch new products and service offerings, improve operational efficiencies, navigate organizational transformations and increase technology transfer and commercialization. She is responsible for P&L, account strategy, client relationships management and external partnerships. She works across the Firm to deliver technology, engineering, science, cyber, digital and analytics solutions that address the toughest challenges. Booz Allen is a leading $5.8B firm, providing management consulting, technology and engineering services to commercial, international clients and the US government.

Mentor
Velma Deleveaux, Ph.D.
STEM Leader, Booz Allen

Mentee
Annette Johnson
President/CEO, CMT Services

Annette Johnson is a Visionary who combines her unique ‘real world’ experience with strategic process development to turn her visions into tangible business solutions. Her ability to see challenges and convert them into true and sustainable opportunities for an organization is unsurpassed. She’s a passionate leader who empowers individuals and her team to deliver their maximum. She is recognized and respected as an industry expert in the critical area of Strategic Cost and Price Proposal Development and Acquisition.

Ms. Johnson is the President and CEO of CMT Services, Inc. (CMT) an SBA-certified HUBZone Woman-Owned Small Business located in Hyattsville, Maryland. CMT is a Business Services Solution Provider with service offerings in: Cost and Price Proposal Development/Acquisitions Support, Education and Training, Health Services, Environmental and Engineering Services, Human Capital and Information Technology to Federal, State and local Governments and Commercial customers. Established in 2002 to provide pricing strategy and related services to government contractors and consulting companies. As President and CEO, Ms. Johnson establishes all strategic relationships with CMT clients and partners, as well as procuring new business opportunities for CMT.

Previously as the Director of Pricing for Lockheed Martin Information Technology, she was responsible for establishing corporate estimating and pricing policies, setting pricing strategies, establishing price to win objectives, negotiating subcontractor pricing, developing price proposals for major government procurements and leading pricing audits with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA). Additionally, she was responsible for managing the Pricing Department and building a multi-disciplined team of pricing analysts and proposal specialists.

Prior to Lockheed Martin, Ms. Johnson served as Director of Pricing for OAO Corporation, a privately held information technology and aerospace engineering company providing $350 million annually in services to the Department of Defense (DOD) and Civilian government agencies. In her role, she led the company’s price proposal development activities for all major proposals, set pricing strategies, managed compliance with government procurement requirements and led price proposal audits with DCAA.

Ms. Johnson has earned countless accolades from Industry, Trade Publications, Government and influential Business Associations for her leadership within the small business community and her successes as an entrepreneur.
Mentor
Lisa Feierstein
President, Active Healthcare

Lisa Feierstein, RN, BSN, MBA is President and co-founder of Active Healthcare which is an award-winning industry leader in the care of patients with asthma and diabetes since 1990. Lisa has been serving the medical community for more than 40 years in numerous clinical, educational and outreach roles.

Lisa is passionate about empowering people to become informed participants in their own healthcare and to engage in a wellness lifestyle, which she feels includes the four hallmarks of health: diet, exercise, sleep and spirituality!

She has been honored by numerous organizations including National Association of Women Business Owners – Greater Raleigh Chapter, Triangle Business Journal, Business Leader magazine, Enterprising Women magazine, Raleigh Jewish Federation, and her alma mater, Virginia Commonwealth School of Nursing.

Lisa wakes up each day with the intention to place a vibrant imprint on everything she does with great love and meaning.

Mentee
Tahjar Roamartinez
CEO, Cyber Warfighters Group

Tahjar Roamartinez served the U.S. Army with distinction. She retired as an Army Signal (Communication) Officer. With her passion, experience, and training, Tahjar achieves proven results in innovative and robust cybersecurity solutions. As an Army Officer, Tahjar designed and implemented enterprise email services, reporting tools, policies, processes for the Department of the Army that military personnel continue to benefit from today.

