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WOMEN AND GIRLS



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**51st Annual Hybrid  
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**“HEAR OUR VOICES:  
EQUALITY,  
RESILIENCY,  
ADVOCACY”**

**July 18 – 22, 2021**

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**LOUDOUN**

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**THE  
NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE CENTER®**



**BACKFLOW  
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## July 18, 2021 Sunday Day 1

12:00PM	<p><b>HOTEL CHECK IN BEGINS</b> Conference Registration Opens registration table located</p>	<p><b>ROOM</b> Pre-function area West building</p>
3:00PM - 5:00PM	<p><b>NACW Business Meeting</b> Executive leadership &amp; Board members ONLY</p>	<p><b>ROOM:</b> Belmont West building</p>
6:00PM-8:00PM	<p><b>DINNER</b></p>	<p><b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building</p>
7:00PM- 9:00PM	<p><b>WELCOME Reception</b> Hosted by  Loudoun County Commission Sponsored by Visit Loudoun</p>	<p><b>ROOM:</b> West Terrace and Pre-function area West building</p>

## July 19, 2021 Monday Day 2 "EQUALITY"

8:00 AM	<p><b>BREAKFAST</b></p>	<p><b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building</p>
9:00AM	<p><b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN</b> registration table located</p>	<p><b>ROOM</b> Pre-function area West building</p>
8:45AM-10:45AM	<p><b>NACW Business Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>ROOM:</b> Belmont West building</p>
9:15AM-10:00AM	<p>BR1: EQUALITY PANEL  Ashley Reynolds Marshall Solitaire Carroll</p>	<p><b>ROOM:</b> Grand ballroom West building</p>
10:00AM-11:00AM	<p><b>BR2 Women's Bureau</b>  Joan Harrigan Farrelly, Deputy Director</p>	<p><b>Room:</b> Grand ballroom West building</p>

## July 19, 2021 Monday Day 2 "EQUALITY" cont.

<b>11:00AM-12PM</b>	BR2 BENCHMARK STUDY Hartford County Commission , Maryland	<b>ROOM:</b> Grand ballroom West building
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building
<b>1:00PM- 2:15PM</b>	BR3 ERA  Carol Jenkins, President and CEO of the ERA Coalition Lisa Sales, ERA Advisory Council & Fairfax County Commission for Women Ellie Smeal, co-Founder of The Feminist Majority Foundation	<b>ROOM:</b> Grand ballroom West building
<b>2:15PM</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>2:30PM- 3:30PM</b>	BR4 HIGHER HEIGHTS  Glynda Carr, Founder Higher Heights Kimberly Peeler-Allen, Co-Founder	<b>ROOM:</b> Grand Ballroom West building
<b>3:30PM</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>3:45PM- 4:30PM</b>	BR5 NWHM  National Women's History Museum	<b>ROOM:</b> Grand Ballroom West building
<b>6:00PM-8:00PM</b>	<b>DINNER</b>	<b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building

## July 20, 2021 Tuesday Day 3 TEEN FORUM "RESILIENCY"

<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building
<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN</b> registration table located	<b>ROOM</b> Pre-function area West building

## July 20, 2021 Tuesday Day 3 TEEN FORUM "RESILIENCY"

8:45AM-10:45AM	<b>NACW Business Meeting</b>	<b>ROOM:</b> Belmont West building
9:15AM-10:30AM	<b>CR1 TEEN TALK</b> Alana Andrews Mahsa Riar Chantel Bethea	ROOM: Grand Ballroom West building
10:30AM	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:45AM-12PM	<b>CR2 HerStory: HerImpact</b> Denella Clark, Chair MCSW Kristina Bouweiri, President and CEO Bithiah Carter, NEBIP	ROOM: Potomac West building
10:45AM-12PM	<b>CR3 M.E.M.O</b>  Session discussion about Menses, Endometriosis, Menopause, Obstetrics  Bria Gadsden, M.S. „Founder “Love your Menses” Dr. Ebere Azumah, CoFounder “Love your Menses” Sylvia Wheatley Young, FemTruth Sindhoori Kalavacharla, FemTruth Youth Suhani Akhouri, FemTruth Youth	ROOM: Grand ballroom West building
12:00PM	<b>LUNCH</b>  GENERAL MEETING Jill Ashton, President NACW, E.D. MCSW	<b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building
1:00PM-2:15PM	<b>CR4 1ST AMENDMENT , 1ST VOTE</b>  <b>Melina Carnicelli / Speaker</b> <b>Karen King, E.D. Erie County Commission the Status of Women</b>  Explores civic engagement with high school girls. Teen girls are provided information on how and when to cast their first official voting ballot, and on the importance, in a representative democracy, of casting an informed vote in every election for which they are eligible. Through seminars and small group discussions with elected officials, the teens are encouraged to find their voice and consider public office opportunities. The model is an interactive outside the classroom enrichment program for high schoolers to engage in the US political process by gaining knowledge and practicing skills to be active community citizens, and mount/support a campaign for elected office.	ROOM: Grand ballroom West building

