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Women’s Leadership
CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION OF INSPIRING WOMEN

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Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C. The University offers baccalaureate degrees in 84 major fields of study. Among CCU’s graduate-level programs are 26 master’s degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and two doctoral programs. The most popular undergraduate majors are marine science, management, exercise and sport science, marketing, psychology, and communications.

The University comprises 115 main buildings on 621 acres, including the Coastal Science Center and the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies, located in the Atlantic Center on U.S. 501, and the General James Hackler Golf Course at Coastal Carolina University, a public 18-hole golf facility located adjacent to the campus.
The University also offers courses at the Myrtle Beach Education Center, and in Litchfield and Georgetown. A 1,105-acre tract that includes a portion of Waties Island provides a natural laboratory for extensive study in marine science and wetlands biology on an Atlantic coast barrier island.

More than 10,400 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA Division I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction fueled by more than 120 student clubs and organizations.

Coastal Carolina University was founded in 1954 as Coastal Carolina Junior College and became an independent university in 1993.
OUR MISSION

Women in Philanthropy and Leadership recognizes the essential and continuing role of women in the life and progress of the University and society. Our mission is to transform the lives of students at CCU and the community by leveraging the impact of women and their donations of time, talent, and resources.

OUR VISION

Women in Philanthropy and Leadership will create a sustainable legacy to transform the leadership potential of students, staff, faculty, and the community at large into a vital resource that will cultivate the intellectual growth of the institution. Through the energy, impact, and aspirations of its members, opportunities for scholarship and leadership will be provided to enhance not only the academic value of Coastal Carolina University, but the community in which it thrives and the society which it serves.

OUR GOALS

- To increase philanthropy and expand membership commitment from women in our community.
- To grow our permanent endowment fund that sustains scholarships.
- To create opportunities for students to partner with women in leadership roles within our community.
- To provide a forum for women in the community to collaborate and network.
- To continue our “Inspiring Women” speaker series.
- To provide an opportunity for greater financial impact through the collective efforts of women unified in purpose.

coastal.edu/wipl
Leadership Team

Women in Philanthropy for Coastal Carolina University Leadership Team

Executive Director: Terri DeCenzo
Director: Hatton Gravely
President: Meredith Canady
Secretary: Alicia Thompson
Immediate Past President: Bertha Fladger
Public Relations Officer: Anne Trainer Monk
Program Committee Co-Chairs: Brandy Incorvia, Eileen Patonay
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair: Meredith Canady

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to the following individuals for their commitment and dedication to the Women’s Leadership Conference and Celebration of Inspiring Women:

Tracy Abraham
Effie Baldwin
Dr. Amanda Battisti
Jamie Bilella
Britt Bird
Dr. Kristin Bohan
Stephanie Bohardt
Donna Brin
Vicki Calviera
Meredith Canady
Sharon Clayton
Ben Coy
Natalie Darby
Robyn Diven
Bertha Fladger
Janine Flannery
Carol Fletcher
Shannon Furtick
Sarah George-Moniz
Richard Green
Jessica Hall
Kayla Hall
Claudine Hauser
Keli Herring
Katie Hole
Margaret Hoynes
Martha Hunn
Suncera Johnson
Lisa Lang
Elizabeth Leljedal
Anna Lillemor
Dawn McCoury
Kate Middleton
Dominique Milton
Misty Okes
Jennifer Packard
Brenda Panetti
Eileen Patonay
Santana Pennauchi
Jeanne Quinn
Jerry Rashid
Brent Reser
Laurinda Richardson
Casey Roach
Mary Jo Roberts
Madelynne Rodriguez
Brian Rothenberger
Sallie Rouse
David Russell
Brenda Ryan
Shawn Sease
Joanna Shires
Mel Smith
Bryan Steros
Atiya Stokes-Brown
Marjorie Thompson
LouAnn Timmons
Sheri Walton
Shelbia Wiley
Pam Wright

WIPL would also like to thank the more than 70 CCU students and volunteers for their roles in helping to make both events successful.
WIPL was created to transform the lives of students at Coastal Carolina University. WIPL makes a difference in the greater community by leveraging the impact of women and their donations of time, talent, and resources.

**Membership Impact**

More than 150 WIPL members contribute $250 or more annually.

Since 2007, WIPL has awarded 281 scholarships, totaling more than $328,000 to more than 200 Coastal Carolina students.

42 students collectively received $50,250 in scholarships during the 2019-20 academic year.