As a cybersecurity consultant, her innovative solutions consistently streamline processes; increase operational effectiveness in commercial, Department of Army, and the State of Texas. Her passion for the cybersecurity industry drove her to start the Cyber Warfighters Group, a cybersecurity consulting firm. The Group’s goal is to provide Subject Matter Expert rapid deployment teams to quickly address cybersecurity incidents and support the Information Security industry, federal, and state cybersecurity requirements.

Tahjar’s commitment to service extends beyond her military service. She has actively launched or supported several nonprofit organizations and community-based initiatives in Texas and internationally.

She is an avid advocate for veterans and women business owners.

Tahjar earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, and a Master’s in Business Administration from Texas A & M University Central Texas.
Mentor  
Ronnette Smith  
CEO, RVS Group

Ronnette Smith, President and CEO of RSV Group, is corporate professional well established with a proven track record of executing corporate affairs stakeholder strategic outreach for a Fortune 1 corporation where she had where she had responsibility for a national outreach and philanthropic budget close to $2M. She has the rare combination of corporate positioning, grassroots strategic collaborative planning and retail management operations. She also has proven expertise global facility management for customer service centers. As a retail operator, Ronnette had responsibility for $75M dollar operations for Walmart’ wholesale facility – Sam’s Club in some of the company’s most competitive regions.

As an expert in diversity and inclusion initiatives, her collaborative expertise helped strengthen Walmart’s relationship with tribal nations and urban communities, which led to retail, market entry. In 2011, Ronnette led Walmart’s Global Women’s Empowerment Sourcing Initiative internal team to pilot a baseline system, direct third-party partnerships to verify spend data with diverse suppliers. This effort also helped identify new potential partnerships with women owned businesses exceeding the company’s $20B sourcing commitment. With outreach to the aging communities, Ronnette influenced a $20K collaborative partnership grant between AARP and Walmart Foundations to support women 40 and over in workforce development training.

She led the retailer’s strategic outreach to attract emerging leaders cross sector and cultural barriers. These partnerships contributed partnerships and growth in more than 5 cities. Ronnette is certified in Breakthrough Action Leadership Principles consultative work.

Early in her career, working for one of the world’s top communications companies Ronnette was able established herself as a team builder with ability to inspire and develop at all levels of organizations. Over the course of her career, Ronnette has held member and board affiliations with national and local organizations spanning chamber of commerce to advocacy for children and people with disabilities.

Ronnette focus is always on 3 things: inspiring people, adapting to or eliminating the impact of disruptions, and exceeding goals. She holds a Masters in the Science in Ethical Leadership, and a bachelor’s degree in Communications with a minor in Public Relations. Recently, Ronnette published her 1st book, Autumn: The Mantle Lifted which is a spiritual and biblical inspired poetry & prose. It is available via www.themantlelifted.com, Amazon, and www.barnesandnoble.com. She is a native of Omaha Nebraska, and currently she resides in Hiram, GA.

Mentee  
Nancy Garcia  
CEO, Noble Machine, LLC

Nancy A. Garcia is an entrepreneur with significant expertise in management, business development, and business administration. Ms. Garcia has served as the CEO and Co-Founder of Noble Machine, LLC for nearly two decades. Noble Machine provides manufacturing services in the machining field for the fast-paced and highly demanding oil, petroleum, electrical, mining, and electronics industries.

In 2010, Ms. Garcia founded Dynasty Management, Inc., which manages her real estate investments portfolio. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, Ms. Garcia started her career in the property management industry in 1995 and served as an Assistant Property Manager for high-rise class A office buildings consisting of over 500,000 square feet with Tishman Speyer Properties and Crescent Real Estate Equities from January 2001 to June 2004.

Ms. Garcia is a relationship-driven and proven Latina entrepreneur, who believes in developing and growing businesses with strong relationships, customers and earning loyalty from her employees. In conjunction, she is committed to continuous personal and professional growth, as demonstrated by her recent completion of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program.

Ms. Garcia prides herself in leading by example, holding herself and her team members to the highest level of ethics and determination. Her company’s proven success & revenue growth outpaces the national average over & over. The legacy she is creating is for her family, her team & anybody she can impact.

