

CERESE·D

January 2022



CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA

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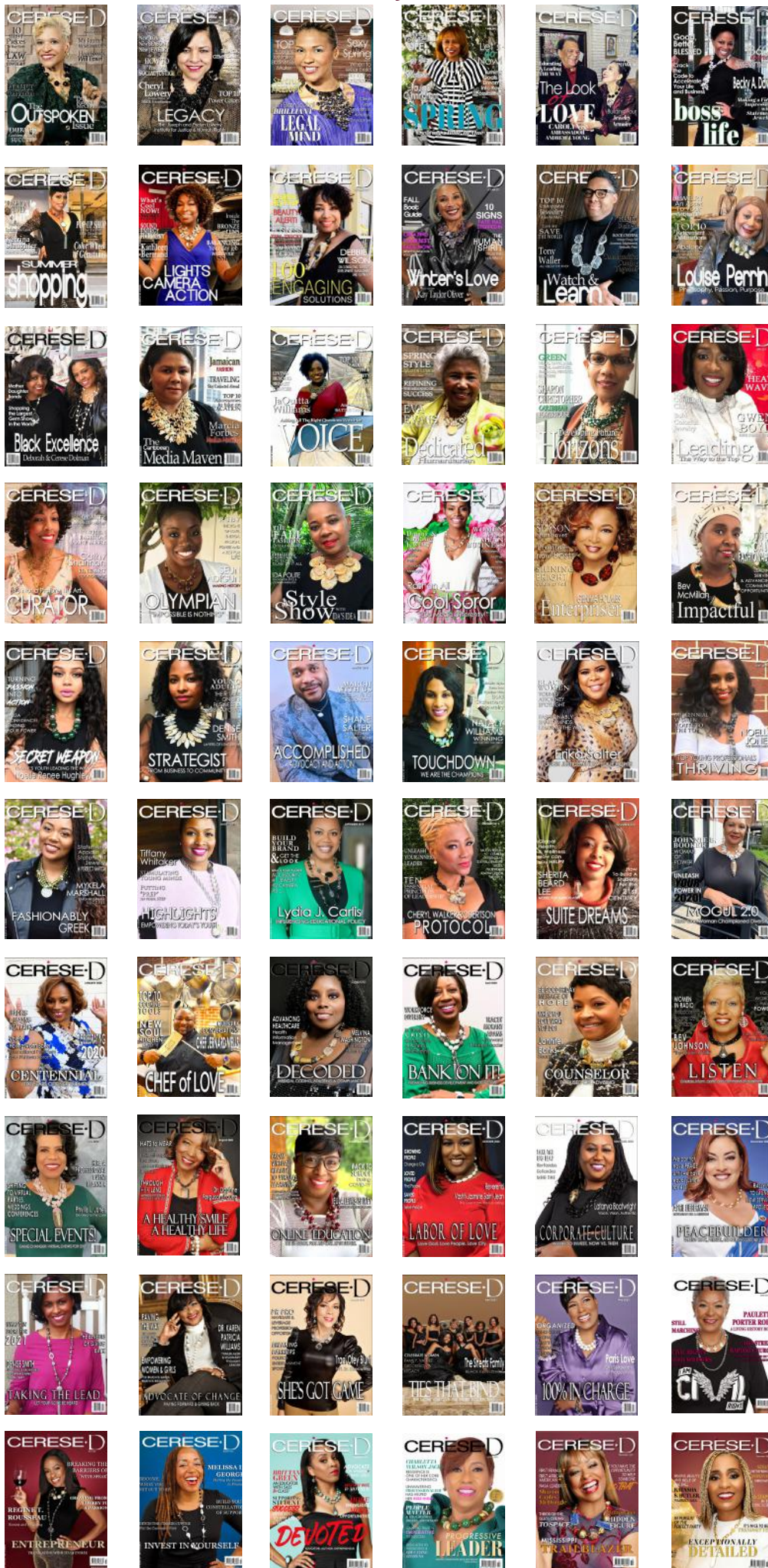




WHY WE STARTED CERESE D MAGAZINE

One of the greatest pleasures while growing our brand has been getting to know our community of customers and learning their stories. Among the people we have profiled over the past 5 years are leaders in their communities and churches, teachers, business owners and executives, entrepreneurs, motivational speakers, youth leaders, mothers, military veterans, and even a trainer of astronauts. Some of their stories are similar, and many are unique, but they are all about bold, strong, outspoken, and sometimes quiet leaders, that are blazing a trail towards change in one way or another.

These are loyal clients that inspire us, and we are honored that they support Cerese D Jewelry. They are incredible role models for our brand.



Pat Russell-McCloud | January 2017

Her inspirational presence behind the podium has launched her onto the global stage. Whether in the United States, the Motherland of Africa, Europe, or the Caribbean, wherever Pat Russell McCloud, Esq. is located, it is very likely that she is engaging an audience on topics ranging from diversity and inclusion to STEM-related careers, women's issues, work/life balance, and civic engagement. Her message is urgent, passionate, and relevant today. She is widely known for her animated oratorical style which educates, invigorates, and entertains her audiences, inviting them to simply get involved and commit to making a positive difference.

Highly conscious of image, she appreciates a classy combination of clothes and accessories, whether business or casual, that when appropriately coordinated, result in the desired statement that has become her signature. Her bold and courageous oral expression is complemented by the couture designs of Atlanta-based custom jewelry designer Cerese D. The designs of this artist feature unexpected findings, including semi-precious stones, fresh-water pearls, crosses, and so much more, making these jewelry pieces the perfect companion for each outfit.

As the spouse of Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr., the presiding Bishop of the 14th Episcopal District (West Africa: Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo-Benin) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, she has taken on the significant responsibility of serving as Supervisor, planning and executing programmatic engagement for women and their families throughout the District. Previously, she has served in this capacity in Southeast Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique, and South Africa, living in Cape Town, and supervising in the Cape, Angola, Namibia, Kalahari, and Queenstown.

In September of 2016, Russell-McCloud was selected as a member of the prestigious International Women's

Forum (IWF), which is integral to building leadership across careers, continents, and cultures for its over 6,500 members residing in 35 countries around the world. Global leadership is not foreign to Pat, as she is the 11th International President of The Links, Inc., a 14,000-member premier African American women's organization whose members are linked in friendship and service. She is an active member of the Dogwood City Chapter (GA).

As a telecommunications attorney, she is dedicated to STEM initiatives as she seeks to address the underrepresentation of African American females in the careers of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. For the past two years, she has served as founder/strategist for the STEM Scholarship for African American Women at her alma mater, Kentucky State University. There have been thirteen scholarships awarded at this time.

The holiday season is a favorite time of the year for Russell-McCloud, a welcome respite after traveling approximately 180,000 miles annually and speaking to over 100,000 people at major corporations, nonprofits, and government organizations alike. After a much-deserved rest, she returns to the speaking circuit in January with the popular mantra, "...have speech, will travel."

Russell-McCloud is the best-selling author of *My Journal: Myself, Inside Out* and *A is for Attitude: An Alphabet for Living*. She has been featured in *Essence*, and in 2017, *Ebony* recognized her as one of the most influential people in the United States. Her successes are measurable, her speeches are memorable, and her commitment to "stand and deliver" is unforgettable.

[CLICK HERE TO READ UPDATED ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

JANUARY 2017
INAUGURAL ISSUE

10
BEST
Pieces

To Buy Now

Is It Against the

LAW

To Not Love
JEWELRY

“My Journal:
My Self, Inside Out”
Have Speech,
Will Travel

The
PERFECT
Companion

The
OUTSPOKEN
Issue

“Pat”
Russell-
McCloud, Esq.

EMERALDS
Goddess, Rebirth,
SUCCESS



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CHERYL LOWERY | FEBRUARY 2017

Cheryl Lowery is the Executive Director of the Joseph & Evelyn Lowery Institute for Justice & Human Rights. A product of the 5th District and Atlanta Public Schools, Cheryl graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Business Management with a concentration in marketing. She is a servant leader, putting the needs of the people in her organization first in order to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential. She is also a proud and active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated. The Atlanta Business League has recognized her as one of the “100 Most Influential Women of Atlanta.”

At the Lowery Institute, Cheryl and her incredible team connect high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students with elementary, middle, and high school students in Atlanta’s historic Westside community. These “Change Agents,” from Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Agnes Scott College, and Candler School of Theology, focus on the Institute’s principles of nonviolence along with conflict management, alternative dispute resolution, and peer mediation training. Change Agents encourage the younger students through daily interactions to de-escalate

potential conflict. The curriculum is structured to reinforce topics including respect and disrespect, the use of violence, anger management, emotional intelligence, positive relationships, trust-building, discipline, active listening, friendship, acknowledgment, teamwork and problem solving. Change Agents also manage Mimi’s Pantry, a campus pantry which currently serves 100 full-time students from the Atlanta University Center who do not have full meal plans.

Joseph Lowery founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Martin Luther King, Jr., and Evelyn Lowery founded the SCLC Women’s Organization Movement for Equality Now (WOMEN), supporting the rights of women, children, and families. Translating their remarkable civil rights legacies to a new generation is a full-time calling for Cheryl. In her free time, she loves traveling across the United States and abroad.

Visit the Joseph & Evelyn Lowery Institute at www.loweryinstitute.org.

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CERESE·D

HERMANN/GETTY

New YOU
New SEASON
New JEWELRY

HOW TO
Promote
SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Cheryl
Lowery**
Executive Director
Black Excellence

**BLACK
GEMSTONES**
ONYX
DIAMOND
SPINEL
OBSIDIAN
OPAL
JET
TEKITE

TOP 10
Power Colors

LEGACY

The Joseph and Evelyn Lowery
Institute for Justice & Human Rights



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PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF ATTKINSON.COM

Noni Ellison Southall

MARCH 2017

Throughout her twenty-year legal career, Noni Ellison Southall has been a catalyst in the workplace. She has distinguished herself as an innovative, strategic, thought-provoking leader who has influenced the lives of employees, young professionals and students and has spearheaded efforts to create a more productive and cohesive work environment. She currently serves as a mentor for the University of Chicago's Doctoroff Business Leadership Program and was previously a T. Howard Foundation mentor and a Turner Women Today Circle mentor. She was a founding member of the Working Parents at Turner and Black Professionals at Turner business resource groups and also represented Turner's Legal Department on the Supplier Diversity Council Taskforce.

Additionally, she is a dynamic and sought after speaker, often serving on panels at colleges, law schools and conferences around the nation, including the University of Chicago Women's Leadership Summit, National Summit of Black Women Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Women of Color, Savoy Women's Leadership conference, Minority Corporate Counsel Association's Creating Pathways to Diversity conference and Inside Counsel's Women, Influence and Power in Law conference. In March 2017, Southall will serve as a featured speaker for the Chicago Network's Launch Pad for Women Senior Leaders Conference.

She has worked with W.W. Grainger, Inc., Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc., and Scripps Networks, Inc., as well as with two prominent national law firms. In her various positions she has been responsible for finance, treasury, distribution, bankruptcy, corporate governance, and business formation issues. With TBS, she served as the head of Turner's music division, which included a long-term assignment in their Hong Kong office, negotiating international joint venture and licensing deals and

delivering the keynote address at the 25th Golden Melody Awards (the Chinese equivalent to the Grammy Awards) in Taipei, Taiwan.

Southall is a respected leader in the community, actively engaged with organizations that span diverse interests. Her service to the community is too extensive to list in full; some highlights include serving as a member of the University of Chicago Law School's visiting committee, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, and founding member of Black Women in Entertainment Law.

Ms. Southall's contributions to the legal and civic communities have not gone unnoticed. She has received numerous awards: 2012 YWCA Woman of Achievement, 2013 MCCA Rising Star in the Legal Profession from Diversity & The Bar Magazine, and the 2016 Multicultural Leadership Award from the Georgia Diversity Council, just to name a few of her many accolades.

As a result of these remarkable achievements, she has become a sought after-speaker, often speaking on panels at universities and conferences around the nation, from the University of Chicago Women's Leadership Summit to the National Summit of Black Women Lawyers.

Ms. Southall, a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, is the proud mother of two children, Kenneth, Jr. and Kourtney Rose. She graduated magna cum laude from Howard University with a BA in Administration of Justice and Communications. She earned a Doctor of Law, Master of Business Administration, and Certification in Health Administration and Policy from the University of Chicago, where she studied under President Barack Obama.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

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MARCH 2017

TOP
5 Legal
Mistakes
Businesses
Make

Sexy
for
Spring

When to
wear bold
jewelry in the
workplace

Spring
TRENDS

SPRING GEMS

Citrine

Opal

Moonstone

Amethyst

Chrysoprase

Noni Ellison Southall

BRILLIANT
LEGAL
MIND



PAULA D. CUNNINGHAM | APRIL 2017

Paula Diane Cunningham is the State Director for AARP Michigan, which has more than 1.4 million members. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, social welfare organization with a total membership of nearly 38 million. They work to lead positive change and deliver value to all people over the age of 50.

Prior to joining AARP Michigan, Paula D. Cunningham was the CEO of Capitol National Bank. CNB has been in the community for more than 30 years, and at the time of her appointment she was the only African American woman in the country to be president of a majority-owned bank. She was also the first woman to serve as President of Lansing Community College, Michigan's third-largest community college, serving 30,000 students. As president, she successfully led a community mileage campaign to generate an additional \$9 million for the institution in perpetuity. Under her leadership, the college implemented a strategic planning process that resulted in five new buildings. The main building on the LCC campus was officially named the Paula D. Cunningham Administration Building in 2006. It is the only building named after a woman in downtown Lansing.

She has worked with many other community and governmental organizations including the Michigan Association of United Ways, the Michigan Nonprofit Association, and the Children's Leadership Council of Michigan. In addition to her nonprofit and

educational achievements, Cunningham has also been a small business owner. She and her husband owned and managed an 18-hole golf course. She also founded an entrepreneurial academy for young people.

Her dedication to education, small business, and community has been recognized by many organizations. She has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout her career, including being inducted in 2013 to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, receiving the prestigious Athena Award, and being featured in Ebony Magazine as a "Woman on the Move" and in Bridge Magazine as a woman who "Breaks Barriers."

Cunningham serves on numerous boards including Davenport University and McLaren Health Systems-Lansing, and she was the first African American woman to chair the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Board. One of her favorite quotes comes from author Karen Ravn: "Only as high as you reach can you grow. Only as far as you seek can you go. Only as deep as you look can you see. Only as much as you dream can you be."

Read her professional profile here: states.aarp.org/paula-d-cunningham-appointed-aarp-michigan-state-director/. And visit her personal website at www.pauladcunningham.com.

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APRIL 2017

Living Your Best
LIFE

Let's
go
NOW!

Say Yes
TO

Michigan

Paula D.
Cunningham

Turning
Goals &
Dreams
into Real
Possibilities

SPRING

Scoring a Hole-in-One

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Carolyn McClain Young

MAY 2017

Carolyn McClain Young is a life-long educator and civic leader, currently serving as vice chair of the Andrew J. Young Foundation. She also serves as the executive director of “Andrew Young Presents,” the Foundation’s Emmy-winning nationally syndicated series of 20 documentaries highlighting Africa, the Civil Rights Movement, and other social issues.

A dedicated fundraiser and philanthropist, Young is a major force behind the success of the Foundation and many other causes. She raised an endowment of more than \$1.3 million for the Andrew Young School of Public Policy at Georgia State University and sponsors the Carolyn Young Mentor Walk, held the last two years at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia.

Young’s resume is impressive and extensive. She was a founding member of both the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women Board and the Clark Atlanta University Guild; she served as Chair of Enrichment for Children, is a member of the National Committee for the Arts, and served the Union Baptist Church as superintendent of their Sunday School and director of their Vacation Bible School. She was also an executive with the Atlanta-based GoodWorks International, LLC, a leading global advisory firm offering international market access and political risk analysis in emerging markets within Africa and the Caribbean. This list only scratches the surface of her achievements.

She received a BS in Sociology and Elementary Education from Clark College in 1966 and a MS in Elementary Education from Georgia State University in 1971. In only her first year of teaching, she was instrumental in desegregating the faculty of East Lake Elementary School in Atlanta.

In 1996, she married Ambassador Andrew Young in Cape Town, South Africa, in a ceremony officiated in Xhosa by Bishop Desmond Tutu and in English by Bishop McKinley Young. Following her retirement, Young joined GoodWorks International, LLC with her husband, serving as Partner and Protocol Contact for Foreign Dignitaries, where she played a major role planning and hosting events, meetings, and private affairs.

Young has volunteered her time and talents to a host of local, national, and international community service organizations. In addition to those mentioned, some are G-Capp (founded by Jane Fonda); Steering Committee for the King Center’s King Week Activities; Finance Committee for the City of Atlanta Celebration of Older Citizens Month; Atlanta Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and the Buckhead Cascade Chapter of The Links, Inc.. Her international work includes serving as co-sponsor of the Bethesda House (an orphanage in Soweto for children with AIDS).

She currently serves on the following boards: Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees; United Negro College Fund; Andrew & Walter Young YMCA; Atlanta Area Technical College; WestCare; and the Board of Advisors for the Andrew Young School of Public Policy at Georgia State University. Previous board affiliations include the Governor’s Reform Commission for Education; Georgia Human Relations Commission; Board of the Georgia Council of Abused Children, and the boards of various museums and schools. Visit the Andrew J. Young Foundation at www.andrewjyoungfoundation.org.

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CERESE: D

MAY 2017

RED STONES

RUBIES

TOPAZ

GARNET

CORAL

SAPPHIRE

Educating
& Leading
THE WAY

THE BEST
LIP COLOR
TO WEAR

Grace
Passion
Purpose &
POWER

The Look *of* LOVE

CAROLYN &
AMBASSADOR
ANDREW J. YOUNG

Building Your
Jewelry
Armoire



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BECKY A. DAVIS | JUNE 2017

CEO and Chief BOSSpreneur of MVPwork LLC Becky A. Davis is known as the “Entrepreneur’s Secret Weapon” for her straightforward coaching skills that develop individuals into well-rounded business owners. As a member of the prestigious Forbes Magazine Coaches Council, official private coach for the ultra-exclusive Odyssey Media Company, and national entrepreneur spokesperson for the Coca-Cola Company, Becky is one of the most in-demand experts for small businesses.

It isn’t just her education or impressive resume that makes Becky exceptional. It’s that in her 20+ years of coaching and speaking, her real-life, in-the-trenches experience gives her a radically different view on nearly everything. Becky realizes that every business has a unique code that unlocks a flow of clients and cash. Mentally, Becky never removes herself too far from remembering the days when she experienced the struggles of fighting to get clients and make profits to stay in business. As a speaker, Becky is known for her practical, street-savvy style; her fusion of real-life stories and her conversational techniques connect with her audience on an intimate, intense, and individual level.