**Thanks to our members!**

Gretchen Abney
Denise Apple
Miriam Arvizu
Amanda Battisti
Nora Hembree Battle
Brenda Bethune
Britt Bird
Kristen Bitzegaio
Stephanie Bohardt
Darlene Booth-Bell
Claudia Bornholdt
Stacie Bowie
Virginia Bradshaw
Jean Ann Brakefield
Renelle Brame
Emma Ruth Brittain
Katherine Brooks
Carrie Brown
Cynthia Brown
Sonja Brown
Susan Butler
Ami Byington
Nedinia Campbell
Meredith Canady
Ashley Capps
Juliet Casper
Brenda Chapman
Mirinda Chestnut
Melissa Clark
Sharon Clayton
Louise Connell
Deborah Conner
Lynda Courtney
Vickie Craifton
Sarah Craig
Jessica Crippen
Ecaterina Cusmir
Theresa Cvetko
JoAnna Dalton
Meredith DeCenzo Daley
Allison Daly
Erica Davis
Hayley Davis
Terri DeCenzo
Katherine Decker
Jenifer Sweat Dellinger
Caroline Diez
Darla Domke-Damonte
Anjana Duff
Cynthia Dyer
Robin Edwards
Anne Elliott
Carolyn Ellis
Larisa Esmat
Christina Everett
Emma Claire Everett
Stephanie Everett
Linda Floyd
Kathy Fortner
Lynn Fox
Shannon Furtick
Nicolle Gaine
Tracy Gaskin
Susan Goings
Sara Gore
Hatton Gravely
Lee Gravely
Tanya Greenlee
Monica Grey
Jeanne Guest
Nikki Haddock
Christine Hajjar
Jessica Ann Hall
Alison Hamilton
Brenda Hamilton
Saundra Hembree
Stacy Henderson
Sylvia Hickman
Brooke Howard
Ann Hughes
Brandy Incorvia
Melissa Jarrard
G. Yvette Jefferson
Theresa Jehle
Angela Johnson
Kayla Johnson
Sherry Johnson
Suncera Johnson
Stephanie Jones
Lauren Joseph
Sally Kaiser
Joyce Karetas
Joanna Keels
Heather Kincer
Page Kiniry
Celia Klein
Beverly Landrum
Charlotte Lane
Patricia Leibrick
Deborah Leonard
Charla Lewis
Donna Lewis
Christina Loughren
Jessica Lowery
Sandra Lucas-Hyde
Marian Lyles
Susan MacDonald
Jody MacKenzie
Henrietta Malizia
Marissa Maria
Jessica Martin
Nora Mason
Sharon McCullough
Amanda McDowell
Susan McKinney
Joan Meacham
Carissa Medeiros
Elizabeth Miller
Dominique Milton
Nanette Miner
Teresa Monckton
Anne Monk
Cheryl Morgan
Kaitlin Nash
Brandi Neal
Patricia O’Connor
Muriel O’Tuel
Hailey Olson
Brenda Panetti
Eileen Patonay
Erika Pesta
Hayden Quattlebaum
Nicole Queen
Jeanne Quinn
Gayle Restar
Jennifer Riddei
Karen Riordan
Christi Rippy
Barbara Ritter
Eric Rivenbark
Mary Jo Roberts
Kristy Rollar
Brenda Rosen
Deborah Rosen
Melissa Rothenberger
William Rowell
Bobbei Ruswinckel
Brenda Ryan
Diane Sanders
Rachel Scott
Tami Brooks Scott
Ashley Setzer
Kimberly Sherfesee
Jennifer Shinaberger
Margaret Skalican
Susan Sparks
Andrea Sperduto
Heather St. John
Myra Starnes
Amy Stevens
Natasha Stevens
Anna Strickland
Lila Taylor
Patricia Taylor
Alicia Thompson
Marjorie Thompson
Sharon Thompson
Charmaine Tomczyk
Sherrell Valdezloqui
Brooke Vaught
Roxanne Voorhees
Sheryl Walton
Tonya Washington
Shelbia Wiley
Jessica Field Wilson
Beth Ward
Janet Witte
Pam Wright

Join Today
Visit coastal.edu/WIPL or contact Hatton Gravely, director, at agravely@coastal.edu or 843.349.5033.

facebook @ccu_wipl @ccu_wipl WIPL2020
On behalf of Coastal Carolina University’s administration, faculty, staff, and students, I am delighted to welcome you to the 10th annual Women’s Leadership Conference and Celebration of Inspiring Women. Organized by CCU’s Women in Philanthropy and Leadership (WIPL), these events present incredible opportunities to engage with inspiring leaders who have courageously changed this world through the dedication of their gifts, talents, and intellect. Watching this event blossom during the past 10 years has been very fulfilling, and I share your excitement about what lies ahead this year.

WIPL has established a unique and meaningful position in the framework of our campus and our community. The remarkable women of this organization have applied their collective vision, wisdom, and determination to create a powerful economic force and a dynamic spirit that are actively transforming the lives of our students.

Through scholarships, leadership initiatives, and programs such as the Women’s Leadership Conference, WIPL continues to create new opportunities for University students, faculty, staff, and for women throughout the region. In recognizing the vision and voice of the honorees in this year’s Celebration of Inspiring Women, we celebrate those whose contributions have had a significant impact on the lives of women, men, and children throughout South Carolina, the nation, and the world.

I am grateful for the commitment of those who have joined this initiative. As a result of your efforts through WIPL, many individuals received the support needed to pursue higher education and acquire the means to fulfill their potential. It is exciting to recognize the impact and to anticipate the reach of your investment. This legacy will be shared for generations to come as we prepare our students to address the challenges and opportunities presented by a global community. Thank you for choosing to devote your philanthropy and your energy to the shared goals of WIPL and Coastal Carolina University.

David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D.
President
Coastal Carolina University
Ten years ago, Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University proudly presented its inaugural Celebration of Inspiring Women and Women’s Leadership Conference. It was a dream come true for me – a dream that was supported through the commitment and hard work of many people, including the University’s board of trustees, administration, faculty, staff, students, and donors, as well as community members. Collectively, we believed and supported the idea that bringing people together to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of women from South Carolina and beyond was of value to all of us.

Further, we supported the idea that women’s rights were human rights and that societies and communities would prosper if there was true and equal representation of ideas and ideologies. Through the years, we have been blessed to share with you – our community of women leaders – many great stories of perseverance, success, wisdom, vision, and leadership.

Together, we have learned, cried, laughed, danced, sung, and been inspired. And in doing so, we felt empowered in our own abilities to make essential differences in the lives of others.

The words and stories of speakers from around the world have challenged us to be:

Courageous – What would you do if you weren’t afraid?
Confident – Believe in your value and worth despite what others think.
Unique – Be your authentic self.

It is my true hope that you have personally explored, embraced, and shared your value – not only as a woman, but as an individual who recognizes the responsibility to reach back and help the next woman find her value.

To quote Serena Williams, “Every woman’s success should be an inspiration to another. We’re strongest when we cheer each other on.” It is in this spirit that I thank you for being present today, for cheering each other on, and for helping me on my journey and the hundreds of women beside you on theirs.

I encourage you to Lead the Change, Raise Your Voice, and Transform the World!