## July 20, 2021 Tuesday Day 3 TEEN FORUM "RESILIENCY" cont.

10:30AM	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45AM-12PM	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CR5      INOVA    Hospital</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">ROOM: POTOMAC West building</p> <p>Sexual Health, Sexual Assault and trafficking</p>
6:00PM-8:00PM	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DINNER</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building</p>

## July 21, 2021 Wednesday Day 4 DAY in DC "ADVOCACY"

8:00 AM -8:30AM	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BREAKFAST</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ROOM:</b> Dining Room North building</p>
8:30AM	<b>BUS DEPART FOR DC</b>
9:30AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Arrive at the Capitol building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tour the Capitol building with Congressional Host <a href="http://www.house.gov/visitors">www.house.gov/visitors</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Everyone disperse and meet their Representative</p> <p>Before scheduling your visit, research the legislator's point of view and voting record on women's issue. Explore the legislator's website, social media and other public statements to understand their priorities.</p>
11:30AM	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DEPART Capitol building TOUR DC</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://washington.org/visit-dc/free-things-to-do-best-of-town">https://washington.org/visit-dc/free-things-to-do-best-of-town</a></p>
12:45PM	DEPART for Turning Point
2:00PM	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Turning Point Suffragist Memorial</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burial ceremony of NACW time capsule</p>
3:30PM	Visit Occuquan
4:30PM	Leave to return to the Conference Center

## July 21, 2021 Wednesday Day 4 DAY in DC "ADVOCACY"

6:00PM - 8:00PM

DINNER

ROOM

North building

7:00PM

CLOSING RECEPTION

ROOM

West building  
Grand ballroom

## July 22, 2021 Thursday Day 5

8:00 AM -8:30AM

BREAKFAST

ROOM: Dining Room  
North building

9:00 AM -11:00AM

NACW Business Meeting  
Executive leadership &  
Board members ONLY

ROOM

West building

## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



**Ashley Reynolds Marshall, M.P.A., J.D., Chair for the Virginia Council on Women**, serves as the first Deputy City Manager for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia. Her role in Charlottesville will focus on leading efforts to cultivate an environment that values and demonstrates the City's commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusion; while also advocating for and developing strategies to promote shared organizational responsibilities for those principles that foster equity. In addition she will work to provide complementary leadership for the Office of Human Rights, Department of Social Services, Department of Human Services, and the Police Civilian Review Board.

Marshall, a native of Roanoke, Virginia, holds a B.A in Psychology from Hollins University, a J.D from the College of William and Mary School of Law, and an M.P.A. from Virginia Tech. Marshall is also currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the Center for Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech where her dissertation is focused on Collaborative Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Collective Impact/Collaborative Programming. She is a member of the 2013 class of the Sorenson Institute Political Leaders Program at the University of Virginia and a member of the 2014 class of Emerge Virginia.

Marshall currently serves as a member of the Virginia Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence, and a Board member for the Virginia Rural Health Association. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys exercise, reading, and spending time with her husband Samson Marshall and their senior rescue beagle Charlie.