Becky is a Certified Executive Coach of The Leadership Circle and provides a 360 Leadership Profile Assessment. She is also certified by Gallup for the Entrepreneur Talent Profile Assessment and a facilitator of the Discover Your Entrepreneur Talent Workshop. She works with the world’s best and brightest aspiring and veteran entrepreneurs. She hosts workshops, teleseminars, webinars, and private coaching for women entrepreneurs worldwide. Becky was the featured entrepreneur on a 15-city national tour for Odyssey Media, a marketing and communications company, focused on connecting and

empowering influential multicultural women around the world. Her national partnership with the Coca-Cola Company’s initiative to help serve five million women entrepreneurs by 2020 aligns with her heart’s purpose to empower entrepreneurs.

Before finding success as an entrepreneur, Becky was Regional Vice President of Operations and Sales at Sears Optical, a division of Luxottica Retail, the largest optical company in the world. She has 20+ years of experience in retail management and has advised Regional Vice Presidents as well as Training & Development and Human Resources departments and has coached employees at all levels. Her management and consulting company MVPwork LLC is a woman and minority-owned business certified by the Women Business Enterprise National Council and the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council.

For her contributions to entrepreneurs, Becky has been featured in media including ABC, FOX, Forbes, Essence, Black Enterprise, and Huffington Post. She has been recognized as one of 25 Women Who Inspire by Hope for Women Magazine, a Woman of Excellence by Atlanta Gospel Fest, a Woman of Influence by Radio Love 860 AM, and Best Motivational Speaker of 2015 by Examiner.com. She is also the author of five books.

Becky is an advocate for domestic violence. She is the founder of Leading In High H.E.E.L.S., a non-profit organization that focuses on providing shoes and resources to women who have suffered domestic violence and abuse.

Becky is married and lives in the metro Atlanta area. You can find her at www.beckyadavis.com and @Bosspreneur on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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JUNE 2017

Good,
Better,
BLESSED

Crack
the
Code to
Accelerate
Your Life
and Business

360
degree
Assessment

Becky A. Davis

*Making a First
Impression
with
Statement
Jewelry*

boss
life

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Katrina Slaughter | July 2017

Katrina L. Slaughter is known to many as “KLSSTYLE” for her eclectic style and love of fun fashion, especially statement accessories that would entice even the most conservative dresser to compliment her liberal fashion sense! An active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Katrina is often called upon by her sisters to offer style advice, source products, and create fun looks for themed events.

With a Bachelor’s degree in Organizational Leadership and a Master of Business Administration, Katrina has nearly 25 years of experience in the Professional Services Firm industry. She has managed, directed, and provided consulting services in key areas such as Corporate Finance and Human Resources Management. While the culture of some firms only allow for professional dress codes, Katrina’s style is embraced within the architecture and interior design firm where she is currently employed as Controller/Human Resources Director. Several partners within the firm have commented on Katrina’s style: “Can I wear your cool shades?” “My wife would love your shoes!” “Your necklace makes me happy!” Katrina’s fun Outfit of the Day (OOTD) makes juggling the demands of her role less stressful and more enjoyable. You’ll often hear Katrina say, “wearing a pretty necklace makes me smile.” Katrina feels blessed to have a career that allows her to express her individuality through fun fashion.

Katrina’s sense of style dates back to her early childhood. She would miss the school bus because she would re-do her ponytails if she didn’t like how her hair was styled. According to her mom, Katrina would get dressed and go outside to play but would just sit on the doorstep because she didn’t want to get dirty. She

was born to be prissy. Her friends and colleagues will say that her love of fashion has always brought people together for social and civic causes.

She shares her love of fashion by donating to local women’s shelters and high school students during prom season. In April, 2017, she launched KLSSTYLE Accessories Pop-Up Shop and sold out over 400 accessories and 50 pairs of shoes. Katrina is not just fashion-conscious during the workday. You’ll also see her “sweating pretty” while climbing Stone Mountain or at local run/walk races. Always looking to share her love of fun accessories, Katrina designed a headband for her sorority’s chapter with the tagline “Chi Tau Omega Sweats Pretty.”

Residing in the metro Atlanta area, Katrina is a family woman, married for 25 years to Randall, a Fire Department Chief. She’s the mother of two sons—Omari, a staff sergeant in the United States Air Force; and Corey, a recent graduate of Kentucky State University—and proud grandmother of a two year old, Madison.

Having recently turned 50, Katrina plans to continue to live her life unconventionally through fashion while inspiring others to do the same. #KLSSTYLE is forever! Her favorite color is pink, she collects fire department/station patches, she loves frogs, and her favorite candy is gummy bears. You can experience her style yourself at @shoesrfun on Instagram, where she regularly uses these hashtags: #KLSSTYLE #funaccessories #jewelryaddict #prettynecklaces #fashionfun #shoesrfun #sweatpretty #luvpink.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL UPDATED PROFILE.](#)

CERESE D

JULY 2017

FASHION
FEVER

301

New Ways To
Update Your Look

Katrina
Slaughter

On Fun & Fashion

POP-UP SHOP

How To Put
One Together

Color Wheel
of Gemstones

SUMMER shopping



ISSN 2474-1238 14
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KATHLEEN BERTRAND | AUGUST 2017

Multifaceted recording artist and writer Kathleen Bertrand is a native Atlantan and Spelman College graduate whose performances have ranged from two Olympic Games to performances before two presidents. She has performed at jazz festivals worldwide and toured and recorded as a vocalist with jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers.

This three-octave vocal artist has received numerous honors including the Kuumba Award from the East Point/College Park Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, the inaugural Impact Award from Black Women in Jazz, and the Alumnae Achievement Award for the Arts & Entertainment from Spelman College. She has also been recognized by the United Negro College Fund as one of “Atlanta’s Legends.” Most recently, she was named the 2015 Jazz Vocalist of the Year by the Black Women in Jazz organization. She has been an invited performer at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland on three occasions and has made multiple appearances at the Atlanta Jazz Festival (AJF), including as a headliner in 2012 and in 2017 as part of AJF’s main stage tribute to Nina Simone. In September 2015, she performed to a sellout crowd at the historic Blues Alley in Washington, DC.

As a songwriter, she penned the national theme song for 100 Black Men of America, Inc., “What They See is What They’ll Be,” as well as several songs on her albums All of Me, No Regrets, Reasons for the Season, New Standards, and her most recent album Katharsis, released in June 2011 and still receiving

nationwide and worldwide airplay. It spent 14 weeks on the UK Soul Chart Top 30, 6 weeks on the UK Soul Charts Top 10, and 2 weeks at #1. She has recently returned to the studio in preparation for her next release.

Bertrand has opened for many of America’s finest jazz artists, including Ray Charles, Will Downing, Rachele Ferrell, Najee, Roy Ayers, and Kenny G. Her fanbase includes radio and internet listeners across the USA as well as in England, Finland, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, New Zealand, France, the Netherlands, and Brazil, among others.

She is the Founder and Executive Producer of the BronzeLens Film Festival. The BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta, Georgia, is a non-profit organization, founded in 2009, that is dedicated to bringing national and worldwide attention to Atlanta as a center for film and film production for people of color. In fact, the mission of the BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta, Georgia, is two fold: to promote Atlanta as the new film mecca for people of color, and to showcase films and provide networking opportunities that will develop the next generation of filmmakers.

Explore her music at kathleenbertrand.com and learn more about the BronzeLens Film Festival at bronzelens.com.

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AUGUST 2017

What's
Cool
NOW!
BEST NEW
TRENDS
OF 2017

SOUND
ENERGY
HARMONY

Kathleen
Bertrand
SOULFUL SONGSTRESS

Inside
The
BRONZE
LENS

BALANCING
Your day job
with your
PASSION

LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION

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DEBBIE SIMMONS EVANS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Debbie Simmons Evans has a larger-than-life smile that communicates a love of living. For her, every day is a celebration of life. She is the matriarch of her family, big sister to Harvey, Terry, Gordon, Ron, and Tim Simmons. Her experiences have also brought her close to a whole host of sisters and brothers who she will cherish forever. As an entrepreneur and one of four owners of Engaging Solutions, one of the nation's premier consultancy firms, Debbie is known as the "consultant's consultant," identifying issues and solving problems in a common-sense way, on time and within budget, all while creating an enjoyable working atmosphere. Though now semi-retired, she still engages in projects that help decision-makers execute effective supplier diversity.

She loves that she still gets to use her expertise in this way—and that she still gets to wear her Cerese D jewelry. "It makes me feel like the queen that God intended me to be," she says. She is a super-advocate, a straight-shooter, a big thinker, and a diplomatic professional, and that personality is on display through her bold colors and ensembles where everything is not required to match, whether animal prints, diagonals, or polka dots, all brought together with the style and sophistication of Cerese D jewelry.

As an advocate for social equity, an innovator, and a creative thinker, Debbie gets joy out of bringing talents together to create opportunities for diverse businesses, whether community-based or massive municipal projects. She is intentional about giving back to her community through church, civic, and community board positions and helping women and children reach

their goals and fulfill their potential. She is grateful for the chance to focus on what really matters to her—engaging in activities that have a positive effect on her community—and dedicates much of her time to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and The Links, Incorporated.

She is also dedicated to making her state of Indiana, her city of Indianapolis, and her neighborhood a better place in a deliberate, focused way, putting in quality time for quality outcomes. To that end, she volunteers to help organizations that improve children's environments, sustain public television, bring dynamic development to disinvested communities in the urban core, and create sustainable means to give voice to people who are continually marginalized.

With more than 40 years of professional experience, mostly in state government and as a consultant, she has utilized what she has learned over her life's journeys to shape policy and programs to create positive outcomes and tell relatable stories to people who need to know that hope is in the palm of their hand. Her life might not be exactly as she imagined it, but it is a life full of opportunity, good friends and colleagues, family and loved ones. Reflecting on her success and achievement, Debbie gives all of the glory to God.

You can find Engaging Solutions online at www.engagingsolutions.net.

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CERESE·D

SEPTEMBER 2017

FASHION
HEATS UP

BEAUTY
ALERT!

BUSINESS
TIPS, TRICKS
& SECRETS
FROM AROUND
THE WORLD

DEBBIE
WILSON

ON CONSULTING, DIVERSITY,
DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT
AND OUTREACH

100
ENGAGING
SOLUTIONS



WWW.CERESE.COM

KAY TAYLOR OLIVER

OCTOBER 2017

Dr. Kay Taylor Oliver is the author of *Winter's Love*, a real-life story about two people finding love after they both experienced a devastating loss. In the prologue of the book she states, "People say that when you want to write about something that has great meaning for you that you should write from the heart. That is, just start writing and let your thoughts flow through your fingers. Well, that's what I attempted to do. I wrote from my heart about the most significant thing that happened to me in the winter of my life."

Kay wrote the book "for those who doubt that 'it' can happen for them, and who continually fall prey to the negative chorus: 'It's too late for me; I will never find someone to love me; Why am I looking for the perfect person who does not exist? I will settle for what is in my life now'...in other words, as Luther Vandross sang, 'Love the one you're with.' I believe that...we should look at ourselves and see the beauty that God created; a unique gift that some wonderful person is waiting for."

In writing the book, she hoped women would learn that it's never too late for love. The book covers serious issues in relationships ranging from children to sex to finances and property and it seeks to debunk stereotypes and showcase the love that African Americans have for each other.

A wife, mother, and grandmother, Kay is married to Walter Oliver and resides in Phoenix, Arizona, where she and husband are philanthropists, giving generously to public and private initiatives. In addition to writing, she has had a distinguished

career in education, serving as Executive Director for Professional Development for Detroit Public Schools, Associate Superintendent for Philadelphia Public Schools, and Associate Professor in the College of Education at Temple University in Philadelphia.

She has also served as president of the Phoenix chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center Board of Directors in Phoenix. She was honored to serve as Vice President of the Board for Research for Better Schools. Kay has been an advisory member for The Learning Classroom: Theory into Practice, presented by Stanford University, the External Coordinating Council for Michigan State University's Teachers for a New Era program, and the National Advisory Board for the College of Education. She is a founding member of Coaching for Results, affiliated with Learning Forward, formerly the National Staff Development Council. She is a Golden Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, a Lifetime Member of the NAACP, and Chairperson of the H. LeBaron Taylor Scholarship, allocated through the Boule Foundation of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Winter's Love is a best-seller on Amazon with a five out of five star rating. Kay is busy attending Salons (her term for book signings) around the country and is thrilled that her book intended to appeal to women over the age of 50 is now attracting women under 40. To learn more about Kay, visit www.KayTOliver.com. *Winter's Love* is available here.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

OCTOBER 2017

FALL
Boot
Guide

10
SIGNS
FATE HAS
STEPPED IN

CREATING
YOUR BEST
FACE, NOW
NEW FOUNDATION
YOU'LL LOVE

THE
HUMAN
SPIRIT
TRUSTING
YOURSELF

Winter's Love

A TRUE STORY

Kay Taylor Oliver



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CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA

TONY WALLER

NOVEMBER 2017

Tony Waller is Senior Director, Constituent Relations, for Walmart in Bentonville, AR, where he actively works in helping to set strategy for the company's outreach opportunities and social investments in diverse and multicultural communities. His portfolio includes the African American, Hispanic, Asian American & Pacific Islander, and Native American communities as well as Women, People with Disabilities and Millennials.

Before joining Walmart in 2006, Tony worked for State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington, IL. In his last position there, Tony served as Assistant Director of Community Alliances in Corporate Communications and External Relations. He was responsible for all external efforts in multicultural communities and all efforts in Auto Safety, Disaster Preparedness, Community and Economic Development, and Financial Education.

He serves as Chair of the NAACP ACT-SO Advisory Council. Passionate about the empowerment of women, he serves on the Board of Trustees of Center for Asian Pacific American Women and has served on the Board of Directors of the National African-American Women's Leadership Institute. In both of these positions, he was the first man ever selected to serve. Tony also sits on the board of trustees of the Ron Brown Scholars Program, the board of the National Black Child Development Institute, and the advisory council for Northcentral University.

In 2000, Tony became the first recipient of the Spirit of Democracy Emerging Leaders Award, presented by the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, awarded to individuals for their work in promoting civic participation. Also in 2000, he received the Leadership Award of the

National Association of Black County Officials for his contributions to the community. In 2002 and 2010, Tony received the Donald H. McGannon Award in recognition of his community efforts, the highest distinction given by the National Urban League to a corporate individual. He is the only individual to have received the honor twice. In 2011, he received the Humanitarian Award from the Jessie Banks Foundation for his work in disadvantaged communities. In 2012, Tony received the MLK Day Special Merit Award from the National Action Network and the Merge Award from the Merge Organization for being an example of integrating his faith with all of his endeavors and for his commitment to uplifting, inspiring and empowering others. In 2017 the American Indian College Fund honored Tony by ceremonially draping him with a blanket, a symbol of respect and admiration of the Native American community.

Tony is a strong supporter of the arts and serves on the Corporate Advisory Council of the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville, AR. A graduate of the University of Virginia, he is a diehard WAHOO and remains very active with the University, serving on the board of the Walter N. Ridley Scholarship Fund, named after its first African American graduate. In addition, he is a passionate collector of African American art & sculpture, antique watches, vintage cufflinks, eyewear, children's storybooks, and quotes. Shoes, however, are his kryptonite.

Tony strives to live every day by the words of his mother, Barbara Jean Motley Waller: "Keep flowing with The River for The River knows exactly where It is going."

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CERESE D

NOVEMBER 2017

TOP 10
Unstoppable
Jewelry
Styles for Men

CAN WE
SAVE
THE WORLD

Tony
Waller
ALL ABOUT THE RIVER

Back To
Business

ROCK CRYSTAL
Manage Energy. Self
Awareness. Enlightenment.
Spirituality. Peace.

Communities
Coming
Together

Watch & Learn

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Louise Perrin | December 2017

An inspirational and motivational leader with a record of delivering and executing best-in-class strategies for large-scale enterprise change, Louise Perrin is known for driving increased sales and profitability in challenging markets by consistently creating and sustaining high-performing teams. With her background in leadership, change management, and strategic planning, she turns around underperforming markets, develops individuals, and champions change through teamwork.

By providing a clear vision, effectively communicating strategic intent, aligning people and resources, and creating an environment of collaboration and shared learning that inspires and values individuals, Louise has enabled every member of her teams to achieve their personal and professional visions of success. She is a change agent who cut her leadership teeth by leading in ambiguous environments, consistently entertaining risk while embracing new challenges and opportunities.

Currently a Senior Vice President with State Farm Insurance Companies, Louise began her career as an agent in 1985 and in a few short years began advancing through multiple levels of leadership. Always looking for ways to add value, she developed strategies and tools that enabled State Farm to profitably grow its market share in a variety of markets. Her accomplishments include turning around performance and delivering sustainable growth and profits in difficult markets by developing positive emotional cultures driven through conversational leadership, clarity on the vision and expectations, and creating an environment of collaboration, accountability and trust.

In addition to developing others, Louise is a continual learner. She received a BA in Business Administration from Rutgers University and her MBA from Cornell University's Johnson School of Business. She says the

executive MBA program was a "powerful experience" that "changed the way I fundamentally think and make decisions, especially how I help people manage and thrive through ambiguity."

Louise embraces the importance of giving back and continues to volunteer and serve local and national organizations including: Board of Trustees, National Louis University; Board of Directors, National Black MBA Association; Board of Overseers, Rutgers University Foundation, and Board of Advisors, LISC, Chicago. She previously sat on the following boards: Board of Directors, State Farm Indemnity Company; Vice Chair Board of Directors, American Red Cross of Southeast Wisconsin; Board of Directors, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music; Board of Directors, Milwaukee Ballet, and Board of Directors, Friends of the Milwaukee Art Museum.

For Louise, leadership is about serving others, not oneself. This means valuing and respecting the talents and welfare of each individual while taking responsibility and accepting accountability. She values people above all else, but is also a believer in continuous learning, integrity, and keeping a growth mindset.

Part of her success is understanding that learning is the most effective response to any challenge. She will always work in the best interest of the customer, the organization, and her coworkers through clear, honest, and compassionate conversations.

Capturing her significant learnings in journals has been a hallmark of Louise's leadership journey and she plans to publish a series of three books on leadership to "pay forward what I've had the privilege to learn." And one of those significant learnings is, "if you have the right people beside you, you can do anything."

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

DECEMBER 2017

JEWELRY
An Asset
To Your
Attitude

TOP 10
Retirement
Destinations

Abalone
Shell Energies: Peace,
Love, Balance
Durability, Protection

Louise Perrin

Philosophy, Passion, Purpose



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CERESE·D, INC. ATLANTA, GA

CERESE & DEBORAH DOLMAN

JANUARY 2018

Cerese D Jewelry is a mother daughter jewelry design company based in Atlanta, Georgia. The company was incorporated in 2007 and has an international customer base. Cerese was raised by her mom Deborah, a single parent and successful entrepreneur.