Terri DeCenzo
Executive Director
Women in Philanthropy and Leadership
You will be forever changed through this Women’s Leadership Conference, designed and presented by Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University. Speakers chosen to share with us today bring astounding, real-life, personal, and life-changing stories that erase any doubt of the abilities, courage, and value of women in our society and in our world.

Be prepared to be moved. Usual outcomes of participation in the conference are an immediate and compelling resolve to do more, to take risks, and to move forward to your next level – all with the knowledge that we have everything we need to soar. The truth of the limitless of women’s capabilities and the importance of women mentoring, encouraging, and supporting each other will be heard. Friendships and partnerships grow through sharing this conference with other women interested in reaching their own pinnacle of success.

You will be both entertained and intrigued. I hope to meet you as we learn and grow together.

I invite you to visit Conway, Horry County’s seat, and neighbor of the Grand Strand, while you are here. Our vibe is historic and amazingly hip. You will enjoy Conway’s natural beauty, the black water Waccamaw River and 200-year-old oak trees in the middle of our streets. You will agree we have great restaurants and shops, and you may even be entertained by a busker downtown. We are only 12 miles away, and ready to greet you.

Please enjoy the Women’s Leadership Conference, and never stop learning and growing. God bless you.

Barbara Blain-Bellamy
Mayor
City of Conway
It is my pleasure to welcome you to another incredible Women in Leadership and Philanthropy (WIPL) Women’s Leadership Conference that will surely motivate and inspire you in a transforming way. I assure you that you will walk away feeling enlightened and encouraged!

WIPL gives women a platform to celebrate each other on our individual journeys. It is in sharing our unique strengths, as well as our weaknesses, that we can evolve and grow in our personal relationships as well as in our various leadership roles.

I believe that women embody certain skills that are unique to our gender. We are Humble, Empathetic, Approachable, Relational, and we understand the value of being a Team player.

All of these attributes enable us to be women who lead with our HEART. When we lead with our HEART, we are a positive influence in our families, our jobs, and in our communities.

WIPL recognizes the accomplishments of women while motivating us to become the leaders that God created us to be.

Thank you for dedicating your time to be here, and may we all be empowered women who empower women every day of our lives!

Brenda Bethune
Mayor
City of Myrtle Beach
Conference Map

Exhibit Hall A

Exhibitors/Bookstore
TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 2020

SHERATON MYRTLE BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast and Event Check-in .......... Exhibit Hall A
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  Exhibits/Bookstore open .................................................. Exhibit Hall A
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.  Welcoming Remarks ......................................................... Grand Ballroom
  Terri DeCenzo
  Executive Director,
  Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University
8:55 – 9:25 a.m.  Fashion and the Female Founder Collective ....... Grand Ballroom
  Rebecca Minkoff with Eva Saha
9:30 – 10 a.m.  Women in Business ........................................................... Grand Ballroom
  Lt. Gov. Pamela S. Evette
10 – 11 a.m.  Networking break ............................................................... Exhibit Hall A
  Visit the Tidelands Health Better expo and explore the various exhibits.
  Meet and greet with Rebecca Minkoff.
  Refreshments sponsored by Carolina OB/GYN.
11 a.m. – noon  BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)

Get to Your Goals ................................................................. Rooms 202-204
  Nina Sossamon-Pogue
  You have a plan for the day, but before you can sit at your desk, two people stop you with issues, your child’s school calls in the middle of your big meeting, and later your computer freezes. Everyone faces challenges. Why do some people succeed and others don’t? In this session, learn strategies to handle adversity and stay on track toward your goals.

Dream, Girl ................................................................. Room 107
  Erin Bagwell
  Watch a special director’s cut of “Dream, Girl,” the award-winning documentary showcasing the stories of inspiring and ambitious female entrepreneurs that premiered at the White House during the Obama administration. Afterward, meet the creator and director Erin Bagwell, who will share how she raised $100,000 on Kickstarter to make the film, got asked to be part of Oprah’s SuperSoul100, and how she built a distribution team that brought the film to more than 100 countries and counting.
What's Going on Down There 2.0? The Good, the Bad, and Everything in Between for 2020 .......... Rooms 102-103
Drs. Valerie Lasry, Melissa Moore, and Gayle Richmond
This fun interactive presentation will explore urinary incontinence, sexual health, hormone replacement, menopause, and more.

Rising Athenas, Male Allies and the Power of Inclusive Mentorship ........................................ Room 108
Brad Johnson, Ph.D., and David Smith, Ph.D.
Based on the authors’ books “Athena Rising: How and Why Men Should Mentor Women” and “Good Guys: How Men Can Become Better Allies for Women in the Workplace” (forthcoming), they make the business case for male engagement in gender equality, showing why it is good for both men and women. Using their own research, they provide the “how to” for men, women, and organizational leaders who want to be intentional, inclusive, and excellent mentors, leveraging mentorship to create a more diverse workforce.

Improving the Workplace Environment panel discussion ................................................... Room 106
Melissa Bilka, Madeline Cashdollar, Iris Griffin, and Beth Harhai, and moderated by Eva Saha
Affinity and employee resource groups within organizations provide employees with training, networking, and development opportunities. In this panel discussion, learn how Blackbaud, Brittain Resorts & Hotels, Dominion Energy, and Sonoco are creating programs to make their workplaces more productive, their employees happier, and their companies more successful.

A Love Letter to Your Heart: Taking Care of Your Ticker .................................. Exhibit Hall A
Sheryl Aiken, DNP
The heart that beats inside you is a precious and complex organ. The signs and symptoms of heart disease can present differently in women than in men. Learn what we should all know about a woman’s heart and what makes us tick.

noon – 1 p.m. Lunch ........................................ Grand Ballroom
12:15 – 12:50 p.m. The Awakened Woman ........................................ Grand Ballroom
Tererai Trent, Ph.D.
Based on her recent book by the same name, this presentation inspires those seeking to build a supportive network for themselves and each other, set and achieve astonishing goals, amplify their voice, and impact the world in meaningful, relevant ways.
12:50 – 1:30 p.m.  **Diversity and Inclusion panel discussion**  
*Grand Ballroom*  
Melissa Foster Bird, Victoria Russell, Atiya Stokes-Brown, Ph.D., and Terrez Marriott Thompson, and moderated by Eva Saha

1:30 – 2 p.m.  **Mental Health: Eliminate the Stigma**  
*Grand Ballroom*  
Kym Hilinski with Eva Saha

2 – 2:15 p.m.  **Networking break**  
*Exhibit Hall A*  
Visit the Tidelands Health Better expo and explore the various exhibits.  
Refreshments sponsored by Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development.