**Solitaire Carroll** is an Organizational Change Management Consultant with a BSc in Psychology, industry certifications for organizational change management (ITIL, BRMP, PMI, SAFe), and 10 years of public and private organization change management development and training experience. Managed a \$10m, 20-person project, providing strategic guidance and implementation support for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Information Technology (OIT) DevSecOps Transformation Office, overseeing 26 change teams of 250 volunteers across 7 pillar organizations within the Office of Information Technology.

Conference and Leadership Offsite facilitator with experience overseeing government senior executive multi-day change management training, strategic planning guidance, and leadership training. Author of several leadership training workshops and curriculum decks. Solitaire is also the Co-Founder and Executive Director of One Sparrow, a non-profit focused on providing sustainable solutions for economic development both locally and internationally.



## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



**Joan Harrigan-Farrelly** joined the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor in December 2012 and serves as the **Deputy Director**.

The WB's mission is to develop policies and standards and conduct inquiries to safeguard the interests of working women; advocate for their equality and economic security for themselves and their families; and promote quality work environments.

As the career Deputy Director, Joan is responsible for overall policy, programs and operations of the Bureau and ensures that policies and budget are aligned with the mission and direction.

Prior to joining the Women's Bureau, Ms. Harrigan-Farrelly worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 14 years and has had the unique opportunity to work in various leadership positions across the Agency. She has served as the Director of the Antimicrobials Division in the Office of Pesticide Programs; as the Director, Resources Management Division in the Superfund Program; as Branch Chief in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water; and as Senior Advisor in EPA's Office of Homeland Security.

Prior to her service with EPA, Ms. Harrigan-Farrelly worked at the United States Agency for International Development as one of the Women in Development Senior Fellows in the Policy Bureau, focusing on gender and environmental issues.

Ms. Harrigan-Farrelly holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Urban Planning and Public Administration from New York University.

Motto: Service above self



**Carol Jenkins is President and CEO of the ERA Coalition and the Fund for Women's Equality**, sister organizations dedicated to the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. A board member since its inception in 2014, she joined the leadership team in December of 2018.

Previously, Carol Jenkins was founding president of The Women's Media Center, a national nonprofit organization created to increase coverage and participation of women in media. As president, she conceived the Progressive Women's Voices program to provide media training for women and girls, and she expanded SheSource, the largest portfolio of women experts in the country.

As former chair and current board member of Amref Health Africa USA, an arm of the largest health NGO in Africa, Ms. Jenkins is engaged in efforts to support health programs for African women and girls. She also serves on the boards of several feminist leadership organizations as well as groups supporting the arts, excellence in journalism, and international animal rights.

Carol Jenkins earned a B.A. from Boston University and an M.A. from New York University. Both universities honored her as a Distinguished Alumna. She holds honorary doctorates from the College of New Rochelle and Marymount Manhattan College. She was a 2017 recipient of the Sackler First Award, given to women who are pioneers in their fields. As a pioneering African American television reporter, Jenkins was an anchor and correspondent for WNBC TV in New York for nearly 25 years. She hosted Carol Jenkins Live, her own daily talk show, on WNYW-TV. Early in her career she co-hosted one of the first daily public affairs programs in New York City, Straight Talk on WOR-TV; and co-hosted Positively Black for WNBC TV, one of the earliest television programs dedicated to Black issues in the United States.

Ms. Jenkins is also an author, the three-time NY Emmy-nominated host of Black America, on CUNY TV, the executive producer, writer and documentary correspondent of an award-winning film, a podcast host, and co-anchor of CUNY TV's live election night coverage.



**Ellie Smeal, co-founder and President of The Feminist Majority Foundation**, a former president of the National Organization for Women, and publisher of Ms. Magazine, Eleanor Smeal's life and work has been dedicated to the achievement of women's equality and human rights. Known as a political analyst, strategist, and grassroots organizer, Ms. Smeal has played a pivotal role in defining the debate, developing the strategies, and charting the direction of the modern-day women's movement. In her more than 40 years as a leader in the United States' women's movement, she has changed the landscape of women's involvement in national life and culture.