From her first experience with crayons, Cerese Dolman (Cerese D) developed an interest in design. She was fascinated with vibrant colors, shapes, designs and the arts in general. She's a visionary who captures the essence of beauty and transforms it into exquisite works of art.

Cerese Dolman is President/CEO and has earned two bachelor degrees, one in Interior Design and one in Business Management, a wonderful combination for a creative designer.

Deborah Dolman, VP for Business Development, has been self employed since 1979, starting and growing various business ventures. She co-founded Cerese D, Inc. with her daughter in 2007 and brings a wealth of sales, marketing and management expertise.

Cerese moved from Lansing, Michigan to Atlanta, Georgia in 1991 to attend Clark Atlanta University and graduated with a Bachelor degree in Business. Then earned a second Bachelor degree in Interior Design from the Art Institute of Atlanta.

While working for a large commercial interior design company based in Buckhead, Cerese began making jewelry as a hobby in her guest bedroom. As the jewelry-making supplies consumed her entire condo, it was at that time she began to realize that jewelry design was her passion.

After a 9-year successful career designing fabulous

corporate boardrooms and executive offices for major clients such as Auto Trader, Cox Communications, Arbys, to name a few, Cerese resigned to concentrate on her first entrepreneurial venture, with her mom by her side.

The company leased a 1200 sq. ft. studio in Marietta, Georgia and hired a part time assistant. Deborah flew back and forth from Michigan to Atlanta monthly.

After selling her technology company in Michigan, Deborah could see the extraordinary creativity in Cerese's designs and began selling and marketing to her vast base of contacts in Michigan. Deborah would soon move to Atlanta to work closer with her daughter.

After four years, the company had outgrown the initial space. They needed something larger, closer to downtown, industrial, with great parking. They moved to a 4500 sq. ft. space in West Midtown Atlanta where they currently have design and production capacity for their huge customer base and staff. The current space is by appointment only, offering a very personal customer shopping experience.

The company invests heavily in social media and has thousands of followers. Along with creating new jewelry designs, Cerese and her assistants are always incorporating new, unique content for all their social media platforms. Increasing followers and engaging with them is an important part of this successful business.

2022 UPDATE: There have been many changes happening at CDJ since 2017. Two of the biggest accomplishments have been investing, and embracing technology that has built an extremely strong online presence; and Deborah's hard-earned, and well-deserved graduation from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program.

CERESE:D™

JANUARY 2018
1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Mother
Daughter
Bonds

Shopping
the Largest
Gem Show
in the World

Black Excellence

Deborah & Cerese Dolman



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CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA

Marcia Forbes

FEBRUARY 2018

Dr. Marcia Forbes is co-founder and co-owner of Phase Three Productions Ltd. (P3) a company that is over 35 years old and stands as one of the leading multi-media television production entities in the Anglophone Caribbean. On an annual basis P3 produces several hundred hours of indigenous television content, with distribution throughout Jamaica and the wider world. Dr. Forbes's personal commitment to the creative industries of Jamaica is being achieved through her continued work in training industry practitioners and interns.

Her role as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in media management at the University of the West Indies (UWI), where she also sits on the Advisory Board, allows her to provide guidance to Master's level students. Through her instrumentality, P3 provides internship training to youth from a variety of institutions, including universities and the National Youth Service (NYS). P3 provides professional television crews with experience in over 12 Caribbean countries and the USA, specialists in content creation for live TV and creative post-production.

Forbes graduated from the UWI with a Bachelor of Arts (1st Class Honors) and later a Ph.D. in Communication Studies. She was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Emerson College in Boston, where she graduated summa cum laude with a Master's Degree in Global Marketing, Communication, and Advertising. She is author of two media-centered, research-driven books used by different departments in various universities. Her first book is also CXC-approved for CAPE Sociology. Forbes has presented at several academic and non-academic conferences in over twenty countries across several continents.

In 2017, Forbes was conferred with a national honor by her country, Jamaica: the Order of Distinction (OD), Commander Class (CD). She was recognized by DeKalb County, Atlanta, Georgia, for her use of media "as a positive tool to impact both the country and the world" (2011) and by the Queen's School in 2014 for being an outstanding alumna. In 2012, she was publicly acknowledged by former Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller for her work in support of women.

At Emerson College, Forbes was inducted into the National Communication Honor Society for her "high standard of scholarship and a demonstrated commitment to professional and public service." As an undergraduate at UWI, she received the Dean's Award for Excellence for two consecutive years.

Forbes was the first General Manager of Television Jamaica (TVJ) and a member of its Board of Directors. She spearheaded the transition of that station from the loss-making, government-owned JBC into a profitable, fully-owned subsidiary of the Radio Jamaica Communications Group with established market leadership in television, before resigning office to pursue a Ph.D.

Committed to giving back to Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region, Forbes has served on several boards and is involved with many organizations, including the United Way of Jamaica; Spectrum Management Authority; Inter-American Development Bank, Jamaica. You can find her writings on media and social and economic issues, and her books, at www.marciaforbes.com.

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CERESE: D

FEBRUARY 2018

Jamaican
FASHION

TRAVELING
Stay Connected Abroad

TOP 10
Accessories
to take on
VACATION

**Marcia
Forbes**
Media Matters

The
Caribbean
Media Maven

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JAQUITTA WILLIAMS

MARCH 2018

A legend of Atlanta television, journalist JaQuitta Williams is the host of *Joy in Our Town* on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). The network is the home of pastors like John Gray, Bishop T.D. Jakes, and Joel Osteen. The 30-minute program airs on Mondays at 6:30 PM on WHSG-TV 63 throughout the southeast. JaQuitta is also a series regular on a new crime drama on TV ONE called *Atlanta Homicide*. She has covered local news in Atlanta for more than a decade and was also the host of *Your Health Connection* on JAZZ 91.9 WCLK. She can be seen on the Oxygen Network on the series *Snapped, Snapped: Killer Couples*, and #killerpost as well as on TV One's *Fatal Attraction*, *Justice By Any Means*, and *For My Man*.

After joining CBS Atlanta News in July 2010, JaQuitta anchored the 4 PM and 6 PM newscasts. In her featured segment, "JaQuitta's Close Ups," she interviewed celebrities and fascinating people. Before joining CBS Atlanta News, she spent four years as an anchor and reporter at WSB-TV.

JaQuitta's TV career has included anchoring, reporting, producing, and writing. JaQuitta has been featured on CNN Newsroom with Kyra Phillips and Fredricka Whitfield and CNN's *Your Bottom Line*, hosted by Gerri Willis.

In addition to her extensive hosting and reporting duties, JaQuitta was an actress and singer in director

Robert Townsend's Musical Theatre of Hope, which aired on the Gospel Music Channel. She appeared in Tyler Perry's *House of Payne* and *Meet the Browns* and was also part of an episode of the Lifetime TV Network cooking show *Mom's Cooking!* She has contributed to various on-camera and voiceover roles for Home Depot and a voiceover project for the Georgia Lottery. She has not only been featured on television, but in print, as well. In the October 2008 issue of *Essence* magazine, she talked about her July 2007 breast cancer diagnosis. She interviewed Good Morning America's Robin Roberts on the subject, as both Robin and JaQuitta fought their breast cancer battles publicly. One of her favorite moments of her career was interviewing legendary R&B singer James Brown. She was also an opening singing act for James Brown's Birthday Bash.

In 2011, JaQuitta became a General Mills Pink Together National Survivor Ambassador. She was featured, along with four other women, on General Mills products such as Cheerios cereal, Nature Valley granola bars, and other packaging.

The Atlanta City Council honored JaQuitta with a proclamation for her service to the people of Atlanta. April 26th is JaQuitta Williams Day!

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CERESE: D

MARCH 2018

LIVING
BEYOND
BREAST
CANCER

JaQuitta
Williams

TOP 10 TIPS
TO ADDING
STRENGTH &
AUTHORITY
TO YOUR
VOICE

APPLES
Broccoli
And Berries To
BATTLE CANCER

Asking All The Right Questions With Her

VOICE

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EVA EVANS

APRIL 2018

In her professional life, Dr. Eva Evans is the retired Deputy Superintendent of Lansing Schools, Michigan, the number two position in the school district. In her 35 years on the job she served as a classroom teacher, Director and Assistant Superintendent as well as Deputy Superintendent for Instruction. She holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees. She has also been honored with an LLD from St. Paul University.

She retired in 1995 to become the 24th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the oldest African American civic service sorority in the world. Founded on the campus of Howard University in 1908, the sorority has more than 960 chapters worldwide, with chapters in all but three states in the continental United States and chapters in the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Japan, Germany, England, Canada, and the Middle East.

In Michigan and Lansing, she has served as Chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, Vice-president of the Lansing Board of Water and Light, and the Michigan Humanities Council. In addition, she has served two times as the President of the Lansing Community College Foundation and has been Campaign Chair and Board Chair of the Capital Area United Way. For years, she served on the Capital Region Community Foundation, the Boy Scouts, and others.

She is a member of the Lansing Woman's Literary Club, and was formerly a member of the Sparrow Hospital Women's Board of Managers. She is currently Chair of the Inner Circle and a member of the Advisory Council of the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, located on the campus of Michigan State University.

She has received many awards for her service, including the YWCA Diana Award for Excellence in Education, the Chamber of Commerce Athena Award, the Applause Award from the Arts Council, the Richard D. Letts Award from the American Red Cross, and Educator of the Year from the Lansing Branch of the NAACP. In 2005, she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

She has traveled extensively including to Europe, South Africa, Egypt, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, China, and most recently, the United Arab Emirates. Her bio and vita may also be found in the digital archives of The History Makers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the stories of both famous and lesser-known influential African Americans.

2022 UPDATE: Dr. Evans passed away at the age of 85 on July 20, 2020, but her legacy and contributions to society live on.

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CERESE·D

APRIL 2018

SPRING
STYLE
GUIDELINES

REFINING
THE MEANING OF
SUCCESS

EVA
EVANS
LIVING HER BEST LIFE

Dedicated
Humanitarian

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Sharon Christopher

May 2018

Sharon Christopher is a leadership development coach, motivational speaker, and attorney at law based in Trinidad and Tobago. This former banking executive is the founder and CEO of Sharon Christopher and Associates, an organization whose mission is “helping people lead their best lives.” Sharon can be found all over the Caribbean, whether serving clients or delivering presentations at women’s conferences.

She is the holder of an Accredited Director designation and holds directorships on numerous boards in the public and private sector. She was a director on the International Board of the International Women’s Forum (IWF) and was the founding president of the Trinidad and Tobago chapter of the IWF.

As of 2018, she holds the chair of the governing body of the Trinidad and Tobago campus of the University of the West Indies, the school where she earned her Bachelor of Laws degree. She has also earned a Master

of Laws degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. In addition to those credentials, she holds a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School, where she graduated as the Most Outstanding Student. She is also a certified facilitator with Leadership Management International (LMI), an organization dedicated to help leaders and organizations develop to their full potential.

For her meritorious service to the banking and finance industry, Sharon received the Fellows Award from the Institute of Banking and Finance in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2015, she received the Woman Who Makes a Difference Award from the IWF. In 2021, she was selected as an honoree for the Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law 2021 Eminent Caribbean Jurists Award.

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CERESÉ·D

MAY 2018

GREEN

PEARL, ONYX, JADE,
TOPAZ, AMETHYST,
EMERALD, PERIDOT,
SAPPHIRE

SHARON
CHRISTOPHER

CARIBBEAN
POWERHOUSE

Developing Future
HORIZONS



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GWENDOLYN ELIZABETH BOYD

JUNE 2018

Engineer Gwendolyn Elizabeth Boyd has been described as a dynamic leader, a prolific motivational speaker, a powerful preacher, and a prominent advocate for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. Boyd earned a BS in mathematics with a double minor in physics and music from Alabama State University. She received a fellowship and was the first African American woman to earn a MS in mechanical engineering from Yale University. She has earned both a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Howard University.

Boyd's professional career of more than three decades at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory was highlighted by exemplary leadership and dedicated service as part of engineering teams. Boyd reported directly to the President of Johns Hopkins University, serving as chair of the Johns Hopkins Diversity Leadership Council from 2001-2014.

She returned to her alma mater in 2014 and for three years she served as the 14th and first female president of ASU. Highlights of her presidency included launching the university's very first engineering degree program, a BS in biomedical engineering. Boyd and her team got the university removed from SACSCOC warning status from previous financial instability. The largest freshman class was documented during her tenure.

As a nationally recognized champion of education, especially as it relates to STEM disciplines, Boyd was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve as a trustee to the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation in 2009, later serving on the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans in 2014.

Boyd was elected to serve 2000-2004 as the 22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an international organization of more than 250,000 members. Known as the "Technology President," Boyd helped establish technology in all facets of the sorority's activities and administration. Her four-year tenure included a number of transformative accomplishments, including launching Project SEE (Science in Everyday Experiences), an initiative funded by a \$1.6 million National Science Foundation grant with a goal of promoting math and science for middle school African American girls. She also led humanitarian and education advocacy efforts in various parts of Africa, including Swaziland, Lesotho and Soweto, South Africa. In 2013, Boyd served as chair of the sorority's Centennial Celebration, organizing a year-long series of events culminating in a Washington, D.C.-based convention that drew more than 40,000 participants from around the world.

In addition to her impressive academic credentials, Boyd has been awarded two honorary doctorates, the Carver Medal from Simpson College, Congressional recognitions, the keys to 30 cities, a key to the state of Florida, and leadership and professional awards for her achievements in engineering, higher education, and community activism. Eight cities celebrate Gwendolyn E. Boyd Day. She is a member of the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Capital City Chapter of the Links, Inc., and Leadership Greater Washington. Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and serves on the ministerial staff of Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, Maryland.

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CERESE·D

JUNE 2018

HEAT WAVE

Cool
Confident
Chic

Bold
Colorful
Jewelry

GWEN BOYD

HERE COMES THE SUN

Leading

The Way to the Top

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Cathy B. Smith Shannon

JULY 2018

As the Vice President of Marketing, Cathy Smith Shannon oversees marketing and promotions for E&S Gallery, one of the country's largest African American-owned and operated art and custom framing galleries. A native of Louisville, KY, Shannon is a graduate of the University of Louisville and holds a BA in Advertising and Public Relations and a certificate in Corporate Community Relations from Boston College. After graduating in 1984, she went to work for Louisville Gas & Electric Co. (LG&E). Over the course of 12 years, Shannon was promoted from Customer Interviewer to Advertising Representative and finally to Community Liaison. In her positions with LG&E, Shannon helped craft advertising campaigns and develop community outreach strategies and initiatives designed to improve relations with the company's many constituents. She served on more than a dozen boards and helped identify areas and organizations with which to align the company's employee activities.

One such activity was the annual conference of the National Council of Negro Women, of which Shannon was a member. It was during this conference in the early 1990s that she first met Walter Shannon, who was exhibiting with his company, E&S Gallery. They later began dating, and Shannon began traveling with Walter to various art shows on weekends or during vacation time away from LG&E. They married in 1997 and she left her position with LG&E to join Walter full-time at E&S Gallery to oversee the company's advertising and marketing strategy. Shannon put her expertise to work, securing national coverage for the gallery's 1998 opening of their new 5,000 sq ft. gallery in downtown

Louisville, and again in 2004 with the opening of their current 11,000 sq ft. gallery, which has been named one of the country's top 25 galleries in the country and the top gallery in Kentucky 2015-2018. The gallery has been featured in local media and national publications including Décor Magazine, Black Enterprise, Southern Living, and Art Business News, to name a few.

Shannon oversees the E&S's advertising and PR strategy and manages their online and social media presence as well as their website, EandSGallery.com. Shannon also works closely with Walter to identify and represent artists, produce and promote fine art shows across the country, and help clients start, grow, maintain, and liquidate their art collections. Since 1989, E&S has supported numerous charities and organizations via art donations, speaking engagements, and educational outreach.

Active in the community, Shannon serves on the board of Louisville's Waterfront Development Corporation, Louisville's Commission on Public Art, and, after being appointed in 2018 by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, the Public Art & Monuments Advisory Committee. She is a graduate of the Focus Louisville and Leadership Louisville programs. She also helped establish the West Broadway Business Association and served as its first president. She is a member of St. Stephen Church and the Louisville chapters of The Girl Friends, Inc. and The Links, Inc. She is a lifelong resident of Louisville, KY, where she and Walter live and run their gallery, which you can visit at EandSGallery.com .

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CERESE·D

JULY 2018

QUARTZ
THE MASTER HEALER

WHEN
FASHION
& ART MEET

Cathy
Shannon
FINE ART
connoisseur

It's Not a Picture, It's Art.

CURATOR



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SEUN ADIGUN

AUGUST 2018

Born in Chicago, IL, Seun was raised as a first-generation Nigerian in the United States. She is her parents' second-born, with one older brother and two younger brothers. As a true seeker of knowledge, Seun has constantly dedicated herself to being a student of life as well as a student of the education system. By the age of 30, she had acquired no less than five degrees, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in 2009 and a Master of Education in Physical Education in 2011, both from the University of Houston; a Master of Science in Exercise and Health Science from the University of Houston, Clear Lake, in 2017; and a Bachelor of science in Human Biology and a Doctorate of Chiropractic in 2017, both from Texas Chiropractic College.

While her educational journey was still ongoing, Seun rose to stardom in sports as a multi-talented athlete. In high school, she took part in many different sports before fully establishing herself as a top sprint hurdler. She showed the world how brightly she could shine at the London 2012 Olympic Games, representing Team Nigeria in the 100m hurdles and picking up many accolades along the way on the African continent. She hung up her spikes after the 2012 London Olympic Games,

but that isn't where her sports career ended. Seun bravely pursued the challenge of breaking into winter sports and soon became the first African Bobsled driver to qualify and led a team from Nigeria to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang. Her remarkable achievements captured the world audience with appearances on shows like Ellen DeGeneres to shaking hands with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. A selfless human being always believes that "impossible is nothing."

In the 100m hurdles, Seun was an NCAA All-American, a three-time Nigeria National Champion, an African Champion, and an African Games Champion. She was inducted into the Evanston Township High School Athletic Hall of Fame and listed among the Top 100 Women of 2017 by OkayAfrica, a digital media platform dedicated to building a global community of empowered black people. In 2018, she received the Image Award from the Nigerian-American Multicultural Council. She also holds the honor of being the first African athlete to compete in both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

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CERESE·D

AUGUST 2018

RUBY

THE STONE
OF LOVE,
ENERGY,
PASSION,
POWER AND
A ZEST FOR
LIFE

SEUN
ADIGUN

MAKING HISTORY

OLYMPIAN

“IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING”

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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IDA POLITE

SEPTEMBER 2018

For the past 34 years, Ida Polite has served as President of Ida's Idea, her own fashion house. A Graduate of Saint Paul College, Ida's first professional job was as an accountant with Blanchard Management in New York City at World Trade Center II. Her next position was as a buyer for three major boutiques in New York City. These positions were exciting and she worked very hard to make sure those stores stayed on top of trends in fashion. Her experience as a buyer ultimately led to entrepreneurship—Ida's Idea.