Ms. Garcia holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management; and currently pursuing a Certificate of Accountancy from the University of Houston.

Ms. Garcia has been married for almost 30 years; and she has been business partners with her husband for nearly 20 of those years. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her husband, son and daughter, appreciates being out in nature, and enjoys traveling to new places.

Ms. Garcia is a member of the following groups: IC 10K Genius, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, Symmetry7-Women Leading Legendary Lives, & Anthony Robbins Foundation for the Global Youth Leadership Summit.
Mentor

Monica Smiley
Editor, Enterprising Women

Monica Smiley is the editor and publisher of Enterprising Women, a national and now global magazine she and her team launched in May 2000 to provide a strong voice for women entrepreneurs. Enterprising Women provides a friendly meeting place where women business owners share best practices and inspire one another to grow their businesses to the next level. The magazine is available in print and digital editions and is supplemented by a monthly e-zine available through the publication’s website at www.enterprisingwomen.com. The Enterprising Women community extends to more than a million women entrepreneurs in 185 countries around the globe. Smiley also serves as president of the Enterprising Women Foundation, a nonprofit she founded in 2010 to encourage philanthropy among women entrepreneurs and support initiatives to strengthen women’s entrepreneurship in the U.S. and globally.

The annual Enterprising Women of the Year Awards, now in its 16th year, honors the top 100 women entrepreneurs from around the globe at a two-day event held each spring. Monica serves on the Board of Directors for IEEW and has been a mentor in the program for the past nine years. An award-winning journalist, Smiley has more than 35 years of magazine publishing experience and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the first Adrienne Hall Award presented to the Women Presidents’ Organization in recognition of her work to build bridges and alliances within the women’s business community, and the President’s Award from Women Impacting Public Policy. She received the 2013 Gold Stevie Award for “Women Helping Women” and The International Alliance for Women’s “World of Difference 100 Award.” Folio magazine named Monica to its 2015 list of “Top Women in Media.”

In 2015, she was recognized by STEMConnector.org and the Million Women Mentors Program for her work with the Enterprising Women Foundation’s National Mentorship Initiative to inspire the next generation of Young Enterprising Women. She received the 2016 ATHENA National Leadership Award and the 2017 National NAWBO Gillian Rudd Business Leadership Award. She has been a speaker and a delegate at the Global Summit of Women in Morocco, Germany, China, Chile, Turkey, Greece and France. She has served on the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) National Advisory Council and the Board of Governors for the Athena PowerLink program in Raleigh, North Carolina. Monica resides in Cary, North Carolina and is the mother of two sons, stepmom to three adult children, and has six grandchildren.

Mentee

Donna Hager
CEO, Macan Deve Engineers, DPC

Donna (Potorti) Hager is a registered NY State Professional Engineer and has earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Engineering from Manhattan College. Donna has worked as a Design Engineer, Project Manager, Risk Manager, and Construction Manager, with focus on energy, water, and wastewater treatment. At the height of her professional career, after 25 years of dedicated work in NY as an Engineering Consultant, Donna decided to give up a very satisfying corporate position to try something bold. Donna started Macan Deve Engineers, DPC, a woman-owned business venture to help drive the minority and women-owned business enterprise (MWBE) initiative, enhance economic development in NY, and become a more compelling role-model for girls interested in STEM careers. As a mother of young daughters, Donna made a tough decision to continue her career that took her 25 years to establish, which was only possible with the help from female trailblazers before her who forged new paths in engineering and changed STEM. Donna made a choice to ‘pay-forward’ all the past efforts others made that led to her success and hopes to inspire other women who have aspirations of becoming CEOs in the STEM field.