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS (choose one)**

**How to be Confident on Camera, Lead with Your Lens, and Establish Your Visual Personal Brand**  
*Rooms 202-204*  
Ryan Smith Gauthier  
Do you ever search people online to see what they look like? You aren’t alone. Googling a person before you meet them is expected. One-tenth of a second is the speed of a first impression and all the time it takes for someone to judge who they think you are. That’s why it’s more important than ever to have images online that open doors for you. Learn how to feel positive about getting in front of the camera, and assess what is working and what isn’t. Find your voice, and share it with the world. Your livelihood depends on it.  
*One lucky attendee will leave with a free headshot session.*

**Dream, Girl**  
*Room 107*  
Erin Bagwell  
Watch a special director’s cut of “Dream, Girl,” the award-winning documentary showcasing the stories of inspiring and ambitious female entrepreneurs that premiered at the White House during the Obama administration. Afterward, meet the creator and director Erin Bagwell, who will share how she raised $100,000 on Kickstarter to make the film, got asked to be part of Oprah’s SuperSoul100, and how she built a distribution team that brought the film to more than 100 countries and counting.

**Achieve Anything**  
*Rooms 102-103*  
Debbie Rosen  
Ever wonder why some people seem to have the motivation to accomplish anything (and everything) they set their sights on and sometimes the simplest of roadblocks cause us to give up before really even get started? Join Rosen in a workshop format to learn about a systematic approach to take initiative, overcome obstacles, and build a plan to achieve any goal.
Rising Athenas, Male Allies and the Power of Inclusive Mentorship .................................................. Room 108
Brad Johnson, Ph.D., and David Smith, Ph.D.
Based on the authors’ books “Athena Rising: How and Why Men Should Mentor Women” and “Good Guys: How Men Can Become Better Allies for Women in the Workplace” (forthcoming), they make the business case for male engagement in gender equality, showing why it is good for both men and women. Using their own research, they provide the “how to” for men, women, and organizational leaders who want to be intentional, inclusive, and excellent mentors, leveraging mentorship to create a more diverse workforce.

When Kegels Aren’t Enough:
Innovative Pelvic Health Therapies.............................. Exhibit Hall A
Dr. Eduardo Martinez and Donna Pagano
Fed up with crossing your legs when you sneeze? Find yourself rushing to the restroom and not always getting there in time? Are you suffering with regular pelvic pain? These are important health issues women don’t discuss – but should. Hear our medical experts discuss the causes of the most common women’s abdominal and pelvic health issues and real solutions to help end pain and aggravation.

3:25 – 3:55 p.m.  Finding Purpose Through 10 Two-Letter Words .... Grand Ballroom
Meg Ham

3:55 – 4:30 p.m.  The 411 on Spartina 449................................. Grand Ballroom
Kay Stanley with Eva Saha

4:30 p.m.  Invitation to the After Party............................................ Grand Ballroom
Hatton Gravely
Director,
Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.  #WIPLConnect After Party .......................... Exhibit Hall A
Sponsored by Absolut
Networking, exhibits, giveaways, silent auction, and a performance of Legally Blonde the Musical by CCU students.
Sheryl Aiken, DNP

Sheryl Aiken, DNP, AGNP-C, is a nurse practitioner at Tidelands Health specializing in heart and vascular care. She earned a doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree and a master’s degree in nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina. She also has a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of South Carolina Upstate.

For her DNP capstone project, Aiken received a grant through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to examine preventing heart failure readmissions to hospitals. She serves as treasurer for the Grand Strand Advanced Practice Nurses Association. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her grandkids, dogs, and family.

Erin Bagwell

Erin Bagwell is a new mom, filmmaker, and feminist blogger residing in Brooklyn, N.Y. In 2013, she founded Feminist Wednesday, a feminist storytelling blog. In the Summer 2014, she launched a successful Kickstarter campaign, raising more than $100,000 to produce her first feature-length film “Dream, Girl.” In May 2016, “Dream, Girl” screened at the White House as part of the United State of Women Summit followed by a sold out screening at the iconic Paris Theater in New York City.

Bagwell’s story has been featured in Forbes, TED, Vogue, and The Washington Post, and she was named one of Oprah’s SuperSoul100, a list featuring extraordinary individuals who live life intentionally, create great social impact, and bring inspiration to others. Most recently, Bagwell was featured in Apple’s Behind the Mac campaign, highlighting some of the most creative people in Brooklyn.

In 2017, Bagwell was selected to be part of the American Film Showcase (AFS), which is part of the U.S. Department of State in coordination with U.S. embassies and consulates. AFS sends American documentarians on trips to various countries around the globe to engage with audiences. Through the showcase, Bagwell has traveled to Tajikistan and Egypt to screen “Dream, Girl,” and lead filmmaking workshops.

Back in Brooklyn, Bagwell cohosts a weekly podcast called BeaverTalk with Diana Matthews, where they give Hollywood unsolicited advice about feminism. Episodes are released every Feminist Wednesday.

Melissa Bilka

Melissa Bilka is the vice president of team member services at Brittain Resorts & Hotels (BRH) based in Myrtle Beach. She helped to launch the company’s Women’s Leadership Alliance program in 2019. She joined BRH in April 2012 as the director of human resources and staff development.