Ida's Idea is located in Washington, DC, in the heart of the nation's capital. Showcasing contemporary and designer fashions, Ida's Idea is luxury shopping done with cachet. Ida's Idea not only markets great designs and accessories but also offers internship opportunities to fashion design students from Howard University, the University of Maryland, and other local colleges. Interns get hands-on training in identifying market value, pricing, and store designs, and they

get the opportunity to travel to New York City to meet with top fashion designers. Ida enjoys sharing her expertise with the next generation of entrepreneurs, going into the classroom to lecture on entrepreneurship and fashion.

Ida has received numerous awards for her entrepreneurship, including the 2008 Women in Excellence Award from the Alumni Association of Ballou STAY, the 2013 Business Achievement Award from National Capital Area NANBPWC, Inc., and the 2014 Living Legacy Award from Be There Magazine.

Ida's Idea is known around the Washington DC area for donations of clothing to women reentering the workforce. Ida is married to Bob Polite. They are proud parents of a daughter and grandparents of a granddaughter. Shop Ida's Idea for designer fashion and accessories at idasidea.com.

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CERESE·D

SEPTEMBER 2018

THE
FALL
FASHION
EXTRAVAGANZA!

IDEALIZING
FASHION \\\
THE GLITZ &
GLAM OF IT ALL

IDA POLITE
ON FASHION, STYLE &
LOOKING FABULOUS

Style
SHOW WITH
IDA'S IDEA

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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RASHAN ALI

October 2018

With a passion for all things media and empowering young women, Rashan Ali is a formidable and revered personality within the sports and entertainment industries. She believes in “Doing Media Differently.”

While attending Florida A&M University as a Broadcast Journalism major, Rashan knew that she wanted to share her voice with the world and set out on a quest to make that happen. She stormed the entertainment scene in Atlanta, working for LaFace Records and as personal assistant to the late Lisa “Left Eye” Lopes. When Atlanta radio station HOT 107.9 FM held a contest searching for new talent, Rashan entered, and was hand-picked from over 500 applicants to join popular radio personality Ryan Cameron on-air. Her charisma and grace appealed to millions of listeners and propelled the program into the #1 ratings position during its 6-10 AM time slot. She then went on to become the host of the “A-Team” Morning Show on the same station. Rashan’s journey in radio came full circle in 2010 when she reunited with Cameron as co-host of the Ryan Cameron Show on V-103 FM, Atlanta’s #1 urban-formatted station. She later joined new hip hop station 94.5 as the host of “The Streetz Morning Grind” in 2012.

Rashan’s unique perspective and passion for sports has resulted in sideline reporting for the Atlanta Hawks, the Southern Conference Sports Network, the Atlanta Football Classic for NBC Sports, college football and basketball for CBS Sports, and the Chick-Fil-A Bowl Preview Show on ESPN2 and ESPNU. She has also worked on various shows for NBC, the NFHS Network, Aspire TV, and Atlanta’s CW 69 and freelanced as a sports

anchor for CNN and HLN’s Bleacher Report. She is the host of her own podcast, “The Cool Soror Podcast,” which explores the stories of women and men in black Greek organizations. She has since expanded the brand to incorporate all “Cool People.” She was a co-host on Sister Circle, which ran for three seasons, and made a guest appearance on Tyler Perry’s Sistas on BET.

Rashan remains involved in countless charities and organizations. She is an active member of the Pi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in Atlanta, and she serves on the International Honorary & Awards Committee for the sorority. In 2006, she founded Sporty Girls, Inc., a non-profit organization that encourages personal and academic growth through participation in non-traditional sports. The organization has made an indelible impact on young female athletes through her Camp Elite, Sporty Tract to Scholarship, Get Girls Sporty and Sporty Clinics programs and has served more than 2,000 girls throughout the metro Atlanta area. She serves on the Board of Directors for Rising Media Stars, an organization that grooms young women to pursue careers in sports journalism. Ali is also the author of a delightful children’s book entitled Piper Sky’s Pink Popsicle Shoes.

Ali is married to Brian and is the proud mother of two daughters, Bailey and Carter. Watch Rashan on All the Queen’s Men, which debuted on BET+ Fall 2021. Visit www.alirashan.com for more.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL UPDATED PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

OCTOBER 2018

Dainty & Striking Jewelry

Delicate,
Subtle,
Petite,
Romantic,
Minimalist

WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

Entrepreneur,
Mother,
Wife,
Philanthropist,
Hostess,
Servant Leader,
Influencer

Rashan Ali

Cool Soror

"I Do Media Differently!"

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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GENMA STRINGER HOLMES

NOVEMBER 2018

Genma Stringer Holmes is a widely recognized and award-winning serial entrepreneur, media influencer, and editor-in-chief. She is the owner of Holmes Pest Control, Executive Producer of Living Your Best Life Radio, and the Editor-in-Chief of GSH Media.

Genma's heart for non-profits and other such organizations, combined with her communication skills, have won her numerous awards from the International Association of Business Communicators for projects as diverse as editorial work on several print publications to digital communication branding and management.

Among the many social media campaigns Genma has created and managed, you'll find prestigious organizations such as The Ohio State University, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Houston, Intercultural Cancer Council, University of Tennessee at Memphis, Meharry Medical College, the National Day of the American Cowboy, and The Links, Incorporated, just to name a few.

Genma has also been recognized for her various philanthropic endeavors. In 2015, Genma was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as a Difference Maker Honoree on

National Philanthropy Day for her work with military families. In 2017, she was a Nashville Business Journal Women of Influence Honoree, and she was chosen as the Brentwood Woman's Club Member of the Year. In 2018, she was named one of the 25 Most Influential Black Women in America, and she received the President's Choice Award from the Brentwood-Franklin Women's Service Club for her work with the General Federation of Women's Club.

If you talk with Genma for any length of time, you'll know why she is internationally known for her advocacy work for military families and veteran communities. She has received numerous accolades for her work as the founder of the Military Fund at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, Tennessee. She has helped raise over \$600K for military families during her annual Christmas #livingtogivenow social media campaign and through her fundraisers that benefit veteran service organizations. For the past several years, Genma has proudly helped the Rotary Club of Nashville, the third largest Rotary Club in the world, with their Veteran's Day Program by securing notable speakers who have made the program one of the club's most attended events.

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CERESE·D

NOVEMBER 2018

NEW
SEASON
Must Haves

Profiting
from Pests

SHINING
BRIGHT
Colors of Fall

GENMA HOLMES

Enterpriser

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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BEV MCMILLAN | DECEMBER 2018

A business leader, community leader, and philanthropist, Bev McMillan was born in Savannah, Georgia, and reared in Akron, Ohio, graduating from the University of Akron with a BA in Clothing and Textiles. She received a Master of Business in 2010 from the University of Phoenix. Her career began in retail management, landing a major role with the L Brands family, later navigating through various roles in the Victoria's Secret brand for over 25 years.

While employed by Victoria's Secret, Bev, along with her husband, Lennard, arrived in Albuquerque, NM, in the early 2000s after being transferred to lead the care center facility in Rio Rancho, NM. Both Bev and Lennard began actively working within the community, serving those citizens who were the most vulnerable. Bev is a current member of the Albuquerque, NM, chapter of The Links, Incorporated, for the last 14 years and serves as the Western Area Program Chair. She is also a member of the Iota Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Incorporated.

Bev's parents taught her the importance of giving back to the community, and she has put those lessons into practice, utilizing her time well within the Albuquerque area through service on the boards of various organizations. She has served on the boards of the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, United

Way of Central New Mexico, Haven House Domestic Violence Shelter, Lovelace Women's Hospital, and Trustee for the Albuquerque Community Foundation.

Her recent role as the Marketing and Fundraising Chair for Albuquerque Family Advocacy Center led her into her position as Executive Director for Mission: Family with the United Way of Central New Mexico. Mission: Families, United Way of Central New Mexico's newest initiative, focuses on creating stable families and providing resources, including supporting working families and student success. The initiative's goal is to reduce the number of adverse childhood experiences by 50% by 2030 in central New Mexico. Educational experiences and workforce readiness can be negatively affected by early childhood trauma.

Bev loves providing for others and is extremely committed to serving those who are the most vulnerable and in need. Her favorite quote from Muhammad Ali is her mantra: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth!" Read more about the Mission: Families initiative's service to the people of New Mexico here: <https://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/news/2018/10/24/bev-mcmillan-united-way-mission-families.html>.

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CERESE·D

DECEMBER 2018

COOL
CALM
FASHIONABLE

LEADING
SERVING
& ADVANCING
COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITIES

Bev
McMillan

Impactful

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NOELLE RENEE HUGHLEY

JANUARY 2019

Noelle Renee Hughley is a free spirit with a genuine presence. Her innovative style as a radio personality, multimedia journalist, public speaker, social influencer, and model allows her to light up any room she walks into.

As a radio host for one of the largest and fastest-growing digital urban radio stations, Streetz 105.1, Noelle has the energy to create bonds with listeners through her content creation and production skills. Her capability led to the accomplishment of reaching over a million streams worldwide. As early as 2014, Noelle had already captured the hearts of many and was crowned Miss Georgia Teen USA. Since then, she has earned a Bachelor of

Arts in Mass Communications with an emphasis in Broadcast Journalism from Lindenwood University. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the National Association of Black Journalists, the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists, and a mentor for B'Fly Girls, Inc., Noelle is on a mission to be of service to all mankind.

Follow @NoelleReneeXo Instagram and Twitter and search for NoelleReneeXo on YouTube, where you can watch makeup tutorials, newsreels, interviews, and modeling. She is also on Facebook. Learn more at her website, noellehughley.com.

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CERESE·D

JANUARY 2019

TURNING
PASSION
INTO
ACTION

MEGA
CONFIDENCE!
FINDING
YOUR POWER

SECRET WEAPON

TODAY'S YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

Noelle Renee Hughley

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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DENISE SMITH

FEBRUARY 2019

Denise Smith, a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan, is a certified project management professional whose career spans a period of over seventeen years. With a focus on the management of complex business challenges, she has established a firm track record as a skilled strategist and project leader who has coordinated enterprise wide projects for domestic and international accounts involving some of the most recognized brand names in both technology, including Verizon, Amazon, Blackberry, and in consumer products, including Black & Decker, Coca Cola, Home Depot, Michelin, Wachovia, McGrawHill, and Western Union.

Her expertise includes business strategy development, project estimating, scope determination, gap analysis, business process reengineering, issue mitigation, configuration, custom code specifications, testing, training, and post-implementation support. She readily transforms a company's strategic roadmaps and objectives into workable solutions and benchmarks performance against key operational targets and goals to aid the development of key internal processes and technology driven services. She is known for leveraging her cross-cultural skills and international experience to lead high-performing teams.

After commencing her collegiate education at Northeastern University, Denise ultimately transferred to Spelman College, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in May 1999. In December 2014, Denise obtained a Master of Business Administration with a

focus in the innovation of technology from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Denise is currently the HR Systems Portfolio Lead for Service Centre, CoreHR, and Reporting & Analytics with EY. Denise also serves as the innovation leader of EY Atlanta Unity as an supportive advocate for the LGBT+ community and helps to create a safe and inclusive environment for LGBT+ employees through her words and behaviors. This in turn helps support an open and inclusive workplace for everyone. In addition, she has served as one of the Southeast Region Corporate Responsibility Champions. In this role, she executes the firm's Corporate Responsibility programs that are focused around education, entrepreneurship, and environment. She is active in several organizations: Technology Association of Georgia, Women In Technology ("WIT") Volunteer Program Director for WIT Forums and Socials, United Way Cole Women United Cabinet: Vice Chair, and Most Valuable Kids: Advisory Board.

Denise has always prided herself on being an active member in each community in which she has lived, a penchant that found its start growing up in Guilford, Connecticut. A resident of Atlanta for over twelve years, she has been an active participant in a wide variety of community service programs. Along with her husband, son, and daughter, she is a member of Buckhead Church, where she served as a Volunteer Team Captain for the organization's KidStuf program.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

FEBRUARY 2019

YOUNG
ADULTS
THEIR TAKE
ON BIG
BUSINESS &
BIG PAYOUTS

DENISE
SMITH

LAYERS OF LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIST

FROM BUSINESS TO COMMUNITY

CERESE·D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Shane Salter | March 2019

Shane Salter is an accomplished nonprofit leader who brings passion, experience, and personal connection to any mission. It's hard to imagine that it was just two years ago that the March of Dimes appointed him as its Executive Director for Atlanta-Central Georgia. He joined the March of Dimes with 25 years of experience in leadership, advocacy, and nonprofit management. Most recently, Salter was the Brand Ambassador for the Charlotte Hornets, Founder & Executive Director of CASA DC, Chief of Staff for Health and Human Services, Director of the Freddie Mac Foundation, and the National Director of the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities.

Salter earned a Masters in Management and Leadership from Webster University and undergraduate degrees in Health and Human Services and Healthcare Management from Elmira College and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He is also an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

"Shane is an extraordinarily well-rounded business executive who has experience leading all major functions of an organization," said Brett Bartlett, Chair of the March of Dimes Atlanta-Central Georgia board. "His deep passion for the well-being of children and families made him the clear choice as our Executive Director of Market Development. Our board looks forward to working with Shane to strategically develop new opportunities to fund research, services, education and advocacy that improve the health of mothers and babies."

As Executive Director of Market Development, Salter oversees all community partnerships, fundraising and volunteer development for Atlanta and Central Georgia. Salter is the proud father of three adult

children through birth and four by way of adoption. Beyond the challenge of raising great children with various disabilities, he now leads the phenomenal team of passionate advocates, leaders and community organizers.

"The March of Dimes is widely regarded as one of America's most notable and accomplished nonprofit health organizations, having established its roots under President Roosevelt," said Salter. "I am honored to lead the Atlanta-Central Georgia Market in our campaign for the health of all moms and the strength of all babies." The rich history of the March of Dimes and the incredible milestones it has achieved, directly affects the health and lives of millions of people today. I enjoy finding new ways to secure the resources and public support we need to fund lifesaving research and to deliver programs and services to the community."

The March of Dimes is the leading organization for pregnancy and baby health. The nonprofit group seeks to help moms have healthy pregnancies and give babies a healthy start, and works to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. It funds research, services, education and advocacy. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.com (English) or nacersano.org (Spanish). Information on Georgia activities and programs may be found on Facebook (@marchofdimesgeorgia) and Twitter (@marchofdimesga).

Want to help more babies be born healthy?

Take part in the March for Babies: A Mother of a Movement. Learn more and make a donation here: <https://www.marchforbabies.org/?source=teamwalkwithmeevent>

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CERESE·D

MARCH 2019

MARCH
WITH US
LIFE SAVING
RESEARCH

SHANE
SALTER
A PERSONAL
CONNECTION

ACCOMPLISHED
ADVOCACY AND ACTION

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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NATALY WILLIAMS

APRIL 2019

Nataly Williams is a charismatic professional in the sports industry, with over 8 years of progressive career experience in collegiate and professional athletics. Nataly has used her different talents from being a sports broadcaster to currently working in athletic development at Michigan State University. Her unique passion comes from her family roots. Nataly's father, Coach Bobby Williams was the first black Head Football Coach at Michigan State, and currently serves as the Special Teams Coordinator at The University of Oregon. The William's family previously were at The University of Alabama where they won five National Championships.

Nataly joined the Spartan Fund in December of 2016 in the role of donor relations, communications, and stewardship. Nataly's job focuses on sustaining positive relations between MSU Athletics and donors by effective stewardship, she also leads a variety of communications and marketing efforts to enhance the Spartan Fund brand.

Prior to joining Michigan State, she served as the Assistant to the Director of Life Skills and Community Outreach at the University of Alabama. While in Tuscaloosa, she coordinated media appearances and community service for athletes to build relationships around the local community.

After earning her Bachelor's from The University of Alabama, Nataly went on to New Jersey, where she interned with NFL Films, contributing content to the popular segments "NFL Films Presents", NFL Top 10", and "Inside of the NFL". She also worked as a freelance sports reporter covering teams in the SEC, for CBS Sports, and ESPN.

Nataly being a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc has been an active in a wide variety of community service programs in the Lansing, and Tuscaloosa areas.

Instagram: nataly_williams

Twitter: NatalyYvonne

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

APRIL 2019

Athletic Style
Turns into
Fashion With
Bold
Statement
Jewelry

NATALY
WILLIAMS
WINNING
ON OR OFF THE FIELD

TOUCHDOWN

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS



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ERIKA SALTER

MAY 2019

Erika N. Salter is founder and managing partner of the Law Offices of Erika N. Salter, PC, one of Dallas's most highly regarded and sought-after immigration and criminal law firms. She is revered as one of the most knowledgeable and reliable immigration attorneys in Texas. Serendipitously, she learned her outstanding business acumen from her grandfather, Freddie Lee, who broke racial, educational, and social barriers to become one of Tampa's most successful construction business owners. Following his success, Erika has positioned herself as an outstanding African American immigration attorney with the fastest-growing multi-million-dollar business serving thousands of immigrant families throughout Texas. With a success rate of more than 90% positive resolutions, her Dallas and Ft. Worth firms are honored to provide exceptional services in the most complicated areas of criminal, immigration and naturalization law. She is especially renowned in the areas of obtaining lawful status, deportation, citizenship, political asylum, green card applications and general immigration issues.

Erika, realizing the need to give as much as she receives, serves in many organizations. In addition to her legal services, she has an unfailing resolve to mentor young students. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The Girl Friends, Inc., The National Smart Set, Inc., the Ft. Worth/Dallas Metroplex Chapter of Chums, Inc., The Moles, Inc., and The Links, Inc., where she served as the youngest member of the Executive Council and Foundation Board where she helped to raise over \$3 million. As a testament to her continuous desire of excellence and drive for success, she is a proud graduate of The Links, Inc. 2016 Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute.

In addition to participating in her many community service organizations, Erika is one of the 238 businesses and nonprofit organizations that has consistently supported the Dallas Mayor's Intern Fellows Program. She has diligently supported one of the educational organizations within the Dallas School District and provided scholarships to students participating in the educational program entitled "Education Is Freedom." Each year an intern from this program is given an opportunity to work at the law office and, once the intern completes the program and enters college, Attorney Salter provides financial assistance to students that have worked for the law firm.