Donna’s professional experience consists of alternative project delivery methods, including design-build, engineer-procure-construct and construction management at-risk. Donna has experience in mechanical/electrical/plumbing engineering design, energy efficiency, co-generation, drinking water, wastewater, new construction, building system upgrades, security enhancements, environmental planning, solid waste, industrial waste, and hazardous waste, for any type of public (and private) facility, hotel, dormitory, or entertainment establishment. Donna is very active in professional societies, has served on the NY Water Environment Association Program and Public Outreach committees for over 20 years, and is a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. As an advisory board member of the Manhattan College Mentoring Program, Donna enjoys working with Manhattan College engineering students to help them identify and take advantage of the many career and professional development opportunities available within the engineering and construction industry. She describes how her engineering and management career is so diverse and rewarding through office visits, site visits and work shadowing.

Macan Deve Engineers, DPC (MDE) is a certified woman-owned engineering and construction management company, which provides professional services for: Building Condition Assessments, Commissioning, Coastal Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, Combined Heat and Power Plants, Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP) Engineering, and Water/Wastewater. MDE has offices in Manhattan and Westchester County, NY.
Lisa Nichols is one of the world’s most-requested motivational speakers, as well as media personality and corporate CEO whose global platform has reached and served nearly 30 million people. From a struggling single mom on public assistance to a millionaire entrepreneur, Lisa’s courage and determination has inspired fans worldwide and helped countless audiences break through, to discover their own untapped talents and infinite potential.

As Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Motivating the Masses, Inc. – one of the country’s only publicly traded personal and business development training companies – Lisa has helped develop workshops and programs that have transformed the lives of men and women and altered the trajectory of businesses throughout the country and across the world.

Lisa is also a best-selling author of six books, and her 7th book ABUNDANCE NOW, published by HarperCollins. In ABUNDANCE NOW, Lisa continues her journey with her fans, providing a clear and practical blueprint for personal success, drawn directly from the life experiences of its beloved author. ABUNDANCE NOW is the follow-up to Lisa’s New York Times bestseller, NO MATTER WHAT.

Lisa’s extraordinary story of transforming her own life from public assistance for her family to leading a multi-million-dollar enterprise is the inspiration behind her bold mission to teach others that it is possible to do the same. Today, fans worldwide revere Lisa for her mastery of teaching people how to accomplish unfathomable goals and tap their limitless potential.

A noted media personality who has appeared on Oprah, The Today Show, the Steve Harvey Show, and Extra – just to name a few, is also celebrated for the impact she has on the lives of teens. Through Lisa’s non-profit foundation Motivating the Teen Spirit, she has touched the lives of 211,650 teens, prevented over 3,800 teen suicides, supported 2,500 dropouts in returning to school, and has helped thousands reunite with families.

Among the prestigious awards and honors bestowed upon Lisa for her extensive work are the Humanitarian Award from the country of South Africa, The Ambassador Award, and the LEGO Foundation’s Heart of Learning Award. The City of Henderson, Nevada named November 20th as Motivating the Teen Spirit Day; and the City of Houston, Texas named May 9th as Lisa Nichols Day for her dedication to service, philanthropy and healing.

Lisa lives, plays and works in the greater San Diego, California area and on stages around the world, working alongside her world-class team committed to Motivating the Masses.

Theresa Harrison has established herself as an entrepreneur, speaker, mentor, soon-to-be author, and committed community servant.

Theresa is a focused and methodical visionary. She has a rich and varied background in private sector business, government contracting, and engineering. From 1996 to 2008, she was Managing Partner and President of Athenyx, LLC, #7 on the Greater Washington Technology Fast50 list. Athenyx was acquired in 2008. Prior to founding Athenyx, Theresa was senior Vice President of Patuxent Technology Partners, LLC. She’s held numerous executive and leadership positions of increasing responsibility with numerous technology companies.

Theresa is currently the President of GEORGE STREET Services, Inc., (GEORGE STREET). As a trusted partner providing IT and Managed Services, Software Engineering, Program Management, Cyber Security and Workflow Automation to DoD customers, GEORGE STREET has been able to deliver solutions at the highest levels of national security. GEORGE STREET is headquartered in Maryland.