Bilka began her career as a room attendant and has been in the hotel/hospitality business for 30 years. She has an extensive career that includes operations, training, hotel openings and acquisitions, and human resources.
Prior to joining BRH, Bilka was regional vice president of operations at LBA Hospitality, where she managed the performance of more than 32 Marriott and Hilton branded hotels. Her journey began with Marriott International, where her undeniable passion for hospitality was revealed. She considers her greatest moments those she is able to coach and mentor others in their careers.

Bilka has earned Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)-Senior Certified Professional and Senior Professional in Human Resources certifications. She served on the Coastal Organization of Human Resources (local chapter of SHRM) board of directors for five years, including a stint as president.

Melissa Foster Bird

Melissa Foster Bird is a partner with the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough office in Huntington, W.Va. She serves as one of the firm’s two chief diversity partners leading the execution of actions to recruit, retain, and promote diverse and female lawyers.

Foster Bird has served as lead trial counsel in more than 40 trials in state and federal courts in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia. Her experience includes representing clients in complex cases in the pharmaceutical, medical device, transportation, and chemical industries – including other manufacturers, retailers, and convenience stores – in some of the most difficult venues in the nation.

Foster Bird is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been recognized for her work by Chambers and Partners, The Legal 500, and The Best Lawyers in America®.

She earned a juris doctor degree from Ohio State University and a bachelor’s degree from Miami University in Ohio.

Madeline Cashdollar

Madeline Cashdollar is the industrial human resources director for Sonoco’s Industrial and Protective Solutions businesses. Based in Hartsville, S.C., she partners with the company’s general managers to create talent strategies that support the businesses’ needs. She also leads a team of human resources professionals that serve Sonoco’s network of industrial plants in the Americas.

Since joining Sonoco in 2015, Cashdollar has served on the leadership team for the company’s Diversity and Inclusion Council. She helped to establish the company’s Business Resource Group (BRG) guidelines that are designed to help employees start new groups. Newly formed groups include LGBT+ and Women at Sonoco. Cashdollar is a member of the steering committee for LGBT+

Prior to joining Sonoco, she worked at Aon Hewitt (previously Hewitt Associates) since 2002, and was named a partner in 2010. Cashdollar began her career at Hewitt in talent management consulting.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Wake Forest University and an MBA with a focus on strategy and leadership from the Yale University School of Management.

Cashdollar’s family includes her husband, Jeff Gregory, and two children, Michael and Elena. They live in Florence.
Lt. Gov. Pamela S. Evette

Pamela S. Evette is the 93rd lieutenant governor of South Carolina and the first female Republican lieutenant governor.

An entrepreneur and businesswoman, Evette founded Quality Business Solutions Inc. (QBS), a payroll, human resources, and benefits services firm headquartered in Travelers Rest, S.C. Under her leadership as president and CEO, QBS grew from a start-up to one of the nation’s fastest growing small businesses. The company has also been repeatedly honored among the fastest growing and best places to work in South Carolina.

Evette has received numerous business and professional accolades, including the ATHENA Leadership Award®, the Enterprising Woman of the Year Award; the Women Presidents’ Organization 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies Award; and as a member of the Impact 50, an annual ranking of the most powerful women leaders of Inc. 5000 companies.

Evette is passionate about, and has been focused on, improving educational performance in her community, assisting the elderly and the young, and helping small- and women-owned businesses. She is a member of Women’s Business Enterprise National Council and Women Presidents’ Organization and serves on the board of directors of the St. Francis Foundation, affiliated with Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, and the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations, where she is also an emeritus member of the state legislative committee.

A native of Ohio, Evette earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in accounting from Cleveland State University. She lives in Travelers Rest with her husband, David, and their three children as well as her mother, Jennie.

Ryan Smith Gauthier

Voted “Best Photographer” by South Carolina Woman Magazine, Ryan Smith Gauthier is an award-winning photographer based in Myrtle Beach, who travels worldwide for destination branding and commercial art. She is considered a “go-to” photographer for headshots and communicating your brand visually.

She has traveled the world with both the film and fashion industries. When she isn’t traveling, she is photographing families and entrepreneurs. Her style is unique and has been described as authentic but polished.

Iris Griffin

Iris Griffin is vice president of financial management and integration for the Southeast Energy Group. She is responsible for planning, directing, and overseeing the finance functions for the organization’s operations in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Additionally, she has responsibility for the integration of the Southeast Energy Group into the Dominion Energy structure.
Conference Speakers

Prior to the merger with Dominion Energy, Griffin served as chief financial officer and treasurer for SCANA Corporation. While at SCANA, she also served as vice president of finance and held leadership roles in audit services, privacy, corporate compliance, investor relations, and rate and regulatory affairs. Before joining SCANA, she worked at Scott McElveen in Columbia, S.C., and Ernst & Young in Raleigh, N.C.

Griffin is on the finance committee for the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and is a board member at Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity, City Year, Columbia Museum of Art, and the University of South Carolina Business Partnership Foundation. She previously served in board leadership roles for Senior Resources and Columbia City Ballet.

Griffin earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a master of accountancy from the University of South Carolina. She is a certified public accountant in South Carolina.

Meg Ham

Meg Ham is the president of Food Lion, where she leads a team of more than 63,000 associates dedicated to providing fresh, healthy, and affordable food. Under her leadership, the company serves nearly 10 million customers each week across its 10-state operating footprint.

During her 30-year tenure at Ahold Delhaize USA, the parent company of Food Lion, Ham has served at the helm of Bottom Dollar Food, the company’s former discount banner, as well as in executive leadership roles in both retail operations and merchandising functions at Food Lion and its sister banner, Hannaford. She has built a distinguished career and strong reputation for her focus on the value of service to customers and ensuring great associate experiences.

Ham is preserving the company’s heritage of low prices and convenient locations, both hallmarks of Food Lion since its founding 60 years ago. Under her leadership, she has been instrumental in helping reposition the Food Lion brand through its “Easy, Fresh and Affordable…You Can Count on Food Lion Every Day!” strategy.