Most recently, she was recognized by numerous nonprofits as "Top Donor," an award of distinction given to philanthropic individuals. She actively mentors many of the new, up-and-coming attorneys and is extremely proud of the cadre of young lawyers under her tutelage. When they succeed, she emphatically celebrates their successes and accomplishments. Erika does this in remembrance of her grandparents and parents, who helped develop her philanthropic, socially conscious mindset.

Erika N. Salter is a native of Tampa, Florida. She holds a BA in English Education from Tuskegee University and a Juris Doctorate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. She is a member of the State of Texas Supreme Court, United States District Court, Northern District, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), State Bar of Texas Immigration Law Section, Tarrant County Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

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CERESE·D

MAY 2019

**BLACK
WOMEN**

**YOUNG
ATTORNEY
SPOTLIGHT**

**FASHIONABLY
SHARP MINDS
LEADING THE WAY**

Erika Salter

TOUGH JUSTICE, KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

CERESE·D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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NOELLE JONES

JUNE 2019

Noelle Jones is a gifted writer, a brand innovator, a public relations practitioner, and a serial entrepreneur who has lent her talents to many industry sectors over the past five years. A lifelong lover of the arts and culture, Noelle is currently the Public Relations Manager at Atlanta-based integrated marketing agency You Are Here. In her role, Noelle helps to lead PR efforts for Fortune 500 companies around their sports and entertainment activations and initiatives. Previously, Noelle worked as the Public Relations Specialist at the High Museum of Art, one of the largest arts institutions in the Southeast.

Recently named one of Atlanta's "Top Young Professionals" in the May 2018 issue of the Atlanta

Tribune and named a "Mover and Shaker" in South Fulton Lifestyle Magazine, Noelle is honored to push the culture of her hometown forward through the arts and various community initiatives. She is a graduate of Howard University, where she earned a BA in Print Journalism. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Public Relations Society of America. Noelle enjoys supporting small business marketing and PR initiatives through her consulting company We Thrive Media, LLC, and dabbling in event production through family-owned business AEE Productions.

[**CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.**](#)

CERESE·D

JUNE 2019

MILLENNIAL
WOMEN
ROUTE TO
THE TOP

NOELLE
JONES
WE THRIVE MEDIA

TOP YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
THRIVING

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Mykela Marshall

JULY 2019

Mykela Marshall is a native of the small town of Monroeville, AL. In 2009, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Auburn University. She also became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, while at Auburn University in Spring 2005.

In the years following her graduation, she made a very successful career for herself by working as a process engineer, a sales engineer, and an operations manager during the eight years she worked in corporate America. In fact, at the last company she worked for she was the first African American woman promoted to Operations Manager, managing an all-male production crew of a multimillion dollar process in that facility. Her work ethic and leadership ability was recognized by the senior-level executives and thus she has received several presidential bonuses and awards. After attending her sorority's regional conference in 2014, she realized that the majority of the Greek paraphernalia sold by vendors was the same. She always knew she had a love for fashion, so she came up with the idea to bring a boutique concept to the market. She wanted it to be full of fashionable products that change with each season. So in October 2014, she started Fashionably Greek. Her collections comprise great quality products that are vintage inspired. All of the designs are chic,

timeless and versatile enough for any occasions.

As a military spouse, she faced the hard decision of having to find a new job or focusing on building Fashionably Greek when her husband received orders to relocate. She made the decision to take a leap of faith and started working full time with Fashionably Greek. She has successfully grown her business into one of the fastest growing Greek paraphernalia companies. Her 1908 sweatshirt design has been seen on The View, worn by non-other than the oh-so-pretty Sunny Hostin. Other celebs such as Yvette Nicole Brown, Ebony K. Williams, Roland Martin, and Shamari Devoe have purchased products from Fashionably Greek.

She is a member of Delta Theta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in Mobile, Alabama. She prides herself on giving back to the community through volunteerism and charitable donations. She is married to Jamon Marshall, who serves in the United States Army. They have a beautiful baby girl named London Belle. You can follow her on Instagram @BeFashionablyGreek and @FashionablyGreek on Facebook. You can also visit her website to pick up some must haves at www.BeFashionablyGreek.com.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D

JULY 2019

Statement
Apparel &
Statement
Jewelry
A PERFECT MATCH

MYKELA
MARSHALL
ENGINEERING
SUCCESS

FASHIONABLY
GREEK

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Tiffany Whitaker

August 2019

Tiffany Whitaker is the founder of Saintsville Academy and Preparatory School in Fort Worth, Texas, which serves over 175 students, from the age of 18 months through fifth grade. She has recently been ordained as Lead Pastor of Saintsville Cathedral in Fort Worth, where her father, Milton Pace, is Founder and Senior Pastor.

After graduating from Florida A&M University in 1998, she taught at the world-renowned Marva Collins Preparatory School of Chicago and worked very closely with the late, great Marva Collins from 1997 to 2000. Collins was launched into the national spotlight in 1981 with the premier of a TV movie about her life starring Cicely Tyson and Morgan Freeman. During the summer of 2000, Tiffany moved back to her hometown of Fort Worth and started a private school in the church founded by her father. Through her experience and leadership, the school has grown tremendously over the past two decades.

Outside of her everyday profession as an educator, Tiffany is also the founder and sole proprietor of

PTKO.club (For Parents, Teachers, and Kids Only), a one-stop shop for educational resources. As a member of the Fort Worth chapter of The Links, Incorporated, she leads the chapter's NBSBE Jr./STEAM Ahead Program. She is also a scholarship outreach volunteer for UNCF North Texas, a 2019 recipient of the Eminent Citizen Award sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (Alpha Sigma Chapter), a 2018 recipient of the Fort Worth Business Professional Women's Club Pioneer Award, a 2018 National Society Of Black Engineers "STEMulating Young Minds Institute" graduate, a recipient of the 2014 Female Success Factor "Top 25 Women of Dallas," and an honoree of Purpose Driven Youth Empowerment's "Top 100 Educators of DFW." The majority of her time is dedicated to empowering youth. During her free time she loves to read, write, travel, and spend time with her children. Tiffany is the wife of Montrose Whitaker and mother of two girls, Kemi (8 years old) and Khloe (5 years old).

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CERESE·D

AUGUST 2019

Tiffany
Whitaker

STIMULATING
YOUNG MINDS

PUTTING
“PREP”
IN YOUR STEP

HIGHLIGHTS

EMPOWERING TODAY'S YOUTH

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



LYDIA J. CARLIS

SEPTEMBER 2019

Lydia J. Carlis, PhD, is Chief Eymagination Officer for Eymagination Enterprises, LLC, an education consulting (eyemaginED) and visual arts company (Eymagination Imaging/C-Suite Pics®) based in Washington, DC. In her work, Lydia helps clients see what is, imagine what can be, and work creatively to get there, together.

Lydia is Principal Consultant for eyemaginED, the education consulting arm of Eymagination Enterprises LLC. eyemaginED exists to significantly impact child outcomes by developing effective educational solutions and influencing education policy to raise expectations for programs serving children from birth through elementary school. Through collaboration with schools, districts or networks, foundations, and other ed-facing organizations, eyemaginED projects support children most at risk when schools and systems fail them.

Lydia has developed special education, ESL, and Response to Intervention training and resources for parents, teachers, school leaders, policymakers and funders. She has taught undergraduate and graduate-level special education and ESL courses at Johns Hopkins University, The George Washington University, and University of Maryland College Park. Lydia has successfully designed, written, and directed several foundation, SEA, and federal grants to support diverse learners, and she has served as

a private, state, and federal expert grant reviewer for various entities. Clients include Bainum Family Foundation, Bellwether Education Partners, Boston University, KIPP DC, Leading Educators, Martha's Table, National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), The New Teacher Project (TNTP), and Versed Education Group.

In 2015, Lydia formed the C-Suite Pics® division of Eymagination Imaging, which captures corporate and nonprofit events with a purpose, and on-location, dynamic professional portraits for busy executives, entrepreneurs, and creatives, to help them communicate their unique brand. She is especially passionate about helping female leaders of color use personal branding to show up as their best selves in the global marketplace. Corporate clients include PNC Bank, Radio One (now Urban One), Odyssey Media, Flourish Conference for Women in Leadership, Johns Hopkins University, and NonprofitHR.

Lydia serves as the vice-chair for the DC Special Education Cooperative, and as member of the United Planning Organization board of directors, DC's only community action organization. She is the wife of Dr. DaNa Carlis and proud mom to Dia Dannielle, a rising college junior.

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CERESE·D

SEPTEMBER 2019

**BUILD
YOUR
BRAND
& GET THE
LOOK**

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
ACCESSORY?
#1 JEWELRY
#2 CAMERA
#3

Lydia J. Carlis

INFLUENCING EDUCATIONAL POLICY

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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CHERYL WALKER-ROBERTSON

OCTOBER 2019

Cheryl Walker-Robertson, Founder and Chief Protocol Officer of Protocol International, is a native of Philadelphia who grew up as a basketball-playing tomboy in West Philadelphia. Needless to say, at that time she had little regard for the etiquette classes her mother made her attend. Little did she know or imagine that those etiquette classes, along with years as a flight attendant with PamAm, would provide the foundation for a career that would catapult her to success in the business community as a renowned certified international protocol and etiquette expert.

Today, Walker-Robertson enjoys national recognition for extraordinary talent as a speaker, trainer, workshop facilitator, and executive coach, as well as for her leadership role with Odyssey Network Business Retreat. She earned a BS in Business Management from St. Augustine's College, an Associate's Degree from Harcum College, a certificate in Management from Penn State's Executive Development Program, and a Certificate in Negotiation from the University of Notre Dame. Walker-Robertson is also licensed as a practitioner in cultural competence awareness and as a cultural navigator by Berlitz International.

Walker-Robertson has capitalized on her vast training and 25 years of experience in sales and marketing and extensive experience in protocol and cultural competency, including studying under the direction of Dorothea Johnson, Protocol Advisor and Liaison to the Washington Diplomatic Community for the Joint Military Attaché. In January 2000, she launched Protocol International as a Business and Professional Development consulting company that

delivers an array of training and coaching services for today's executives and tomorrow's business leaders. Walker-Robertson's clientele represent Fortune 500 businesses, government, educational institutions, members of the entertainment industry, medium-sized businesses, and social groups, as well as organizations that serve youth, teens, and children. She is the protocol and etiquette expert for Count Me In, NBC 40, ProDiverse, and Odyssey Media, amongst others. Protocol International is also the protocol and etiquette consultant for the reality show, Princess Perfect.

Walker-Robertson's broad-based knowledge and engaging approach enable her to present in an interactive and engaging manner. In addition to her signature style, she has a unique ability to relate and present to multi-generational audiences. As a result, she is in great demand as a speaker and expert on issues facing today's market. Walker-Robertson has been called the 'ultimate networker' and has trained finance, sales, and marketing experts in the art and science of networking. She is also co-author of *The Power of Civility* and author of *Effective Networking: The Ultimate Business Tool*, *Rules of Engagement: How to Win at Dining with Clients and Other Important People*, and a contributing writer to various national and international trade and business publications, online radio shows, and podcasts. You can check out Cheryl's blog and get her weekly tips at www.4protocol.net.

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CERESE·D

OCTOBER 2019

UNLEASH
YOUR INNER
LEADER

MOTIVATION
COACH
POTENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT
SKILL
SUPPORT
KNOWLEDGE
ADVICE

TEN
ESSENTIAL
PRINCIPLES
OF LEADERSHIP

CHERYL WALKER-ROBERTSON
PROTOCOL

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Sherita Beard Lee

NOVEMBER 2019

Known as “A Dream Activator,” Sherita Beard Lee founded the nonprofit Suite Dreams in 2014. Suite Dreams has two arms. The first arm provides dream spaces for students who live in undesirable spaces, and the second arm provides college students with dorm room essentials so that on day one they are off to a confident start.

Suite Dreams has assisted more than 150 college students. Most recently, after hearing about the Bahamian students attending Hampton University after their school was damaged by Hurricane Dorian, she held a virtual fundraiser on the road trip to Hampton, VA, which provided funds for the students as they acclimated to the Hampton University community. She has also taken Suite Dreams to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, supporting the needs of youth homes in both areas.

Sherita grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where she learned the importance of giving back through working with her church’s community food program and observing the selfless actions of her mother. Attending Spelman College was a life-changing event for her. Spelman College commands its students when graduating to “Make a Choice to Change the World.” While at Spelman, she learned how to improve the lives of others as well as her own life, and learned the value of leadership, confidence, discipline, determination, humility, resilience, and risk-taking.

She believes in aligning career choices with personal values. Working at Merck & Co. for 26 years has allowed her to do work that makes a difference in the lives of others. currently works in global oncology marketing services as a Launch Excellence Business Consultant

and is a certified Scrum Master. At work, she wears many hats including Global Leader for the Employee Business Resource Group, LEAD (League of Employees of African Descent). In 2018, she was selected to serve as a Fellow in Merck’s Fellowship for Global Health, spending three months in Dakar and Tambacounda, Senegal, working to develop a risk model to improve maternal mortality in the country.

Sherita is a member of the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she serves as the Scholarship Committee Chair. In 2016, she was selected as the Memphis Alumnae Chapter’s Delta of the Year and has held many roles in the organization. She is also active in initiatives for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and International Awareness with the Bucks County (PA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Passionate about helping youth, she is a member of the Board of Collage Dance Collective (Memphis, TN) and Journey to Destiny Ministries (Dominican Republic). She serves as the Chair for the National Civil Rights Museum’s (Memphis, TN) fundraiser, “A Night at the Lorraine” and was honored as a 2019 Exceptional Woman, winning the Non-Profit category award during the Tri-County YWCA’s (Pottstown, PA) 24th Annual Tribute to Exceptional Women. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, baking, and spending time with family.

She attributes her success to God and three easy actions: Be Nice, Give Back, and Say Yes More Than No. “All three things will boomerang back to you,” she says. For more information on Suite Dreams, visit <https://www.suitedreamspace.org/>

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CERESE·D

NOVEMBER 2019

Global
Health
& Wellness
How can
you HELP?

SHERITA
BEARD
LEE

MODEL FOR IMPROVMENT

How
To Build A
Student
For The
21st
CENTURY

SUITE DREAMS

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Johnnie B. Booker

December 2019

Ms. Johnnie B. Booker retired from the Coca-Cola Company in 2012 as Global Director of Supplier Diversity. In this capacity, Ms. Booker was responsible for developing and implementing the company's supplier diversity program and initiatives to assure equal contracting opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses. During her first year with the company, contracts with minority and women owned businesses increased over the prior year by 50 percent, and exceeded the company's goal by 27 percent. Under Ms. Booker's leadership, the company consistently exceeded its goals for subsequent years and its supplier diversity profile grew substantially in actual dollars expended and global recognition.

Before joining the Coca-Cola Company in April 2001, Ms. Booker was a consultant to a number of national agencies and corporations, developing supplier and workforce diversity initiatives and programs. She also served in the federal government at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Vice President of the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC). While at the RTC, Ms. Booker served as a member of the Executive Committee. In this role, she created unprecedented contracting and investment opportunities for minority and women owned businesses and law firms. She commissioned the first disparity study by a federal agency and increased contracting fees for minority and women owned businesses from 18 percent to over 48 percent and from 3 to 26 percent for minority and women owned law firms. Her efforts resulted in expanded opportunities for minorities to purchase 32 branches of failed financial institutions and assured the inclusion of approximately \$700 million in deposits.

Prior to her tenure at the RTC, Ms. Booker served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this role, she established a new office of affirmative action and equal opportunity and successfully revamped the Department's fragmented approach to discrimination complaint processing and affirmative employment programs. Ms. Booker also served in executive capacities with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the National Urban League.

A native of Fort Valley, Georgia, Ms. Booker received a Bachelor of Science from Hampton University and a Master of Social Work from the Atlanta University School of Social Work. In 2009, she was honored by Hampton University as Alumna of the Year. She currently serves on the board of the Fort Valley State University Foundation and the Delta Airlines Supplier Diversity Council. Her affiliations include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The Links, Inc., Atlanta Chapter of Circle-Lets, The Utopian Literary Club, Hampton University Alumni Association, NAACP, Urban League, and Big Bethel AME Church. Ms. Booker has appeared in a myriad of national publications and has received numerous honors and awards, which include two Congressional Resolutions from the U.S. House of Representatives, for her exceptional professional contributions and accomplishments.

Ms. Booker's son, S. Courtney Booker, III, her daughter-in-law Nissa, and her two wonderful grandchildren, Dalyn and Aiden, bring her special joy.

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CERESE·D

DECEMBER 2019

**JOHNNIE B.
BOOKER**

**WOMAN
OF
POWER**

**UNLEASH
YOUR
POWER IN
2020!**

MOGUL 2.0

How One Woman Championed Diversity

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VALERIE HOLLINGSWORTH BAKER

January 2020

Valerie Hollingsworth-Baker was born in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated from York Institute as class valedictorian at 14 years old and enrolled at Fordham University's Lincoln Center campus, where she graduated at age 18, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Child Psychology with a minor in theater and drama.

Now enjoying early retirement, Valerie began her career in 1989 at New York Life Insurance Company in New York City, where she worked in various senior-level positions, including Project Manager, Director of the Inforce Systems Division, and Chief Administrator.

Valerie became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, in 1982 and has remained a member of Delta Mu Zeta chapter since her induction. She currently serves the sorority as its 25th International

President and is a Diamond Life Member. She has received numerous awards from her sorority and has also been recognized in the International "Who's Who of Information and Technology" and "Outstanding Women of America" publications.

Valerie is a member of St. Augustine's Church in Brooklyn. She serves as the VP of Hancock T & T Block Association and is a member of the NAACP. For more than 25 years, Valerie has volunteered with the March of Dimes, United Way, Red Cross, UNCF, and New York Cares. She believes that things may not happen when you want them to happen, but God provides when the time is right! Valerie resides in NY with her husband, Mr. Douglas Baker.

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JANUARY 2020

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& BLAZING
NEW PATHS

Valerie
Hollingsworth Baker
International President
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

CELEBRATING
2020

CENTENNIAL

100 YEARS OF FINER WOMEN

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JERNARD WELLS

FEBRUARY 2020

Jernard Wells is an award winning celebrity chef, bestselling cookbook author, and host of Taste Award-winning New Soul Kitchen on Cleo TV and co-host of Best Thing I Ever Ate on the Cooking Channel and has appeared on numerous Food Network shows. Over the course of his career, Wells has worked with Tyler Perry, NBA star Brandon Ingram, Lady Antebellum, and Ricky Bell and Michael Bevens of New Edition and Bell Biv DeVoe, to name a few. Wells has been featured on The Today Show, People, The Steve Harvey Morning Show, Essence, Pickler & Ben, Home & Family, Daily Blast Live, Lifetime, CNN, and HLN.

Online and Streaming Show on March 9, 2020 in Beverly Hills, California, at the Writers Guild Academy.