Theresa is engaged with many youth and community outreach initiatives such as:

- Board Member, R U Gonna Help Me?, assistance to those in need
- Board Member, Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc.
- Board member, Tough Waters, LLC.
- Board member, Hood College
- 1st VP, Frederick County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Public Service
- Day of Code seminars for children of Color

Theresa received her B.S. and M.B.A from Frostburg State University with a concentration in technical communications. She is a graduate of the charter class of the renowned Johns Hopkins University’s Carey Business School Leadership Development Program and has completed numerous technical, leadership and executive management programs.

Theresa, an avid sports fan, was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, the middle child of 11 children and the 1st girl. She and her husband, Roosevelt Harrison, reside in Walkersville, MD. They have two daughters and one granddaughter.
Mentor  
Leticia Velez  
CEO, Velez Global Enterprises

Leticia Vélez is a relationship driven & proven Latina Serial Entrepreneur, who believes in creating value for her Business Stakeholders & Community Partners. Her vision & goal is to be a strong advocate for Small & Minority Owned Businesses, a committed multiplier in creating other genius driven business people. Known by some to shake things up as a disruptor & cause a positive empowering interruption to a business world where innovation & think visionaries are hot commodities. Also known as a “community navigator” on social justice through economic & workforce development which are critical ingredients to the vision & strategies for the perfect win-win effect. As a Corporate National Speaker her message is relationships, economic development, empowerment, community, & legacy building with everyone at the table. During her business career, Ms. Vélez has created, led & managed the following companies with disruptive innovative solutions:

Vélez Global Enterprises  
Is an innovative company that brings impact & substance back to businesses through strategic & purpose-driven initiatives. The three pillars are: Revenue Growth, Access to Capital, & Amplifying the brands. Driven through passionate customer service, proven competitive strategies, & resources through affiliate alliances in Corporate & Government sectors. New diversity insights, passion, experience, access, & energy to client, companies & business processes. From Alumni Relations Strategies & Development, Nonprofit or Sponsorship resources, Corporate Affairs Consultant, to name a few of the services provided.

IC Genius-  
Game changing Advisory Board Membership based technology, strategies & partnerships. From Goldman Sachs Alums IC 10K Genius, Nonprofit/Social Enterprise, Small Businesses, Veterans, & Women Entrepreneurs-IC SB Genius, IC Warrior Genius, IC Social Genius, IC HER Genius for the women Entrepreneurs with 24/7 digital access & a library like no other. One of the fastest growing SB platforms, in some cases we pick up where a cohort leaves off after they conclude, but with more efficient access, as well as a 1-year membership supportive system with expert proven professional leaders.

IC Latinas (Inner Circle Latinas, Founder) & IC HER (Inner Circle Heroine Enforcing & Rising)-Amplifying women across the United States for disruptive professional “access” to the best partnerships, alliances, diversity & inclusion educational trainings, empowering warrior solutions that will have proven success metrics. Our vision & goal is sustainable & economic opportunities. Building up communities & proud legacies for duplicatable processes with a digital outreach to the masses. Where an event is not enough, & the future is 24/7 access for resources to grow your career & trajectory with successes & support.

Mentee  
Joelsette Hernandez-Jones  
CEO, Pharos Partners

Joelsette Hernandez-Jones is the CEO and Founder of Pharos Partners, a WBE- and MBE-Certified technology and engineering recruitment firm launched in 2014.

Joelsette is on a mission to make a positive impact in her community while growing Pharos Partners. She is a current HEMP (Helzberg Entrepreneurship Mentorship Program) mentee and is strongly motivated to reciprocate the investment her mentors have made into her and her company by making an impact on her local and global community.

From the very start of her corporate career, Joelsette has had an entrepreneurial focus. She built a career managing IT and engineering projects, portfolios, and teams for a diverse set of companies, from IBM and Cerner to Waddell & Reed, Sprint, and American Century Investments. She has led more than 10 engineering teams nationwide and is known for her unique ability to both execute on details and drive multimillion-dollar strategic projects to successful completion. This is all while keeping her teams motivated, inspired and engaged. She is a rare talent in her execution, drive and commitment.