She is making a number of strides to win new customers and grow loyalty with existing customers with a focus on enhancing the store format by making shopping and the check-out process easier, expanding product assortment based on customer feedback, offering fresher products throughout the store, and transforming customer and associate experiences through the company’s “Count on Me” culture. She also has a strong passion for serving the community through the company’s hunger-relief platform, Food Lion Feeds, and is one of the company’s driving forces to donate 500 million meals by the end of 2020.

Ham serves on the Food Marketing Institute Foundation board of trustees. She previously served as a member of the Network of Executive Women national board, Easter Seals national board, and sat on the board of governors for Saint Joseph’s University’s Food Marketing Education Foundation.

A native of central New York, she earned a bachelor’s degree in business management and marketing from Cornell University. She lives in Concord, N.C., with her husband and two sons.
Conference Speakers

Kym Hilinski

Kym Hilinski, a retired attorney, is focused on helping others through Hilinski’s Hope Foundation. She and her husband, Mark, established the foundation in 2018 to honor the life of their son, Tyler, who died by suicide on Jan. 16, 2018. Tyler was a quarterback at Washington State University and his death was a shock to those around him, including his teammates, family, and friends. He showed no visible signs of depression or mental illness, and must have been suffering in silence.

The foundation’s mission is to educate, advocate, and remove the stigma associated with mental illness, while funding programs that provide student-athletes the tools needed to support their mental health and wellness.

The Hilinski family recently moved from Southern California to South Carolina to be closer to their youngest son, Ryan, who is the starting quarterback for the University of South Carolina.

Beth Harhai

Beth Harhai joined Blackbaud as director of the healthcare solutions business division in 2017. She oversees the client executive team, and new business development, and partners internally to ensure the development, services, and support teams meet the growing demands of Blackbaud’s healthcare clients. Prior to joining Blackbaud, she was the vice president for Healthgrades’ hospital business unit and held prior leadership roles with other leading technology companies, including Allscripts, Mastech, and ADP. She started her career as a fundraiser for a community hospital and the American Cancer Society.

Harhai also is the founder and cochair of Blackbaud’s women in sales affinity program, which includes 200-plus women across the company to promote a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work environment.

In her spare time, Harhai serves on the board of the St. Lucy’s Association for the Blind and is involved in a variety of other nonprofits and initiatives to support diversity. She is an active member of several professional organizations, including Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, and Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Healthcare Industry Foundation.

Harhai earned a bachelor’s degree from Allegheny College, where she serves as an alumni adviser and career mentor. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., with her husband and two teenagers, and is based out of Blackbaud’s headquarters in Charleston, S.C.
Brad Johnson, Ph.D.

W. Brad Johnson, Ph.D., is the co-author of “Athena Rising: How and Why Men Should Mentor Women.” He is a professor of psychology in the Department of Leadership, Ethics, and Law at the United States Naval Academy, and a faculty associate in the Graduate School of Education at Johns Hopkins University. A clinical psychologist and former Lieutenant Commander in the Navy’s Medical Service Corps, Johnson served as a psychologist at Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Medical Clinic at Pearl Harbor, where he was the division head for psychology.

He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and recipient of the Johns Hopkins University Teaching Excellence Award. He has served as chair of the American Psychological Association’s Ethics Committee and as president of the Society for Military Psychology.

Johnson is the author of more than 100 journal articles and book chapters—many on the topic of mentoring—and 12 books in the areas of mentoring, professional ethics, and counseling. His books include: “On Being a Mentor: A Guide for Higher Education Faculty,” “The Elements of Mentoring” (with Charles Ridley), “The Elements of Ethics for Professionals” (with Charles Ridley), and “Becoming a Leader the Annapolis Way” (with Greg Harper).

Dr. Valerie Lasry

Dr. Valerie Lasry and her son, now an adult, moved to Pawleys Island in October 2005. She joined Carolina OB/GYN in November of that same year. She has been enjoying the practice, the temperate climate, and the beauty of the Lowcountry ever since. Along with Dr. Gayle Richmond, she founded SmartLipo MD in Murrells Inlet in 2009.

Lasry enjoys participating in the care of pregnant patients as well as caring for GYN patients in all stages of their lives. Laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery are her preferred approach to gynecological surgery when necessary.

Fluent in English and French, Lasry was born in Paris and grew up in Montreal, Canada. She earned her medical degree from the University of Montreal and moved to the U.S. in 1991 to complete her OB/GYN residency at Harbor Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Following her residency, she practiced at a multi-specialty clinic in New Hampshire. In 1999, she joined Partners in Women’s Health, a private practice in Potsdam, N.Y., where she practiced for nearly seven years.

She is a fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and is certified through the American Board of OB/GYN. She is a member of the American Society of Cosmetic Physicians and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
Dr. Eduardo Martinez

Obstetrician and gynecologist Eduardo Martinez, MD, FACOG, a urogynecologist at Tidelands Health Women’s Center, specializes in treating disorders of the pelvic floor such as pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, fecal incontinence, and constipation. Board-certified and fellowship-trained, Martinez lives in Pawleys Island with his wife and two daughters. He is fluent in English and Spanish.

Rebecca Minkoff

Rebecca Minkoff’s playful and subtly edgy designs can be spotted around the world on young women and celebrities alike. Rebecca Minkoff is a global brand with a wide range of apparel, handbags, footwear, jewelry, and accessories. It also features men’s accessories under the label Uri Minkoff. In the Spring 2017, Rebecca Minkoff Watches was launched, and Uri Minkoff also introduced its own distinct line of menswear timepieces. The brand has four domestic retail stores, eight international locations, and is distributed in more than 900 stores worldwide.

Minkoff won industry recognition when she received the Breakthrough Designer Award from the Accessories Council in 2011. She is an active member of the Council of Fashion Designers of America Inc. In August 2017, she became a member of the first-ever New York State Council on Women and Girls, in the company of other female industry leaders. Minkoff supports multiple philanthropies, and is dedicated to bringing women together to enact positive change.