One of the modern architects of the drive for women's equality, Ms. Smeal's 1984 book, *How and Why Women Will Elect the Next President*, predicted that women's votes would be decisive in presidential politics. In this writing she was the first to identify the "gender gap", the difference in the way women and men vote, and popularized its usage in election and polling analyses to enhance women's voting clout. Her leading role in state and national campaigns for women's rights legislation, including the Equal Rights Amendment, helped reshape the contours of U.S. politics as politicians could no longer ignore the voices of women, forcing their inclusion as part of the national political discourse. Her efforts led to women's organizations shifting the strategy of targeting only a few select races for women candidates to a philosophy of recruiting women to run for as many elected offices as possible. Recognizing the power of the internet, she pioneered its use as an organizing and research tool by launching the Feminist Majority Foundation Online in 1995.

Ms. Smeal serves on a number of boards, including the National Council for Research on Women, the National Organization for Women, and the Leadership Circle of CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women). Smeal and her achievements were honored as an inductee into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2015.

## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



**Lisa Sales, ERA Advisory Council & Fairfax County Commission for Women;** Lisa Sales has been a management and strategy consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton's Global Defense Group for a decade. Recently, she was awarded the Fairfax County, Virginia Citizen of the Year in 2020 by the Federation of Citizens Associations. Ms. Sales was elected to be a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2016 on behalf of President Joe Biden. She served on the Biden for President Domestic Policy Team, Women & Families Committee, where she wrote or contributed to numerous policy papers on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Equal Rights Amendment for the transition team.

Ms. Sales is the Chairwoman of the Fairfax County Commission for Women (CFW) and the Mount Vernon District Commissioner. CFW advises the County Board of Supervisors on policies and initiatives to promote gender equality, eliminate violence against women, and honor women and girls in Fairfax County. Ms. Sales also sits on the Fairfax County Council to End Domestic Violence. She has been active with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission facilitating military-community partnerships and was a task force member of Supervisor Dan Storck's Moving On Safe Haven Project to ensure emergency domestic violence shelters are made available to those in need along the Route 1 corridor. She is a member of the Public Policy Committee for the statewide Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and on the Board of Directors at Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services seeking to provide more affordable housing in the region.

Ms. Sales is, herself, a sexual assault survivor who endured a seven-year protracted court battle against her perpetrator. Recognizing there is a link between the lack of equality for women and the sexual violence perpetrated against them propelled her onto the leadership team of the VAratifyERA campaign. She is also an advocate for strengthening laws on protective orders by providing greater protections to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, particularly when it comes to firearms surrender.

Ms. Sales is an Advisory Council Member for the ERA Coalition and is working with the Feminist Majority to ensure the Equal Rights Amendment is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. She is also an active member of the League of Women Voters – Fairfax Area.



**Glynda C. Carr, Political strategist and the Co-founder of Higher Heights for America and Higher Heights Leadership Fund,** the leading national organizations dedicated to building Black women's collective political power from the voting booth to elected office. She is the co-creator of the #BlackWomenLead movement which is creating the environment for Black women to vote, run and lead.

Glynda is the former Executive Director of Education Voters of New York, a leading independent voice for school reform in the state. Prior to Education Voters, she was Chief of Staff to New York State Senator Kevin Parker (Brooklyn) where she also served as campaign manager for two of his successful re-election campaigns.

Glynda has also held senior management positions with key national organizations including: the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

A sought-after speaker and trainer, she has also contributed to TheRoot.com, Ebony.com, and the Huffington Post. In 2018, she appeared on "Essence" magazine's second annual Woke 100 list, saluting female changemakers.



**Kimberly Peeler-Allen** has been working at the intersection of race, gender and politics for over 20 years. Kimberly is the Co-founder of Higher Heights for America and Higher Heights Leadership Fund, the leading national organization dedicated to building Black women's collective political power from the voting booth to elected office. She is the co-creator of the #BlackWomenLead movement which is creating the environment for Black women to vote, run and lead.

Kimberly is currently a Visiting Practitioner at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University where she served as an advisor on

CAWP's Election 2020 analysis, and guest lectures in various graduate and undergraduate courses.

Kimberly serves as Board Chair of the ERA Coalition, Co-Chair of Higher Heights for America PAC and is a board member of the Fund for Women's Equity and NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation.



## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



### ***Alana Andrews - CEO & Founder of The SWEY Corporation***

17-year-old Author, Speaker, Founder & President of the So Positive Initiative, CEO & Founder of So Positive, LLC., and The SWEY Corporation, and Host & Founder of the Gen Z Speaks podcast. From her second book, "Creating Confidence," Alana founded the So Positive Initiative (SPI). SPI mentors 5th grade students to help them understand and develop their self-confidence as they matriculate into middle school, while also spreading their impact through tangible means through the SPI 12-part book series featuring the programs highlighted and most popular lessons. Along with her community driven initiatives, Alana is a motivational speaker, and has spoken at venues including the largest women's business conference in the state of Virginia. Her entrepreneurial spirit and drive has allowed her to create the first natural sports drink made by Gen Z for Gen Z out of her need for a product like this as a prediabetic when she was 8-years-old. The drink, SWEY (Strong Wise Energetic Youth), will be launched in the spring of 2021 through SWEY's website at [sweytoplay.com](http://sweytoplay.com). Alana is heavily involved in leadership initiatives and has been recognized as a leader including being a 2019 Harvard University Bold Ambassador, earning the honor of the leadership award during Barnard College of Columbia University's Athena Business program, as well as gaining acceptance into the Wharton Global Youth Program to study Leadership in the Business World for the summer of 2021. Alana is a junior at Potomac Falls High School, a Senior Girl Scout, mentor to young entrepreneurs, and has been featured in publications including Mission Magazine in New York, Northern Virginia Magazine, and ABC7.



Mahsa Riar is 14 years old and the Founder of Limitless Limb, a company dedicated to creating personalized, expressive, and affordable 3d printed prosthetics and assistive devices for children with limb differences. Mahsa is a former student of the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce's Young Entrepreneurs Academy class of 2019 and was the youngest Grand Prize Winner of the Loudoun YEA! Investor Panel. Mahsa has taken on leadership roles in a variety of initiatives and programs including chairing the Loudoun Commission on Women and Girls (LCWAG)'s inaugural Girl emPower Summit, a program focused on leadership development for girls ages 13-18. She also serves on the board of Loudoun Young Entrepreneur Forum (LYEF) and is a Loudoun County Public Schools Student Equity Ambassador. In 2019, Mahsa founded Create for a Cause, an initiative to raise social awareness among Loudoun County's younger generation and inspire them to drive change. Her achievements have led to speaking engagements and other recognitions including being featured in Voice Of America: Teens in Innovation and Technology; speaking at Amazon Girls Tech Day as a Trailblazer 2.0; One Million Cups; recipient of the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Award; the Young Women Stellar Award, the Loudoun Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) Student Award; the Loudoun Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Student Award; and the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's YEA! 2019 Saunders Scholar. Mahsa has been recipient of academic awards including the US Presidential Award of Outstanding Academic Excellence, the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Honor Award, and the National Junior Honor Society. Mahsa is a poet and has several poetry publications by American Library of Poetry. Mahsa is an earnest and passionate student leader. She is driven to inspire the younger generation to make meaningful contributions to their community. Her accomplishments have been featured by media outlets such as, WUSA 9, DVM FOX 25, and ABC NEWS channel 13, NBC Channel 4 as well as being written in Loudoun Times, Loudoun Now and NOVA Magazine.



Chantel Bethea: Women In Action Inc. was founded by Chantel Bethea in 2010. She is a native of Atlanta, GA and a current resident of Worcester, MA. She is also a wife and a proud mother of four beautiful children. Empowering women has been a long time passion of hers. Through several years of mentoring/empowering experiences and countless conversations with women, the concept for this organization was developed. Throughout the years she has seen the growing need for positive female role models. She is honored to serve the women in her community by helping our women.

Lastly and most importantly, Chantel credits her mother for giving her the spirit to give back. She feels as though she would not be who she is today without her mothers' love and support. She states, "My mother has built her life around helping others and has certainly been the inspiration for my program." Women In Action Inc. was developed to empower the lives of women, as her mother has continuously done in her life.

Chantel received the Unsung Heroine from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women in 2015. She also received an award from the Worcester Business Journal for the 40 Under 40 Awards in 2015. Chantel also was the Hometown Hero for Worcester Magazine in 2015. In 2019 Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. 2020 Erskine Award Winner.

## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



Denella Clark is Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (MCSW), In June 2020, she was elected as Chair by her fellow Commissioners and is the first woman of color to lead the Commission.

Ms. Clark is also President of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation (BAAF), a nonprofit supporting Boston Arts Academy, Boston's only public high school for the visual and the performing arts. She's leading BAAF's first-ever campaign, Building Our Future – a 6-year comprehensive \$32M campaign. She has more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit management, with significant leadership roles with The Dimock Center, Joslin Diabetes Center, MGH/Partners Healthcare, Bottom Line and most recently led her own firm The Give Back Group.

In addition to the MCSW, Clark has served on many Boards including the City of Boston's Racial Equity Fund, Boston Arts Academy Fashion Advisory Board, Board of Trustees of Fontbonne Academy, the Fenway Alliance Board, and the Executive Committee of the New England Area Conference of NAACP. In the past, she also served on many boards including the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, Inc. (METCO), NAACP, and The Boston Club Corporate Board Committee. Of her many titles, she is most proud to be Mommy-in-Chief to Cherina and Will.



Kristina Bouweiri is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Reston Limousine, Washington DC's premier transportation provider and ranked among the Top 10 largest luxury transportation operators in the nation. Starting with only five vehicles in 1990, Bouweiri diversified the business and developed Reston Limousine into a \$28 million company today with 250 vehicles from sedans to coach buses.

Kristina also is the founder of the monthly networking program zSterling Women and co-founder of the annual Virginia Women's Business Conference – two programs that have helped hundreds of women entrepreneurs and executives achieve their professional goals. An active business community leader, Kristina has served or currently serves on boards around the DC region and beyond, including Enterprising Women magazine DC Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Greater Washington, Northern Virginia Community College, Inova Loudoun Hospital Foundation, and Loudoun CEO Cabinet, among others. She also is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at George Mason University's School of Business, where she helped launch a Women in Business Initiative program to support students, alumni and other businesswomen.

Her recognitions include Washington Business Journal's Power 100 and Top Women-Owned Businesses in Washington DC, DC Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year, and International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge Award.



### ***Alana Andrews - CEO & Founder of The SWEY Corporation***

17-year-old Author, Speaker, Founder & President of the So Positive Initiative, CEO & Founder of So Positive, LLC., and The SWEY Corporation, and Host & Founder of the Gen Z Speaks podcast. From her second book, "Creating Confidence," Alana founded the So Positive Initiative (SPI). SPI mentors 5th grade students to help them understand and develop their self-confidence as they matriculate into middle school, while also spreading their impact through tangible means through the SPI 12-part book series featuring the programs highlighted and most popular lessons. Along with her community driven initiatives, Alana is a motivational speaker, and has spoken at venues including the largest women's business conference in the state of Virginia. Her entrepreneurial spirit and drive has allowed her to create the first natural sports drink made by Gen Z for Gen Z out of her need for a product like this as a prediabetic when she was 8-years-old. The drink, SWEY (Strong Wise Energetic Youth), will be launched in the spring of 2021 through SWEY's website at [sweytoplay.com](http://sweytoplay.com). Alana is heavily involved in leadership initiatives and has been recognized as a leader including being a 2019 Harvard University Bold Ambassador, earning the honor of the leadership award during Barnard College of Columbia University's Athena Business program, as well as gaining acceptance into the Wharton Global Youth Program to study Leadership in the Business World for the summer of 2021. Alana is a junior at Potomac Falls High School, a Senior Girl Scout, mentor to young entrepreneurs, and has been featured in publications including Mission Magazine in New York, Northern Virginia Magazine, and ABC7.

## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



Bria Gadsden, M.S. ,Founder “Love your Menses”

Bria Gadsden, MS is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Love Your Menses. She is a wellness enthusiast and is passionate about creating community based programs that promote menstrual equity in Black and Brown communities. She hopes to break the period taboo while working in partnership with community members through community conversations, menstrual education, and resource connection.