Joelsette is also extremely dedicated and committed to her community, especially in her support for women in STEM and women in the Latina community. Joelsette is an activist for the WiSTEMM initiative, and a nonprofit board member for the following organizations: Mainstream Coalition, Kansas City Startup Foundation, Westside Housing Organization, Heartland Chamber Music, 25 Under 25, Johnson County Community College Carlsen Center, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Joelsette is a third generation Kansas Citian, a mother to two sons and two daughters as well as Java, her miniature schnauzer, and Jovi, her Schnoodle. She enjoys spending time with her friends and working towards her family goal to travel to all 50 state capitals with her children. She is also nurturing a new passion as a self-taught artist, creating beautiful portraits of Frida Kahlo.
Mentor
Andrea Keating
Founder, Crews Control

Andrea Keating founded the nation’s first film-and-video-crew staffing agency, Crews Control, in 1988. Since then, the company has become the industry leader in providing location video production crews and related creative services to the corporate media market.

With 250 of the global Fortune 500 companies as clients, and more than 2,000 video crews on its roster, Keating's focus today is the same one that she launched the business with 30 years ago: To provide each and every customer with the best creative team for their project as well as the very best customer experience. A serial entrepreneur with a passion for helping new companies grow and develop, she has helped launch and sell several businesses.

In 2004, Keating co-founded the media staffing and production management firm, TeamPeople. The company supports more than 400 clients in the US and UK. It provides full-time, on-site managed staff and Day Hire project-based creative and technical crews.

In 2011, she became an investor and Board Member of Scenios, which provides powerful cloud-based software to help manage film and television productions more effectively, and more profitably.

For the past 20 years, Keating has been an active member of Entrepreneurs’ Organization, the Young Presidents Organization, and World Presidents Organization where she is a regular forum moderator.

Since 2012 Keating has been a member of the Platinum 1 Group of the Women’s Presidents Organization (WPO). WPO is a nonprofit membership organization for women presidents of multimillion-dollar companies. The members of the WPO take part in professionally facilitated peer advisory groups in order to bring the “genius out of the group” and accelerate the growth of their businesses.

Since 2012, Keating has been an active member of this invitation-only membership organization of the world’s most successful women entrepreneurs and corporate leaders. Its members represent more than 100 industries in the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, and Latin America, employ more than 2.5 million people, and earn more than $200 billion in annual revenue.

In 2012, Keating was invited to be on the Board of Advisors of the Dingman School for Entrepreneurship at her alma mater, the University of Maryland. She is active in its Pitch Dingman program, which helps budding entrepreneurs learn to build a business by practicing, receiving actionable feedback from experts, and learn ways to get funding.

Mentee
Carrie Jokeil
President, ChemTrack Alaska, Inc.

Carrie Jokiel is the President of ChemTrack Alaska, Inc, a small, 8(a) Alaskan-woman owned environmental and construction services business that has been in operation since 1973. She is also the Managing Member of ChemTrack/Cornerstone JV, LLC. ChemTrack/Cornerstone is a construction focused joint venture that is in the All Small Mentor Protégé Program (ASMPP) with the SBA.

Carrie attended the University of New Hampshire (UNH) on an ice hockey scholarship. During her time there she received a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, won a national championship and captained her team her junior and senior year.

After graduating she worked for NBC Sports in New York City and was hired to work the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Upon returning home to Anchorage, she worked at the local sports arena and finished her Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She then began working at ChemTrack and finished her Masters of Science in Project Management (MSPM), also from UAA.

Carrie is active on the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Board of Directors, the Alaska State Hockey Association (ASHA) Board and recently finished her six-year term with YWCA Alaska where she served as Board President for two years. She has recently been asked to be a mentor for the Women’s Power League of Alaska, a new nonprofit seeking to champion future and existing leaders in the 49th state through mentorship, professional development and community building. She is also a member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) as well as an Ambassador for Women’s Ice Hockey in the Fast and Female International Program. She was recently a recipient of the 2018 Enterprising Women of the Year Award for her company’s revenue category. In 2016, Carrie was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at the University of New Hampshire and in 2014 was named one of Alaska’s Top Forty Under 40.