Wells will also be inducted into the Taste Awards Hall of Fame for his co-host role on the Cooking Channel's hit show The Best Thing I Ever Ate. He was also set to take part in the Celebrity Chef Line-Up on the 2020 Tom Joyner Fantastic Voyage, scheduled to set sail March 28th-April 4th.

The James Beard House Honored Chef is affectionately known as “the family chef” because he loves using food to promote positive family images. His sauces, spices, and all six of his books are available on www.ChefJernard.com. Follow him on Instagram @chefjernard and Facebook @chefjernard.

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CERESE·D

FEBRUARY 2020

TOP 10
COOKING
TOOLS

NEW
SOUL
KITCHEN
CLEO TV

CULINARY
CONVERSATIONS

CHEF JERNARD WELLS

CHEF of LOVE

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Melvina Washington

MARCH 2020

A mother, wife, woman, and entrepreneur, Melvina Marie Washington is a believer in infinite possibilities. She was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, and more than exemplifies the true meaning of going above and beyond, believing the sky is the limit.

Melvina has more than 15 years of expertise in the Health Information Management arena. She has worked for several hospitals across the United States, from teaching facilities to critical care units. She specializes in several medical coding disciplines, acquiring a passion for coding and auditing charts for several professional services discipline such as consults, clinics, and more. In this role, she collaborates with physicians to improve documentations to obtain the greatest reimbursement for the healthcare facility. In addition to coding, auditing, and compliance assignments, she is an excellent communicator, motivator, and team player who expertly completes her projects and assignments with the highest confidentiality and accuracy possible. In addition, Melvina is owner/founder and President of Infinity Health Information Management (IHIM) and Infinity HIM School, where she has implemented an eight-week medical coding program for those who would like to break into the field of coding. Melvina is changing the paradigm by teaching medical coding and the necessary tools while also focusing on a specific type of coding to create subject matter experts for faster turnaround of employment. She also employs contractors and assists them with gaining experience and advanced knowledge of coding, offering training, education, resume assistance, and interviewing techniques.

Melvina holds a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Management from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelor's in Computer Information Systems, and an Associate's in Health Information Technology. She is a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) with American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), a Certified Professional Coder (CPC) with the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC), and a member of Georgia American Health Information Management Association (GAHIMA) and AAPC.

Since 2014, she has been a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, remaining a member of Sigma Mu Zeta Chapter since her induction. A highly active member who believes in the power of giving back, she volunteers in a variety of community programs. Her region placed fifth for all regions of March of Dimes under the 2019 Zeta Phi Beta fundraiser. She is a major contributor of wigs for the American Cancer Society.

Living in Lithonia, Georgia, Melvina is happily married to Glenn Feaster for 22 years. They are proud parents of three daughters, all attending Historically Black Colleges/Universities: Mariama Aisha, the oldest and member of Zeta Phi Beta, and the twins, Sierra Leone and Amira Nkeiruka. Together they have traveled the world and over 30 States in the US, so far. Find IHIM online at www.infinityhim.com and Infinity HIM School at www.infinityhimschool.com. Her final words are be yourself, dream big, work hard, and believe in infinite possibilities.

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CERESE·D

March 2020

**ADVANCING
HEALTHCARE**

Health
Information
Management

**MELVINA
WASHINGTON**

In a league
of her own!

DECODED

MEDICAL CODING, ADUTITING & COMPLIANCE



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Tracey Morant Adams

APRIL 2020

Recognized as a high performer focused on organizational leadership and client satisfaction, Tracey Morant Adams' forward-thinking, world-class approach to business and relationship management makes her well-suited to her current position as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Community Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer for Renasant Bank.

Central to Ms. Adams' role is leading efforts in the development of programs and community initiatives to promote small business development and increase business relationship management across Renasant's corporate footprint. Additionally, as a divisional leader, she sits on the company's Senior Leaders' Roundtable to guide the company's diversity and inclusion efforts.

She attended the University of Montevallo, where she graduated cum laude in 1998 with a BA in Business Management. She went on to receive a Master of Business Administration in 1992 from Samford University and has extensive postgraduate work in quantitative analysis from Temple University and economic development training from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Currently, she is a doctoral student at Alabama State University, pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law.

Ms. Adams is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Birmingham and a 2014 graduate of Leadership Shelby County (AL) program. She has been recognized by the NAACP and other community advocacy organizations for her commitment to economic development in underserved communities. Tracey has been recognized for her humanitarian efforts by The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Executive Leadership Team. She has received high commendations from the Southeastern Region of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., for her outstanding leadership development initiatives. She has received the Jessie Lewis Small Business Advocate of the Year Award, presented by the Birmingham Business Alliance, as well as the Fusion Energizer Award presented by Summit Media for Leadership, and was recognized as a Woman of Distinction by the Central Alabama Girl Scouts. Recently, she was named as one of Savoy's 2020 Most Influential Black Executives in Corporate America.

A native Alabamian, Ms. Adams is involved in a number of professional organizations including the National Association of Female Executives, The Links, Inc., Birmingham Kiwanis, the Women's Network of Birmingham, Samford University Brock School of Business Advisory Board, and the National Association of Parliamentarians. She is a lifelong active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., with over 30 years of continuous service in a variety of roles, currently serving as Chairman of the International Membership Committee.

Currently, Ms. Adams serves as co-chairman of the Talladega College Board of Trustees and on various civic boards including the YWCA of Greater Birmingham, the Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham, the Birmingham Kiwanis Club, and the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee of The Links, Inc. She is also actively involved with New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church.

An avid reader, Ms. Adams enjoys traveling with her husband, Jeff Adams, to new and exciting places and spending quality time with her stepson, JJ, her mother, Mrs. Callie W. Morant of Sylacauga, Alabama, and her incredible extended family.

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CERESE·D

April 2020

**WORKFORCE
DIVERSITY**

**TRACEY
MORANT
ADAMS**

In Times Of
CRISIS
Do You Have
A Banking
Relationship

A Forward
Thinking Leader

BANK ON IT!

PROMOTING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SATISFACTION

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JANNIFER FISHER BANKS

MAY 2020

Jannifer Fisher Banks considers herself an ordinary human being with one passion: pleasing her Lord and Savior. “God has blessed me with a gift through song,” she says, and she shares that gift with the world, singing all over the United States. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, she has sung at several regional conferences. She loves the freedom that comes with singing, calling it “the most natural form of expression. Each voice is unique, and to explore it and use it, I think, is very therapeutic for the soul.”

She was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in 1992 while attending Alcorn State University. Over 25 years later, she remains a lifelong member. She has been married for almost as long to Colonel Marshall D. Banks, Retired and is mother of two beautiful souls, son Marshall Channing, student at Jackson State University, and daughter Jannifer Katelin, student at Vicksburg High School, Vicksburg, MS.

She enjoys her family, her church, and her love for her job as a guidance counselor at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS. Her favorite thing about being a school counselor is that she can be there for students in their moment of need. She loves being the one who helps empower students to face their problems and grow as individuals. “As counselors,” she says, “we get to be there for students in crisis and connect families with resources when they are in need.” There is no greater feeling in the world for her than having a career that allows her to have a positive effect on so many people. She also loves Cerese D Jewelry. “It has been an inspiration to me,” just as she has been an inspiration to so many students and families.

She remains a humble servant of God, doing his will and his way. She sends her love to everyone and prays for good health in the weeks, months, and years to come.

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CERESE·D

MAY 2020

BE GOOD FRIDAY
MESSAGE OF
HOPE

WHEN YOU
LOVE WHAT
YOU DO!

Jannifer
Banks

Heart, Passion, Pursuit

COUNSELOR

FOCUSED ON ADVISING

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Bev Johnson | June 2020

Memphis native and veteran radio show host Bev Johnson made history by shattering glass ceilings when she became the first African American woman inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

Born Beverly Elaine Johnson to the parents of the late William Van Johnson and Atlas Danner Johnson, she graduated from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1970. She went on to receive her BA in English Literature from Rust College and MS in Education/Media Technology from Jackson State University.

Bev's broadcasting journey began in 1976 at WJSU Radio and continued at many other radio stations in Jackson, Mississippi, working as disc jockey, programming assistant, public affairs director, and news director. In 1981, the journey continued to Memphis, Tennessee, ultimately to the legendary WDIA Radio, America's first Black radio station, where she has been employed for 37 years and hosts The Bev Johnson Show, now in its 33rd year. Bev has been in radio for over 40 years and is known affectionately as "The Queen of Talk."

Always civic-minded, Bev received a certification in Substance Abuse Counseling from Southwest Tennessee Community College and certification in Drug Court Counseling from the Drug Court Institute in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2003. She continues to live out her motto, "As You Treat Yourself, You Will Treat Others" by giving back to others. She has served on the boards of The Rock N Soul Museum, Memphis Area Planned Parenthood, and the National Black Programmers Coalition. Bev has been a mentor for the Gordon Elementary School girl's program, a chairperson for the NAACP's Annual

Radiothon, a former auctioneer for WKNO Television's Action Auction and the Coalition of 100 Black Women, and a volunteer for the Stax Museum, the Museum of American Soul Music. Bev is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter, where she served as 2nd Vice President for two years.

A shining star in radio broadcasting, Bev has received numerous awards including four National Black Programmers Coalition News/Public Affairs Director of the Year awards, 1996 UNCF Outstanding Alumnus Award, 1993-1995 National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award Personality of the Year Nominee, 1996 Billboard Personality of the Year, and 2013 Jus Blues Radio Pioneer Award. She has been honored by local, state, and national government for The Bev Johnson Show. Bev was named an Emissary of Memphis Music. In 2020, Bev received the Trailblazer Award from the Memphis Heritage Trail and the keys to the City of Memphis by Mayor Jim Strickland.

Bev is a faithful member of the Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church and co-collaborator of Heart 2 Heart Counseling Services. As a passionate educator, Bev has shared her love of radio by raising up the next generation of broadcasters. She was a radio instructor at Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, for eight years and for 30 years has been an instructor at Southwest Tennessee Community College, where she teaches Speech and Writing. A sought-after motivational speaker, Bev's oral history was chronicled by The History Makers Media Division, housed in The Library of Congress.

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JUNE 2020

**WOMEN
IN RADIO**

Broadcasting
Excellence
Everyday

**BEV
JOHNSON**

"The Queen of Talk"

YOUR
WORDS
HAVE
POWER

ICONS,
LEGENDS,
HALL OF FAMERS
& TRAILBLAZERS

LISTEN

Entertain, inform, clarify, and command an audience.

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PHYLLIS L. JONES

JULY 2020

Phyllis L. Jones is a visionary leader and trailblazer for innovative services and programs. She strives to instill the values of leadership through service, lifelong learning, and social inclusiveness for all mankind.

Phyllis has a proven track record of success as an administrator and consultant in the healthcare field for over 35 years. She has worked in nonprofits, specialty centers, and multi-million dollar organizations, where she has developed strategies in the management of billing, personnel, budgeting, marketing, contracting, and operation improvement, resulting in increased revenues and multi-state expansions.

In addition to her consulting work, she is a notable event designer whose work includes weddings, luncheons, galas, corporate events, and national conferences. Her attention to detail coupled with her ability to be task-oriented afforded her the opportunity to serve as the lead designer of social occasions for local, regional and national dignitaries. Phyllis volunteers her time and energy motivating and inspiring youth to become productive citizens and world leaders. Volunteer activities and collaborations include: The Melvin Jones Foundation, Inc., Pearls of Service Foundation, Inc. (IVY L.E.A.G.U.E.), Rotary Youth Leadership Association, Performing Arts Academy for Youth,

and the West Tennessee Kidney Foundation. She consistently works toward the betterment of human relations.

She has received honors, awards, and recognitions for her community service from the Tennessee House of Representatives, the Tennessee Economic Business Council, the YWCA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Tri-State Defender. Phyllis currently serves as the At-Large Director on the board of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation, Inc. She is a former South Eastern EAF Regional Coordinator of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, former President and charter member of the Phi Lambda Omega Chapter, visionary for the chapter's Pearls of Service Foundation, Inc., and former President of Pearls of Service Foundation, Inc.

A native Memphian, she graduated from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville with bachelor's and master's degrees in Public Health Administration. She is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator.

Phyllis is married to Reginald Jones and has one son, Reginald, II.

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July 2020

SHIFTING
TO VIRTUAL
PARTIES,
WEDDINGS,
CONFERENCES

HIRE A
PROFESSIONAL
EVENT
PLANNER

Phyllis L. Jones
Detailed to the Core

SPECIAL EVENTS!

GAME CHANGER: VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR 2020

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Daphne Ferguson-Young

AUGUST 2020

Daphne Ferguson-Young, DDS, MSPH, FACD, FICD, has spent over forty years as a General Dentist and Academician. She is a Professor in the Division of Surgical Sciences at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where she has been a faculty member for a quarter of a century. Currently, she is the Director of the General Practice Residency program and she participates on several college committees, serving in numerous leadership capacities.

Prior to her academic appointment, Dr. Ferguson-Young maintained a private practice, practiced as a staff dentist at Matthew Walker Community Health Center, was a contract dentist for Indian Health Services, and served 12 years in the United States Army Reserves. Her transition from classroom to combat zone made the front page of the Tennessean and was reported in national newspapers when she was deployed to Iraq in 2004. She retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel with honors for her dedication, bravery, and commitment.

Her military service and leadership made Dr. Ferguson-Young the perfect candidate to serve as Meharry's liaison to Hawler Medical College's School of Dentistry in Kurdistan, Iraq. Her firsthand knowledge and experience with the culture and people were invaluable and made the collaboration a great partnership.

No stranger to humanitarian missions and building partnerships that further dental health in underserved communities, Dr. Ferguson-Young for nearly a decade has accompanied the D3 dental students on a Jamaican dental mission trip, sponsored by the Jamaican Awareness Association of California (JAAC). Each year, dental students of Meharry devote a week to providing dental services to hundreds of patients. In addition to serving with JAAC-Meharry's yearly mission, Dr.

Ferguson-Young has traveled to Jamaica to provide dental services to school-age children with The Links, Inc., in the last several years.

Her philanthropy and compassionate leadership is known around the globe, but she is also locally recognized, having served for 10 years on the governing board of Matthew Walker Community Health Center, which provides affordable care for underinsured and uninsured Tennesseans. In 2011, she completed the ADEA Leadership Institute program as a scholarship fellow, and in 2013, she was inducted into the invitation-only American College of Dentists in New Orleans.

Dr. Ferguson-Young has also made history in her leadership roles in a number of organizations. In 2020, she became the fourth African American woman to lead the American Association of Women Dentists. In the organization's 100th year of existence, she became its 100th president. Prior to that achievement, Dr. Ferguson-Young served on the AAWD's Board of Directors in a variety of roles.

She received her BS from North Carolina A & T State University and her DDS and MSPH from Meharry Medical College. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha and The Links, Incorporated. In the 2020, she was an Athena 2020 nominee, nominated by the Parthenon (TN) Chapter of The Links, Inc.

When she is not serving or leading others, she travels extensively for adventure and reads with abandon. She is a patron of the arts. She avidly collects and encourages young African American artists. She is the proud mother of recording artist and songwriter Spree Wilson.

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CERESE·D

August 2020

HATS to WEAR

Leader,
Philanthropist,
Teacher,
Humanitarian,
& More

THROUGH HER LENS

WOMEN VETERANS
APPRECIATION

Dr. Daphne
Ferguson-Young

A HEALTHY SMILE A HEALTHY LIFE

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EULA LEWIS-SPIVEY

SEPTEMBER 2020

Eula Lewis-Spivey is a native of Minden, Louisiana, with 31 years of continuous leadership and service as an educator for DeKalb County School District in Stone Mountain, Georgia. She received her BS in Early Childhood Education from Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Since 1989, she has taught several grade levels at Fairington Elementary School. Currently she is the English to Speakers of Other Languages Teacher (ESOL) teacher for kindergarten to 2nd grade. She is dedicated to serving the students, parents, and other stakeholders at Fairington Elementary School and within her diverse community.

She is a dedicated wife of 23 years to Mr. Clarence Spivey and the proud parent to seven spirited children and five energetic grandchildren. She's an avid doll collector and an antique thrifting junkie in her spare time. She is a member of the Ray Hope Christian Church, where she serves as an esteemed member with the Daughters of Destiny, where she develops holistic ministry opportunities to women of the Ray of Hope Christian Church and the surrounding community.

She has been a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for 34 years, currently a member of Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter (SM-LAC) in Lithonia, Georgia, where she has served in various leadership roles, most recently as the Recording Secretary, since 2017. She is a Southern University Federation Life Member and serves as the Treasurer for the Southern University Alumni Atlanta Chapter. She is responsible for social media communication for Delta Research Educational Foundation's Teachers Advocating to Lead Great Change. She is also 2nd Vice President for the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., DeKalb. She is the Professional Learning Liaison

(PLL), BETA and Girlz Sparkles' sponsor at Fairington Elementary School. Because of her dedication and hard work, she was selected as one of the presenters for Grades 1-3 ACCESS 2.0 Speaking training. Most recently she was accepted into the Junior League of Atlanta and Hands on Atlanta Civic Leadership programs.

As an educator/parent she has worked tirelessly as a mentor, a Teacher Support Specialist, a grade chairperson, a P.T.S.A. Recording Secretary, a Sunshine Committee Chairperson, a P.T.S.A. President, a P.T.S.A. Treasurer, Teacher of the Year (2009), Gifted Teacher Endorsement Participant, Georgia Association for Gifted Children member, Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign/Teacher Efficacy Academy Participant, ESOL Endorsement Participant, and member of National Educator Association.

Mrs. Lewis-Spivey has exhibited leadership roles such as a Girl Scouts Troop Leader, Central DeKalb Cheer Coach, OUTCHAMIND Mentor for At-Risk Youths, Inc., Stone Mountain High School Varsity Cheer Team Mom, Wade Walker Park Executive Board Member-At-Large, Windy Ridge Board Member, Executive Board Member for SM-LAC, Educational Development Committee Chair for SM-LAC, a member of the National Council of Negro Woman, Inc. (NCNW), a Decatur YMCA Board Member, and MANY more.

Mrs. Lewis-Spivey is a fervent leader that has a proven track record in leading within her school and community, setting vision and strategy and driving results that show how she has proactively made a difference by disseminating knowledge to all she's encountered in her 30+ years of service.

[**CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.**](#)

CERESE·D

September 2020

**FROM
VIRTUAL
REALITY,
TO VIRTUAL
LEARNING**

**PREPARING OUR KIDS
TO ADAPT AND GROW
IN A CHANGING WORLD**

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**
During
COVID-19

EULA LEWIS-SPIVEY
KEEPING LEARNING ALIVE

ONLINE EDUCATION

THE BIG DEBATE. PROS AND CONS. MYTH BUSTERS.