Dr. Ebere Azumah, CoFounder “Love your Menses”

Dr. Ebere Azumah, MD, MPH, FACOG, ACC is a board-certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist, with an interest in high risk Obstetrics, Perinatal Anxiety, and Mood Disorders.

She is also a Doula, Life and Career Coach, Organizational Consultant, Blogger, Professional Speaker, and Author.



Sindhoori Kalavacharla is a rising senior at Dougherty Valley High School in the Bay Area, CA. She has a strong passion for business marketing/social media, advocacy, and dance and has incorporated her love for the 3 in all aspects of her life. She has been practicing Bharatanatyam (a form of Indian classical dance) for over 12 years, has performed all over the bay area, and completed her Arangetram (full-length solo debut) in 2019. At the age of 17, She has crossed over 6000 hours of Bharatanatyam training, practices, and has had over 100 stage performances. Sindhoori is the Vice President and founding member of the Ethnic dance club in her school. She combines her love for dance and social media marketing as the Head of Tech and Marketing for Namaha Foundation for the Arts (A San Ramon based non-profit). She is also the co-founder of a teen-run nonprofit organization called She Helps Her, striving to create a community of women supporting women to make a healthier world for all. She is a youth lead for FemTruth Youth, a marketing and media coordinator at TriValley WEB, and an ambassador for both GenerationShe and ladkilove! .She is the Chief Sales Officer at Ezypull and was a sales associate at Reuissi - as part of a JA Company program. Following high school, Sindhoori hopes to keep pursuing her passions by majoring in Marketing and Analytics, continue to advocate women’s health, as well as explore and improve on her dance and other interests.



Suhani Akhouri is a rising senior at Dougherty Valley High School in the San Ramon, CA. She is passionate about women's health equity and entrepreneurship. She pursues her interests by using her business knowledge to aid non-profits and create community impact. She is currently a lead intern at iGIANT (impact of gender/sex on innovation and novel technologies), which she has been involved in since her freshman year. She also works part-time at a non-profit called Generation She and is a youth lead at FemTruth Youth. She also serves her community through a non-profit organization that she co-founded called She Helps Her, that aims to create a community of women supporting women to create a healthier world for all. On campus, she is the incoming president for her school's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America. She has also co-authored the article "Viewing the COVID-19 Pandemic Through a Sex and Gender Lens", which was published in the Journal of Women's Health. In the future, she hopes to pursue social entrepreneurship and continue advocating for women's health equity.



## Conference Speakers in order of Agenda



Melina Carnicelli spent much of her professional career as a public school teacher and administrator, retiring in 2008. While on a mid-career hiatus from the field of education, Melina followed her entrepreneurial dream and co-founded Treble Associates, a workplace consulting firm specializing in valuing diversity and Creating Respectful Workplace Environments,© and where she created the Room Full of Sisters event, an annual gathering for women and girls to celebrate all of who they are. Melina served in many volunteer community positions over the years, and in 1995 was elected to public office on the Auburn City Council, and subsequently elected to a four-year term as mayor. She was the first, and she says, “UNFORTUNATELY,” the only woman thus far to be nominated for and elected to that leadership position in Auburn, NY. During her tenure, Melina became the first recipient of a local Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award for founding the Mayor’s Social Justice Task Force. Melina led the grassroots development and implementation of Women March in Seneca Falls; and in 2018, she founded 1st Amendment-1st Vote, Inc, the non-partisan civic engagement program for teens who identify as girls, to begin to imagine themselves in elected office and professional government-related positions.



Karen King Ph.D. is the Commissioner of Public Advocacy for Erie County and the Executive Director of the Erie County Commission the Status of Women that helped initiate and partner with the 1st Amendment, 1st Vote Program. In addition to serving as Vice President on that board, she is a member of the New York State Council for Women and Girls, Executive Committee of the University at Buffalo Gender Institute, The YWCA of WNY, The Minority, Women Business Enterprise Utilization Advisory Board Members, and the County of Erie and City of Buffalo Joint Certification Committee. Formerly, Dr. King has served as an adjunct graduate faculty member at Buffalo State College and in the Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo. Additionally, she has developed and taught courses and conducted numerous workshops on popular media culture, social justice advocacy and anti-racist feminist theory.

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