Carrie was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, is still active in the hockey community by playing and coaching. She enjoys spending as much time as possible in Girdwood skiing, running and enjoying the mountain town lifestyle. Most importantly she is the proud mom of a nine-year-old little lady named Will, inspired by her incredibly strong German Oma, Wilhelmina.
Martha Montoya

With over 25 years of worldwide agricultural and supply chain experience, appointed to the California Board of Agriculture and Food, board member of the National Latino Food Industry, she has served on the advisory worldwide board of Women for Walmart and Executive Board of United States Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. Martha Montoya founded www.ag.tools a solution allowing farmers and food supply chain stakeholders make better decisions, increase profits, avoid waste and impact climate change. Martha also owns Viva Produce LLC shipping fruits to retailers across USA and Mexico, El Mundo Communications, largest and oldest newspaper in Washington state and Los Kitos/Los Toons a bilingual cartoon comic strip and edu-entertainment comic books across many industries. All her companies have worked with Fortune 500 corporations such as State Farm, NASA, Bank of America, Kraft, Walmart, Kroger, Sysco, Sodexho, Macy’s, Johnson & Johnson, to name a few.

Martha's career in the agricultural industry started while sourcing berries from the Americas to New Zealand, Australia and Thailand which provided her with the knowledge of the product from the source to delivery and ultimately becoming a leader in the industry, traveling while delivering projects beneficial for the supplier and customer on 4 continents. Dealing with humble and industrial farmers, government entities and sophisticated buyers in Europe, Russia and the United States, set up production lines of lettuce in Arizona and Mexico to the Netherlands, guided a peach crop from South Africa to England, worked on new Asparagus crops as well as Mangos from Peru for the USA or from India to England among many. Parallel work included social impact programs such as government finance programs for women berry farmers in Mexico; bank low interest credit program in Davis Food, Ag & Health Entrepreneurship.

A child to educators for working and rural families, Martha began her professional career as a teacher of Chemistry, Biology and English in her native Colombia. Besides Martha's formal education in Colombia she has done post graduate courses at University of Chicago, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, Stanford Entrepreneurial on Scalability and UC Davis Food, Ag & Health Entrepreneurship.

Purba Majumder

Under Majumder’s leadership, Cybervation has developed many innovative software platforms that were built without external investors but with extensive preparation and attention to detail. The latest product, BistroUX is a promising solution providing carry out ordering, gift cards, ecommerce, coupons, loyalty programs, reservations and much more.

Cybervation has been intensely focused on improving internal processes as well as developing necessary organizational skills to achieve higher standards. Cybervation is deeply committed to empowering girls and women for STEM careers through community-focused efforts and its non-profit organization, CoolTechGirls. In 2013, Majumder founded CoolTechGirls, a non-profit with a vision to expose school-age girls to a variety of academic and career options through hands-on activities and showcasing women role models.

Majumder worked in corporate America for over 15 years, including as a vice president at JPMorgan Chase and as a senior software professional with Sterling Commerce (now IBM).

Majumder and Cybervation have earned numerous awards and recognition for its business and philanthropic contributions: 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Ohio River Valley Women’s Business Council; 2016 Proclamation by the City of Dublin in Honor of National Entrepreneurship Week; the Smart 50 Award in 2016 and 2017, the Columbus Business First BizTech Minority Business Award in 2017; the BizTech Outstanding Woman in Technology Award in 2016; the Smart Business Progressive Organization award in 2016; the Philanthropic Leader Award by the Ohio Asian American Commerce Group in 2016, and the First Corporate Caring Award in 2015. Sunny 95 recognized her as one of its 20 Outstanding Women in 2014.

Currently, she is a member of the National Board of Directors for Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD) and the Enterprising Women Advisory Board. She received her master’s degree from the University of Toledo. She is the mother of two daughters and resides with her family in Dublin, Ohio.