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Vashti-Jasmine Saint-Jean

October 2020

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Vashti-Jasmine Saint-Jean has a heart for transforming inner-city ministry and helping ministries flourish beyond the status quo. She served previously served as Lead Pastor of the New Jerusalem AME Church in Dallas, Texas and is currently Lead Pastor at Love City DFW.

Bringing a variety of experience to the church, Pastor Jasmine utilizes the skills garnered from her experience in the television and live entertainment business along with her Administration of Justice background, having served as an officer and an agent for Justice and National Security.

Jasmine is a graduate of Howard University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and she holds a certificate in Youth and Theology from Princeton Seminary. She is a member of the Collin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity and has served on various Board of Directors. Learn more about her ministry, Love City DFW, at lovecitydfw.com.

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CERESE·D

OCTOBER 2020

**GROWING
PEOPLE**

Change a City

**LOVED
PEOPLE**

Find People

**SAVED
PEOPLE**

Serve People

Reverend

Vashti-Jasmine Saint-Jean

This is not a job. This is a calling

LABOR OF LOVE

Love God. Love People. Love City.

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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LATANYA BOATWRIGHT

NOVEMBER 2020

Celebrated business leader, philanthropist, and entrepreneur Latanya Boatwright is a woman on a mission. Although she is a native of Georgia, Latanya has had the opportunity to live across the globe while growing up in a military household. She received a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics from Clark Atlanta University and received a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from Keller Graduate School of Business. Latanya later earned a certificate of Financial Analysis to further elevate her skills.

For more than two decades, Latanya has excelled in employment opportunities in corporate America with major Fortune 500 companies. Her leadership skills and team spirit have played a significant role in transforming workplace cultures everywhere she has worked. Currently, she works closely with corporate executives to help identify financial risks and opportunities while providing sound fiscal advice.

Latanya is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She currently serves as the President of the Legacy of Pearls Foundation,

Inc., the philanthropic arm of the Sigma Omega Omega Chapter of the sorority. As a board member of the Legacy of Peals Foundation, she has played a significant role in community programs and securing scholarship funds for our youth. As a respected leader in the community, Latanya sits on several nonprofit boards and is an active member of other community organizations.

Always ready to face a new challenge, Latanya recently launched a natural, organic body care product line, Body by Shambre. She also has a business interest in real estate. In fact, she is a member of an African American real estate association whose goal is to become a premier real estate investment group with holdings throughout the country. While navigating her busy schedule, you will frequently notice Latanya wearing Cerese D Jewelry.

Shop Body by Shambre's collections of soaps, body scrubs, oils, candles, exfoliators, and more at bodybyshambre.com.

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CERESE D

NOVEMBER 2020

TAKE THE BIG LEAP

How Founders
Go from Zero
to BIG TIME

Latanya Boatwright
Voice, Vision, Authentic

CORPORATE CULTURE

WHERE TO INVEST, NOW VS. THEN

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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APRIL LIEBERMAN DECEMBER 2020

April Lieberman is Rotary District 6760's Governor for 2020-2021, the fourth woman to serve in this role in the 106 year history of her district, which serves 61 Rotary clubs across Middle and West Tennessee. She is one of 535 district governors leading Rotary International in over 200 countries, representing 1.4 million members in over 46,000 clubs.

She calls on Rotarians to “find those community needs which are not being met and pull resources together and rally to launch new club service projects.” These projects include mobile food pantries and sponsoring medical equipment and protective gear. She also asks Rotarians to “be peacebuilders in our communities. It is unacceptable for my friends to live in fear that their children might not come back home at night because they live in Black skin. I want Rotary to do what it does best and pull together community leaders to discuss these issues of racial injustice and help forge solutions.”

“We talk about race, but usually only with our close friends or family, who probably look a lot like us. We rarely talk about race across racial lines. For the most part, we worship separately—there are Black churches and White churches. We socialize separately. We might live in different neighborhoods. We talk about each other, but we seldom talk to each other.”

Rotarians are in a special position to address these issues, she says. “It is our charge to ensure that we treat all with basic fairness,” both as individuals and as a society. “This is not a matter of politics; it is a matter of basic human rights.”

April Lieberman is a Yale Law graduate and former

appellate attorney. She served as a federal judicial law clerk to the Honorable Rosemary Barkett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and was admitted to practice before the District of Connecticut, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

April played Division I college basketball at Austin Peay State University. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Vanderbilt University in 1991 with an A.B. degree in Philosophy. She discovered her passion for service after joining Rotary in 2013, serving as Club President, Assistant Governor, Newsletter Editor, Public Image Coordinator, and now District Governor. She supports the work of the Rotary Foundation as a multilevel Paul Harris Fellow, member of the Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society.

District 6760 honored April as Rotarian of the Year in 2018-2019 for launching #ItsTimeRI, an international campaign advocating for women to lead in all levels of Rotary International. She is incredibly proud that Jennifer Jones of Canada, recently selected as RI President for 2022-2023, will be the first woman to lead Rotary International in its 115-year history.

April's older daughter Tennessee is a Middle Eastern Studies major at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Her younger daughter, Willie D, is studying European History at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. April spends her free time renovating her 1850s Gothic Revival home, which happens to be Northwest Tennessee's most infamous haunted house.

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CERESE·D

December 2020

We cannot
have PEACE
until we have
equal justice
for ALL!

RALLYING
TO LAUNCH
NEW SERVICE
PROJECTS

APRIL LIEBERMAN
ROTARIAN ON A MISSION

PEACEBUILDER

VALUING TRUTH, FAIRNESS, AND BUILDING GOODWILL

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Denise Smith | January 2021

Denise Smith is a creative and passionate leader with almost 30 years of nonprofit and volunteer experience who uses her carefully honed people skills in fundraising, event planning, and program development. A dedicated volunteer to her community and public education, she has worked to implement positive change for students of all ages. She studied Fashion Merchandising and Design and puts the skills learned from her previous career in store management to use in volunteering. She has lived in six states and has enjoyed calling each one home.

She is currently a resident of northern California's Bay Area and is married to her high school sweetheart and husband of 33 years. She is the mother of two sons, aged 29 and 23. After Denise retired from retail to raise her sons, she began volunteering in their public schools and parent organizations. She quickly became

a community leader and school activist, working closely with school boards and administrations in fundraising and district operations. Denise continues to use her skills in identifying and solving problems and is experienced with directing large volunteer and student populations of diverse ages and backgrounds to help her community.

She is a proud member of The Links, Incorporated, and The Girl Friends, Incorporated. Denise is concentrating on broadening the reach of virtual learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) during the pandemic within the Western Area for the Links, Incorporated. Denise has also rediscovered a love of painting with oil on canvas.

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CERESE·D

January 2021

WHAT'S IN
STORE FOR
2021

THE BENEFITS
OF GIVING
BACK

DENISE SMITH

SPARKING LEADERSHIP
AND AWAKENING
COMMUNITY

TAKING THE LEAD

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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KAREN PATRICIA WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY 2021

Dr. Karen Patricia Williams is a Nursing Distinguished Professor of Women's Health at The Ohio State University College of Nursing and director of the Martha S. Pitzer Center for Women, Children and Youth. She is also a member of the Cancer Control Program at the OSUCCC-James, where her research focuses on cancer prevention and control within cancer disparities.

In her role as director, Dr. Williams is charged with thought leadership within and outside of the Center. This includes development and management, education, research, faculty recruitment, and expanding the Center's footprint throughout the community. Her goal is to help foster the Center's vision to align with the College of Nursing as well as the goals of the university.

Dr. Williams is also deeply involved in her own research that she has passionately pursued over several decades, a model of breast and cervical cancer prevention and control called the Kin Keeper. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Williams developed the Kin Keeper Cancer Prevention Intervention to address, in part, the continuous cancer burden carried by disenfranchised women of color and women with limited resources. Targeting breast and cervical cancers, the Kin Keeper has been implemented and tested with Black, Latina and Arab women. Her area of expertise is in community-based participatory research and women's health policy. She has been involved in the evolution of women's health research from fragmentation to the transition from bench to bedside to barrio with mixed quantitative and qualitative methodologies to address health disparities.

Currently, Dr. Williams and her team are working to identify factors and cofactors in the mechanistic and multilevel pathways of resilience and allostatic load

that serve as protective and/or predictive factors of cardiovascular disease risk among Black women across the lifespan. Additionally, they are investigating the intersection of female cancers and cardiovascular disease risk in Black women.

Dr. Williams is a fierce advocate for women being seated at the table. She works tirelessly to expand the voices of women and our community in the boardroom. She believes that representation in various sectors will help drive corporate decisions that will empower leadership roles at the C-Suite level. Dr. Williams serves in leadership roles in several organizations that specifically focus on meeting the needs of women: Delta Sigma Theta, The Links, Incorporated, Michigan Women's Foundation, the YWCA, and others. Fueled by her faith, the motto "To much is given, much is required" is embedded in her mission to give back through scholarships and endeavors that empower women and girls. Her advocacy for women, especially women of color, has been recognized by several organizations.

A graduate of Temple University and Michigan State University, Dr. Williams' work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including Contemporary Clinical Trials, Statistics in Medicine, Women's Health, Journal of Cancer and Journal of Urban Health. A former journalist, Dr. Williams has been featured in several national publications including Huffington Post, Inside the Office, MSU Today, Star Tribune, Walker's Legacy, and Circulation, to name a few. As a trailblazer and a visionary thought leader, she is a sought-after conference speaker and media spokesperson.

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CERESE·D

FEBRUARY 2021

**PAVING
THE WAY**

THROUGH
OPTIMIZING
HEALTH AND
WELLNESS

**EMPOWERING
WOMEN & GIRLS**

"TO MUCH IS GIVEN,
MUCH IS REQUIRED"

**DR. KAREN
PATRICIA
WILLIAMS**

TRAILBLAZER
& VISIONARY
THOUGHT
LEADER

ADVOCATE OF CHANGE

PAYING FORWARD & GIVING BACK

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Traci Otey Blunt | March 2021

Traci Otey Blunt is Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications at the National Football League. With over 25 years of professional experience as a political operative, presidential campaign advisor, and strategic and crisis communications director, Traci's leadership as an NFL executive represents the culmination of her expertise.

Her career began when she was hired by former US Senator Harlan Mathews' office as a legislative correspondent, where she was responsible for research and responding to constituents. Traci learned as much as she could during her tenure in the Senate.

Though others may consider this an unremarkable starter position, Traci holds it in high esteem. She says that corresponding with constituents "solidified my determination to become a change agent and taught me that communication is, truly, a craft."

As Communications Manager at the National Association of Attorneys General, Traci ensured that major policy initiatives, like the Violence Against Women Act, were explained to a broader audience through NAAG's first-ever conference focused on the issue. Subsequently, there was an uptick in civic and organizational engagement with the issue, which led to its reauthorization and elevated its national prominence.

In 2000, Traci was tapped as Communications Director for the Gore/Lieberman Presidential Coordinated Campaign in Tennessee. Later, in 2002, then-D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams' office appointed her Director of Communications for the Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development, where she led the unveiling of all communications related to the city's development initiatives.

She then transitioned into the private sector with Ogilvy Public Relations, serving as VP in the public affairs

practice and as a leader of its multicultural practice, where she managed several high-profile accounts and campaigns.

In 2007, she joined the presidential campaign of then-Senator Hilary Clinton as Deputy Communications Director and Director of African American Media. Following the Clinton campaign, she joined the RLJ Companies as DVP for Corporate Communications and Public affairs, working directly with founder Robert L. Johnson.

She moved to the NFL in 2018. Today, she directs communications strategies across key areas within the League, including current affairs; business operations; public affairs; diversity, equity and inclusion; and social responsibility and social justice issues. She uses her cross-industry expertise in leading several communications initiatives central to NFL's work focused on social responsibility.

Traci is a highly-sought after speaker for national organizations and is recognized as a leading voice, educated in myriad subject matters. As such, she has received multiple awards, including the 2020 NFL Executive of the Year, The Network Journal's Top 25 Most Influential Black Women in Business, and many more.

Traci holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Tennessee State University, which awarded her the Women of Legend & Merit and the Women of Influence Award from its national alumni. She is a distinguished member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Chi Chapter. Traci grew up in both Los Angeles, California and Nashville, Tennessee. Today, she resides in South Orange, New Jersey with her family.

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CERESE·D

March 2021

PR PRO

NAVIGATE &
LEVERAGE
PROFESSIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES

**BREAKING
BARRIERS**

POLITICS
ENTERTAINMENT
SPORTS

Traci Otey Blunt
NFL Sr. Executive

SHE'S GOT GAME

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THE SHEATS FAMILY

APRIL 2021

To celebrate 2021 International Black Women's History Month, we celebrate the women of the Sheats family. Based in Brentwood, Tennessee, the women and girls of this family exude excellence and confidence, demonstrate their commitment to service and the community, and value family. Matriarch Mrs. Simone Sheats, is a native of Buffalo, New York. It was at Fisk University in Nashville, however, that she met her late husband of 48 years, Dr. Jimmy B. Sheats. Together, they built a legacy based on the notion "the more you give, the more you receive." And with that, they have been extremely blessed.

Simone Sheats is CEO and President of Sheats Endodontic Group, a premier endodontic practice network specializing in root-canal therapy founded by Jimmy in 1984. Outside of SEG, Simone is known as a community leader. While she is a mother of four, it has been said that she is "a mother of more," in that Simone is a mentor to her children, their friends, and other young professionals across the country. She founded a chapter of Jack and Jill, Incorporated, to boost family relationships among local African Americans.

Dr. Jan-Née B. Sheats-Mathis is a Nashville area endodontist voted a Nashville Top Dentist for seven years running. A magna cum laude graduate of Spelman College, she was recognized for exemplary scholarship, leadership, and service as a member of the Mortar Board National Honor Society. She completed her Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry with honors at the University of Louisville and received an Endodontic Specialty Certificate from Tufts University.

Dr. Jylana L. Sheats is an applied behavior scientist and educator. Following in her sister's footsteps, she was an honor student and magna cum laude graduate of Spelman College, received a Master of Public Health from Tulane University, a doctorate in Health Behavior

and Public Affairs at Indiana University-Bloomington, and a Post-doctoral Certificate in Behavioral Medicine from Stanford School of Medicine.

Christie Sheats resides in Brentwood, Tennessee, with her husband of 21 years Dr. Jimmy B. Sheats II and their three children. Christie is the founder of Naturally U, Inc., a nonprofit organization created to improve the self-esteem of young girls through professional haircare services and education. The premise behind Naturally You delves into the core of Christie, what makes her who she is: one that sees the best in everyone, although they may not see it themselves...YET!

Marcy Carter-Sheats is an Indianapolis native but has called Nashville her home for almost 20 years. When Marcy is not enjoying family time, she is working as the Global Operations Excellence Manager at Cummins Inc. She has worked in various roles and lived in various countries and cities for the last 19 years with Cummins Inc. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and has two Master of Business Administration degrees with a focus on International Business from Purdue University and the TIAS School for Business in Tilburg, Netherlands.

Across generations, the Sheats women wear many hats. They have returned their success to their community through service to a plethora of organizations, yet family remains a priority. The love they have for one another is exemplified every week when they all gather and rejoice during family dinners. Moments like these remind them of a sentiment expressed by their late patriarch, Jimmy B., when he once said, "The older we get, the closer we become as friends." For the Sheats family, truer words have never been spoken.

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CERESE·D

April 2021



CELEBRATE WOMEN
FAMILY, VALUES,
SUCCESSION &
LEGACY

The Sheats Family
BLACK EXCELLENCE

TIES THAT BIND

THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE YOU RECEIVE

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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Paris Love

May 2021

With more than 33 years of helping others organize and eighteen years running the Paris Love Productivity Institute (formerly Organize With Love), Paris Love knows her way around a business. She's also an ex-military sergeant, so you probably wouldn't want to argue with her about getting organized!

Paris Love, a former United States Army Sergeant and accountability and productivity coach affectionately known as the Drill Sergeant of Productivity, is a highly sought-after speaker with tremendous talent for bringing order to chaos for her clients. She provides her clients with streamlined, efficient, manageable approaches to running their lives, homes, and businesses. After many years of working with a wide range of individuals in a host of settings, she has honed in on her specialty: helping overwhelmed professionals break through the barriers that keep them disorganized, disoriented, and dissatisfied in business, career, or life. Paris helps procrastinators do the things they always talked about but never get around to doing.

She has appeared as an organizational expert with IKEA Atlanta and on Hoarders on A&E and has been featured on Focus Atlanta, CW Atlanta, My Atlanta TV, and CityCurrent podcast. She has shared her expertise as a columnist for Hope for Women Magazine and is a bestselling author of ten books. She has been an Amazon Top 100 Best Seller and won the TAZ award for her novel Growing Pains. Her most recent book is A Woman's Journey: Stories of Substance, Survival, and Success. Her YouTube series Declutter Across America is now in its third season.

Paris lives by the motto "To much is given, much is required" by serving her country and community. She engages with organizations that serve women and girls,

military families, veterans, and business owners. She has received numerous nominations and awards for these efforts, including nominations for the NAPO-GA's Volunteer of the Year (2005) and the Veteran & Military Spouse Entrepreneur Award (2020). Among her many awards are Small Business of the Month, from the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, and the Professional Development Award from the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

She has a Master's degree in Human Resources and Business Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management and undergraduate degrees in Psychology from DePaul University and Fashion Design from Norfolk State University. She is currently working on her doctorate in Advanced Studies of Human Behavior.

Sergeant Love was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She enlisted in the United States Army in 1989, attending Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. She was the only female in the Primary Leadership Development Course. As a veteran, she continues to serve her country by honoring military families through advocacy, support, and her partnerships with Veteran Service Organizations.

Officially designated by Congress in 1999, May is National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month as a symbol of unity. NMAM honors current and former members of the United States Armed Forces. Ceres D Jewelry salutes all active and reservists' members, veterans, and their families for their servi

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CERESE·D

May 2021

ORGANIZED

BRING ORDER
TO CHAOS
WHAT'S YOUR
APPROACH TO
PANDEMONIUM?

Paris Love

Drill Sergeant
of Productivity

100% IN CHARGE

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PAULETTE PORTER ROBY

June 2021

During 1963, Birmingham was known as one of the most racist cities in the South. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had described it as a “symbol of hard-core resistance to integration.” Civil Rights activists had nicknamed it “Bombingham” because of the frequency of violent attacks against those fighting the system of segregation. The children of Birmingham played a key role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and their courage and determination, then, matters today.

Six months into 2021, the Black community is fighting against voter suppression that is being supported by nearly every state legislatures and some elected leaders in Congress; police violence against Black women, men, teens, and underage children is videotaped day after day; an insurrection on democracy witnessed by millions but is feigned by 147; a lack of safety in public spaces; and the Jim and Karen Crows’ disregard for anything Black from health to wealth have made 2021 look like 2020’s first cousin with a virus.