In September 2018, Minkoff established the Female Founder Collective, a network of businesses led by women that invests in women’s financial power across the socio-economic spectrum by enabling and empowering female-owned businesses.

Minkoff developed an affinity for design while in the costume department in high school. She moved to New York City when she was 18 to pursue her dream of becoming a fashion designer. In 2001, she designed a version of the “I Love New York” T-shirt as part of a five-piece capsule collection, which appeared on “The Tonight Show” and became an overnight sensation.

In 2005, Minkoff designed her first handbag, which she soon dubbed the “Morning After Bag,” aka the “M.A.B.” This iconic bag ignited her career as a handbag designer and inspired her edgy, feminine creations in the years to come. Minkoff’s success was further enhanced by the support of her brother and the company’s CEO and co-founder, Uri Minkoff, who helped usher in and pioneer the company’s industry-leading social media efforts.

After four years of designing statement-making handbags and accessories with her trademark leathers, studs, and hardware, Minkoff returned to her roots of apparel design and introduced her first ready-to-wear collection in 2009.

Minkoff and her husband, actor and producer Gavin Bellour, live in Brooklyn with their three children.
Dr. Melissa Moore

Dr. Melissa Moore joined Carolina OB/GYN in 2019. She has a special interest in minimally invasive surgery and surgery for the management of pelvic pain and urinary incontinence. She enjoys treating metabolic and endocrine disorders with a focus on polycystic ovarian syndrome and infertility. Hormone replacement therapy for peri/postmenopausal patients is a big part of her practice. Moore believes her job is to help women achieve their best life at any age.

Prior to joining Carolina OB/GYN, Moore served as the OB/GYN department chair for Tift Regional Medical Center, where she was instrumental in helping the center achieve the Baby Friendly Certification. In addition, she was a clinical associate professor for the Medical College of Georgia.

Moore is a graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., and the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Ga. She completed her residency at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville, Fla. She is a fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and is certified through the American Board of OB/GYN. She earned the designation of Certified Lactation Counselor in 2014.

Moore grew up in south Georgia. She and her husband, a South Carolina native, have a young son.

Donna Pagano

Donna Pagano is a physical therapist with Tidelands Health Rehabilitation Services at Murrells Inlet. She earned a master’s degree in rehabilitation therapy from the Medical University of South Carolina in 2001. After achieving specialty certifications in abdominal and pelvic health therapies, she has focused on abdominal and pelvic health since 2003.

Pagano treats both women and men for many kinds of medical issues related to the abdomen or pelvis. She is an advocate for abdominal and pelvic physical therapy and has spoken widely to promote this lesser-known therapy. She has also been featured on local TV stations and various podcasts to increase awareness of pelvic wellness and health.

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Dr. Gayle Richmond

Dr. Gayle Richmond is the founding and managing partner of Carolina OB/GYN, which was established in 1988. She also serves as chief of the medical staff of Tidelands Health and is a member of its board of trustees. A fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, she is certified through the American Board of OB/GYN. A member of the American Society of Cosmetic (Gynecology) Physicians, she is well respected among patients and peers and is considered a pioneer in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. In 2003, she introduced Centering Pregnancy to the Grand Strand and continues to make strides in the advancement of women’s health care. She has performed more than 10,000 surgeries and 10,000 deliveries. Richmond made history when she was the first woman to be elected chief of the medical staff of the former Georgetown Hospital System in Georgetown, S.C.

Richmond grew up in Massachusetts. A graduate of Georgetown University, she earned her medical degree and completed her residency at the Medical University of South Carolina, where she served as chief resident. She and her husband, an ER physician, have five adult children.

Debbie Rosen

Debbie Rosen is a highly accomplished and visionary health care executive with a longstanding history of success in corporate strategy, business development, acquisition strategy and integration, operational leadership, product innovation, and cultural transformation. As executive vice president, health care practice leader at Energage, Rosen is responsible for setting the strategic direction for health care solutions in the organization, providing thought leadership to clients, and ensuring sustainable growth of the Energage health care business. She serves as an industry leader to ensure Energage tools and insights are effectively used to help make the world a better place to work together for all health care associates.

Prior to joining Energage, Rosen worked at Press Ganey Associates, where she served nine years as senior vice president of strategy, and seven years as senior vice president of physician and employee engagement. She previously served in several senior leadership roles in the health care industry including global practice leader; health care for the Gallup Organization; assistant vice president for strategic improvement with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton; director of cardiopulmonary services and performance improvement with Bon Secours Health System; and strategic adviser to the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rosen, the recipient of the 2004 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, earned an MBA from the Ellis College of New York Institute of Technology, a Six Sigma Master Black Belt, and various certifications in human behavior and business performance.
David Smith, Ph.D.

David Smith, Ph.D., is the co-author of “Athena Rising: How and Why Men Should Mentor Women” and an associate professor of sociology in the Department of National Security Affairs at the United States Naval War College. A former Navy pilot, Smith led diverse organizations of women and men culminating in command of a squadron in combat and flew more than 3,000 hours over 30 years, including combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a sociologist trained in military sociology and social psychology, Smith focuses his research in gender, work, and family issues including gender bias in performance evaluations, dual career families, military families, women in the military, and retention of women.

Smith is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters — many on the topic of gender and the workplace.

Victoria Russell

Victoria Russell is the first chief of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) at Papa John’s International, a global brand with 120,000 team members. A 13-year passion for the Papa John’s brand, she is committed to using her voice to bring change and stepping up to the challenge of ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion is in the DNA of the company.