As we grapple with the mental fatigue from above, Paulette Porter Roby stands as a face of courage who believes in hope and Black Lives Matter, then and now. In 1963, 13-year-old Paulette left her classroom to become one of Birmingham’s Children Foot Soldiers who fought on the Civil Rights front lines for equality for her generation, and unbeknownst to her at the time, an inspiration for future generations to come. She was one of the youngest protesters who was arrested for standing up to the police led by then public safety commissioner Bull Connor, a determined segregationist.

Paulette and other Foot Soldiers’ stance against

segregation and racism helped change the course of the 1960s’ Civil Rights Movement and gave the momentum that helped cement the Voting Rights Act of 1964 into law. Today, as the Chair of the Civil Rights Activist Committee at the Foot Soldiers headquarters in Birmingham, Paulette meets with activists, students, and visitors from around the world who are sick and tired of being sick and tired. She shares her personal chronicles of being a Civil Rights Foot Soldier and makes sure history does not forget those who walk beside, in front, and behind her, discussing the progress of Black Americans and their communities.

Married to Vietnam Veteran Curtis Roby (USMC), who also marched on the front lines, and mother of two beautiful daughters, Paulette is a living history book and continues to add to history daily as she meets with visitors to Birmingham’s Historic 4th Avenue Business District. She joins the ranks of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth for being a brave warrior who was willing to endure the suffering administered by Birmingham’s police water cannons and trained attack dogs rather than continue to live where laws were meant to keep Black people oppressed and desperate.

This Juneteenth, join Cerese D and the spirit of Birmingham’s Foot Soldiers by honoring our ancestors, living heroines, and unsung heroes’ courage and bravery by making sure you, your entire family, friends, and members of your organizations are registered to vote. Let’s vote in every local, state, and national election. Our lives depend on it!

[CLICK HERE TO READ ORIGINAL PROFILE.](#)

CERESE·D™

JUNE 2021

**STILL
MARCHING**

**PAULETTE
PORTER ROBY**
A LIVING HISTORY BOOK

**CIVIL RIGHTS
FOOT SOLDIERS**

**16th STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH**
FOREVER ETCHED IN THE
ANNALS OF HISTORY

Then & Now



CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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REGINE T. ROUSSEAU

JULY 2021

The wine industry has been historically known to be exclusive, white, and male. To further cement the industry's image, the Association of African American Vintners reports that only 50 out of the 10,000 U.S. wineries are Black-owned. That's only .05 percent of all wineries! But according to the Wine Market Council Consumer Segmentation, Black consumers make up about 11 percent of wine drinkers in the country. While the ownership numbers may be dismal, our July cover model, Regine T. Rousseau, is helping shatter the glass ceiling, or in this case, uncorking the bottle for a savory glass of wine with her company, Shall We Wine.

Regine is a wine and spirits expert, writer, presenter, and media personality who focuses on making wine knowledge accessible to people at all levels of proficiency. She was a nominee for the Wine Enthusiast's 2020 Wine Star Awards for Wine Educator of the Year; she's earned certificates for International Sommelier Guild Level II and Executive Bourbon Steward, Stave and Thief. Regine has traveled the globe sharing her expertise. She has written for or been featured in the New Yorker, Wine Enthusiast, Black Enterprise, Black Food and Beverage, Wine Spectator, the Zoe Report, Forbes, and Chicago Tribune. Her most recent article, "How Wine Brought Me In From the Outside," can be read here.

Regine fell in love with wine during college in Besançon, France, and began her career with a wine distributor. In this role, she noticed a disconnect between wine professionals and consumers. Making wine approachable became a central premise of Regine's work.

In 2013, Regine established Shall We Wine, a wine

and spirits experiential marketing, event planning, and education company. Working with winemakers, distilleries, importers, and distributors, she increases brand awareness, reach, and revenue for clients through innovative and traditional approaches. These include events, sponsorships, and videos, social media services, and speaker and influencer marketing. Her team are masters at translating complex terminology into language that individuals of every level of wine expertise appreciate.

Regine has spoken at a number of conferences including Blacks in Wine Symposium, Wonder Women in Wine, and the Association of Writers and Writers' Programs. She has been interviewed on You & Me Chicago, Windy City Live, and Great Day Washington and has moderated an event for Gallo International Women's Month.

Language is integral to Rousseau's work as a poet and published author where wine and written word are often interwoven. In her book Searching for Cloves and Lilies: The Wine Edition, Regine illustrates the dynamics of personal relationships while pairing each poem with wine that echoes the mood of her writing.

Regine received the Wine Bloggers Conference Ethnifacts Diversity Scholarship, grants from McBride Sisters Collections and Allies for Community Business, and Knox College's 2020 Alumni Achievement Award. She is fluent in French, Haitian Creole, and English. She has a BA from Knox College and studied at L'Université de Franche Comte and Centre de Linguistique Appliquée.

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CERESE·D

JULY 2021

**BREAKING THE
BARRIERS OF
“WINE SPEAK”**

**GROWING FROM
A HOBBY TO
A PASSION**

**REGINE T.
ROUSSEAU**

Honest and Engaging

ENTREPRENEUR

TRANSLATING WINE TO ARTFORM

CERESE D, INC. ATLANTA, GA



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MELISSA L. GEORGE

AUGUST 2021

If you're under the impression that financial planning is ho-hum, you haven't spoken with Melissa L. George & Associates owner Melissa L. George, a multi-certified financial professional who is passionate about her work. As a double minority in a white-male-dominated industry, she has carved out an impressive business by listening deeply to her customers and sticking to her principles.

Melissa didn't have a straight path from college to the financial district, paved with a network of connections. Instead, she worked her way through college over nine years, taking classes when she could afford them, pausing when she didn't.

It was at Georgia State, studying to be an accountant, that she realized math alone would not satisfy her career aspirations. She loved everything about math but couldn't envision a career stuck in an office immersed in spreadsheets. She needed more human interaction. One day, while working at Victoria's Secret, the mall manager introduced her to an African American woman with a successful career in financial planning. The woman would recommend her for her first financial job and become her mentor.

The other new hires were white men with more experience. When asked how she would get people to trust her, she told her manager, "I'm going to be honest and forthcoming, and if I don't know the answer to something, I'll just say so and go find the answer."

"And maybe I'll start wearing glasses."

This combination of humor and competence, along with her service-oriented retail background, became her strength, allowing her to establish rapport with

customers while she learned the ropes. She gained confidence as she gained knowledge, spending six years at her first firm building her skills. In 2006, she founded her own firm, MLGA.

What makes her firm stand out is its personalized approach to financial plans. "I don't believe financial plans can be cookie-cutter," she says. "Everyone's situation is different." This commitment to putting the customer first is evident in Melissa's professional development choices as well. She became a Certified Financial Fiduciary (CFF), which means she is legally obligated to put her clients' financial interests above her own, and that she must disclose how she is compensated to avoid conflicts of interest in her recommendations. She is also a FINRA arbitrator, helping to resolve disputes between the investing public and the securities industry. Achieving these professional designations speaks to Melissa's philosophy and ethical standards.

Does she have any advice for her younger self? "Don't compare yourself to others. Don't get caught up on where you're supposed to be [at] a certain age. I didn't understand that until I got much older... But now I know that God's plan for each of us is unique."

Like the glasses she initially put on to convey confidence, but which she ultimately grew into, Melissa L. George is a study in becoming what you set out to be. For her, financial planning is not just about the math, nor is it just about the money. It's about relationships and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. It's about the journey. Visit Melissa L. George & Associates at www.melissalgeorge.com.

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AUGUST 2021

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WHAT YOU
SET OUT TO BE

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Brittany Green

September 2021

Education helps you overcome challenges in life. The more knowledge you gain, the more opportunities will open up in both your career and your personal growth. And it's more vital than ever for a career in the 21st century. Meet Brittany Green, an educator with sass and class!

Brittany, a native of Chicago, Illinois, is an educator with fifteen years of experience ranging from classroom teaching to district-level administration. Dedicated to improving student learning outcomes, Brittany is the co-creator of "Bridging the Gap for Struggling Adolescent Readers," a professional development series for teachers of students with reading difficulties. Additionally, she is the author of "Therapeutic Approaches to the Treatment of ADD/ADHD", a published research study.

She moved to Mississippi to attend Tougaloo College and begin her career as an educator. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Special Education, Brittany embarked on a career as a Special Education Inclusion Teacher. She focused on individualized student achievement and education plans to support student success. Upon graduating from Belhaven University with a Master's in Elementary Education, Brittany worked as an interventionist. She then served as a curriculum specialist for two years and the district liaison of curriculum for two years. She is currently earning her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Arkansas State University.

Brittany has a passion for serving students and

has dedicated her life to spreading literacy within the state of Mississippi. She is an avid community leader and works continuously to establish and build relationships with other business professionals, civic organizations, and the community itself. An advocate for women and young girls, she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a Girl Scout leader of Troop 5323, and active with MAE (Mississippi Association of Educators).

When she is not in the classroom, Brittany is busy designing and creating for business clients, universities, and nonprofits. She is the owner of Classy Creations Studio, a freelance graphic design and branding agency that services "fempreneurs" and small business owners. As the owner, she leads and manages the overall operations of the company. She is also the co-founder of The Profound Brown, an organization empowering young women and men through literacy. She also serves as an Adolescent Literacy Coach and Research Consultant supporting middle and high school scholars across the nation.

A military wife, Brittany is married to Major Justin Green and they have one daughter, Raelynn Austin. They currently reside in Mississippi and Major Green is serving a deployment in the United States Army. Visit her graphic design agency at www.classycreationsstudio.com and follow @classycreationsstudio on Instagram.

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September 2021

**BRITTANY
GREEN**

AN EDUCATOR
WITH SASS
& CLASS!

SUPPORTING
STUDENT
SUCCESS

DEDICATED
TO SPREADING
LITERACY

ADVOCATE
FOR WOMEN +
YOUNG GIRLS

**MILITARY WIFE
& MOTHER**

MORE
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MORE
OPPORTUNITIES

DEVOTED

EDUCATOR, AUTHOR, ENTREPRENEUR

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Charletta Wilson Jacks

OCTOBER 2021

Charletta Wilson Jacks, a southern girl with a soulful heart and a strategic mind, currently serves as the Deputy Director of Government Affairs for the 60th Mayor of Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms. Three words to describe Charletta: a RESILIENT and PROGRESSIVE LEADER. This “home-grown Savannah girl” has traveled the sidewalks and streets of many communities and cities to help them rise up, know their value, and become the best that they can be.

Ms. Jacks accumulated over two decades of experience with the City of Atlanta prior to her current position of Deputy Director of Government Affairs, beginning as a Senior Level Urban Planner committed to educating traditionally disenfranchised citizens on community engagement and the effects of public policy decisions on their quality of life. During the first quarter of her tenure, she was honored as one of the “Mayor’s Top 100” employees, out of 8,000 staff, because of her commitment to customer service to the thousands of city residents.

Her unwavering professionalism led to Ms. Jacks’ appointment as the first African American female to be named Zoning Administrator for the City of Atlanta. In this position, Ms. Jacks had the responsibility of administration and interpretation of Atlanta’s increasingly complex development regulations. As a result of her dedication and ability to engage diverse audiences, she is viewed as a “go-to” professional for development of large-scale multimillion dollar residential, commercial, and industrial projects.

Ms. Jacks’ executive leadership experience includes construction management and high-impact projects with several architectural and engineering firms. Her portfolio includes the celebrated 1996 Atlanta Olympic

Games, and her excitement goes into overdrive when she talks about the projects that have her imprint: Atlanta University Center Olympic Games venues at Morris Brown College, Clark Atlanta University (football field), Morehouse College (basketball arena), Ponce City Market, Redevelopment of Turner Field, Redevelopment of the Gulch and Atlanta Beltline, and the creation of development regulations for the sale of the Turner Field Stadium.

With focused leadership, Atlanta has been able to continue its role as a vibrant city with an outstanding quality of life, even in the midst of a global pandemic. A prosperous city like Atlanta depends on leadership and vision that delivers solid development. Ms. Jacks is proud to be a part of that team.

For the past four years, she has been instrumental in the unanimous adoption of the yearly municipal budget, averaging over \$650 million. During the pivot because of the global pandemic, Ms. Jacks continues to look for new and innovative ways to provide leadership and strategic planning on community and economic development policy and implementation. Resilience is one of her core characteristics.

Mrs. Charletta Wilson Jacks is proud of the three HBCUs (Savannah State University, Howard University, and Clark Atlanta University) that poured into her and strengthened her belief that “people matter and education is indeed important.” Gaining and maintaining community trust is imperative for success. She understands the rules and counts her blessings to be able to share her knowledge with others to ensure transformation and progressive investment in communities and people.

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October 2021

CHARLETTA WILSON JACKS

RESILIENCE IS ONE OF HER CORE CHARACTERISTICS

UNWAVERING PROFESSIONALISM HAS HELPED HER RISE HIGH

PEOPLE MATTER & EDUCATION IS INDEED IMPORTANT

GAINING TRUST IS IMPERATIVE TO SUCCESS

DEDICATED TO ENGAGING & EDUCATING CITIZENS



PROGRESSIVE LEADER

HELPING COMMUNITIES BUILD AND KNOW THEIR WORTH

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Sharon Caples McDougle

NOVEMBER 2021

Sharon Caples McDougle became a vital part of the NASA family in 1990 when she began her career as a Space Shuttle Crew Escape Equipment (CEE) Suit Technician, responsible for processing the orange launch and entry suit (LES) assemblies worn by space shuttle astronauts. McDougle was one of only two women technicians and the only African American technician when she began her career.

McDougle is a modern day “hidden figure” who is hidden no longer. Everyone knows Dr. Mae Jemison was the first African American woman to go to space, but many do not know that another African American, McDougle, with her own list of firsts, was responsible for ensuring Dr. Jemison’s safety in orbit and during her return to earth. McDougle was Jemison’s suit tech for her historic mission aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor on September 12, 1992. Dr. Jemison has openly shared her respect and admiration for McDougle and once wrote, “There are so many incredible people who ensure that astronauts make it to space and back safely. Thank you, Sharon McDougle, for your hard work!”

In 1994, McDougle was promoted to Crew Chief, the first woman and the first African American to hold the position. Ten years later, she made history once again, becoming the first woman and the first African American promoted to the position of CEE Department Manager. She managed over 25 employees who were responsible for training the astronauts on how to don and doff their suits, and she taught all the technical aspects of their suits worn into space aboard the space shuttle. She held this position until the Space Shuttle Program ended in 2011. She continued working

until 2012 to help close out the program, ending an illustrious 22-year career with NASA.

Throughout her career, she was recognized with the Astronaut “Silver Snoopy” Award, the Space Flight Awareness Honoree Award, and the Women of Color in Flight Award from Dr. Mae Jemison, recognizing her as the first and only African American woman suit tech/crew chief in her field.

The Air Force prepared McDougle for her career with NASA. McDougle was an Aerospace Physiology Specialist who was responsible for training the SR-71 and U-2/TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft (“spy planes”) pilots on high altitude operations. She also inspected and maintained equipment used for these aircraft. During her time in the Air Force, she was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and Good Conduct Medal.

Her military and NASA experience has given her a wealth of knowledge, which she shares as a volunteer for a number of organizations. For her trailblazing, glass-ceiling-shattering contributions to science, she has received a number of civic awards and was honored as one of Mississippi’s Top 25 Most Influential African Americans.

McDougle is happily married to her husband Maronald, a diver for NASA. They have two adult children, Dominique, and Corbin. She and her husband are natives of Moss Point, MS, currently residing in the Houston, TX area.

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November 2021

FIRST FEMALE +
FIRST AFRICAN
AMERICAN +
NASA LEADER =
**Sharon
Caples
McDougle**

IF YOU HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO HELP
SOMEONE
DO THAT

THROUGH THE
GLASS CEILING
TO SPACE

MODERN DAY
**HIDDEN
FIGURE**

MISSISSIPPI
TRAILBLAZER

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Katasha S. Butler | December 2021

Meet Dr. Katasha S. Butler: brains, beauty and belle of the ball all rolled into one! When she is not talking pharmacy strategy and compliance by day, she is designing lush and luxe anniversary parties, conferences, and Parisian-inspired pop-up parties at night. Katasha S. Butler, PharmD, MBA, is a pharmacist and an entrepreneur who lives her life in service to others and in pursuit of the perfect party!

Katasha grew up in rural Danville, Illinois. After joining the district's gifted program in elementary school, Katasha was the only Black female within a core group of students until high school. A last-minute decision during senior year led her to Atlanta, GA, where she attended Spelman College as a Chemistry/pre-pharmacy major. Although it was like entering an alternate universe for the young Katasha, Atlanta, Spelman, and the Atlanta University Center fueled her passion for Black excellence and the Black experience.

Pharmacy school led Katasha back to the Midwest and she landed in Indianapolis to attend Butler University. Her love for wedding and party planning started there, where she studied InStyle and Glamour "as hard as I studied for my class," she says. She went on to obtain two degrees at Butler, including a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and dove full-time into a pharmacy career.

Throughout her career, Katasha has been recognized for her leadership and hard work, including selection for the highly-competitive national Health Care Leadership Development Program and graduation from the VISN 12 Leadership Development Program with the VHA system. She is also a staple in the Indianapolis civic scene, serving in leadership roles in several

organizations. She has received numerous awards for her service and dedication to humanitarian endeavors.

When she is not in the pharmacy, event planning and community service are her other passions. Dr. Butler started her event planning company, K Sherrie+Company, LLC, in 2007. She also co-owned an event venue in Danville for almost seven years—Social. Social became the gathering spot for Danville! "I love throwing parties and events. I always try to make sure that the events are tailored to the client, innovative—bringing out elements that are not seen everywhere—and an experience," says Butler. It should come as no surprise that Katasha was connected to First Lady Michelle Obama's speech to a sold-out crowd at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis in 2018 through her involvement with the Women's Fund of Central Indiana Options Class 18.

When Katasha is not serving others, she is always working on her craft. Forever the innovative serial entrepreneur, Katasha managed to find time to develop a line of chic planner accessories, starting with the debut of the Pretty Girl Planner, a disc-based planner system for the ladies of pink and green. Being organized has been one of her keys to success and her planners can help others with time management and organization.

In her free time, Dr. Butler can be found recommending the best lipsticks to her friends, following political news and current events, reading, shopping, traveling the world, and spending as much time as possible with her HunniBun, Lathen, and dog, Marshmallow.

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December 2021

BRAINS, BEAUTY,
AND BELLE OF
THE BALL

**KATASHA
S. BUTLER,**
PHARMD, MBA

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ENTREPRENEUR
FOREVER
INNOVATIVE

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IN THE
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