The DE&I vision at Papa John’s is to enable team members, customers, suppliers, partners, and franchisees of all backgrounds to feel included and a part of the Papa John’s family and to allow the brand’s diversity to be its strength and competitive advantage. Much like the company’s tagline, “Better ingredients. Better pizza.,” people are the key ingredient to a better company. Russell previously served as head of diversity and inclusion and was voted chair of the newly formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee by her peers. She spent most of her career at Papa John’s in marketing analytics, where she gained valuable insights into the business, and the customers and communities they served.

Before joining Papa John’s, Russell worked in human resources compensation at Brown-Forman, and Humana Inc. She serves on several nonprofit boards including Leadership Louisville, Fund for the Arts, and the YMCA. She was recently named a “Woman Making A Difference” by Louisville Business First and to the 2019 Class of Louisville’s Forty Under 40. She was also selected to The Business Journals’ Influencers: Rising Stars, a national list of influential young executives.

Her other recent accomplishments include Leadership Louisville Class of 2020; University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics’ alumni recipient of the 2019 Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence Award; and founding member of the Adweek Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Russell earned both a bachelor’s degree in marketing and management, and an MBA in marketing from the University of Kentucky.
Conference Speakers

Nina Sossamon-Pogue

Nina Sossamon-Pogue is a sought-after speaker, hyper-growth tech executive, former USA gymnast, and an Emmy-winning TV news anchor. She is the author of “This is Not the End: Strategies to Get You Through the Worst Chapters of Your Life.” Sossamon-Pogue shares her proven approach to handling life’s hardships, so you can control your own destiny.

A resident of Charleston, S.C., Sossamon-Pogue has enjoyed success at some of the highest levels of sport, television, and corporate America. She also endured painful public failures and devastating life events. She is often asked how she managed to rebuild and find new levels of success, after her lows. So, she developed a framework anyone can implement to leverage adversity and achieve success.

Sossamon-Pogue spent 20-plus years as a TV news reporter and anchor, followed by 12 years on the leadership team of a technology company, during its highly successful IPO.

In each chapter of her life, Sossamon-Pogue faced tremendous adversity, including an injury that ended her athletic career, and a very public layoff from her dream job. At the peak of her journalism career, Sossamon-Pogue had to rebuild her life once again. After a devastating car accident, she found herself at the center of a story gripping the headlines. Amid darkness, she developed a proprietary model to harness adversity and strengthen resilience.

Sossamon-Pogue brings a wealth of experience and passion to everything she does. She inspires you to examine your future in a new way. With a proven framework to conquer adversity, she teaches you how to overcome challenges of all sizes. This knowledge allows you to gain strength from each obstacle on your way to success.

Kay Stanley

Kay Stanley is the founder of Spartina 449, a women’s handbag and accessory company based in Hilton Head Island, S.C. Her artistic journey began many years ago in Kansas City, Kan., where she was born and raised. One of her earliest memories was receiving a sketchbook for a birthday gift, which she quickly filled with drawings and musings. It would later come to shape her life and career.

Learning from her mother, who was a talented watercolor artist herself, Stanley became fascinated with all kinds of creative outlets, including scrapbooking. While attending the University of Kansas, she studied advertising, dabbling in design through various classes and projects. After graduating in 1986 with a journalism degree, Stanley was hired as art director for a Kansas City advertising agency. Through her experiences working in advertising, she had the opportunity to art-direct catalogs for Hallmark Cards Inc. and Whitman’s Candies, as well as to create campaigns for Campbell Soup, Procter & Gamble, and Nestle Foods. She thrived in the fast-paced world of advertising and during her career, earned more than 50 awards for her art direction and designs.

In 1996, Stanley met her future husband, Curt Seymour, whom she worked with on a line of wholesale gift products for several years. Not long after, the couple used their savings to invest in a line of scrapbooking products and together launched their first company, K&Company.
Conference Speakers

Atiya Kai Stokes-Brown, Ph.D.

As vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Atiya Stokes-Brown, Ph.D., serves as Coastal Carolina University’s first diversity, equity, and inclusion officer. The chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer guides efforts to conceptualize, define, assess, nurture, and cultivate diversity and inclusion as an institutional resource. By collaborating across campus and with surrounding communities, Stokes-Brown oversees the implementation of strategies that advance accessibility, inclusion, and diversity as key parts of the institution’s strategic plan. She also provides administrative supervision for Intercultural and Inclusion Student Services, and Accessibility and Disability Services.

A dynamic leader with 15 years of experience teaching and conducting research at the university level, Stokes-Brown has worked collaboratively in numerous capacities across college and university communities, demonstrating strong academic and administrative leadership, and a deep passion for liberal arts education. Prior to joining CCU, she served as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Bucknell University and held several administrative positions at the university including interim associate provost for diversity, faculty fellow in the Office of the Associate Provost for Diversity, and assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Drawn to academia by the desire to give back and help build inclusive communities, Stokes-Brown earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a master’s in political science from Temple University. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa with bachelor’s degrees in politics and dance from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (now known as Randolph College). Stokes-Brown’s scholarly publications broadly center on the political incorporation of women and racial/ethnic groups into the American political system, and issues of representation. She is the author of “The Politics of Race in Latino Communities: Walking the Color Line” (Routledge, 2012, 2014), and her work has appeared in several peer-reviewed journals including the Journal of Politics, American Politics Research, Politics and Policy, the Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Social Science Quarterly, National Political Science Review, and Political Research Quarterly.

A native of Philadelphia and a graduate of the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Stokes-Brown resides in Myrtle Beach with her husband and four children.
Conference Speakers

Terrez Marriott Thompson

Terrez Marriott Thompson is vice president of global supplier diversity for The Coca-Cola Company, leading the organization’s efforts to maximize procurement opportunities with diverse businesses. As an associate of the company for nearly 35 years, Thompson has held numerous roles of increasing responsibility. She assumed her current leadership position in April 2012. She is proudest of the innovative work she has done to develop diverse suppliers, most notably, the Supplier Training and Empowerment Program (STEP) to support the company’s 5By20 initiative to empower 5 million women by 2020. STEP also has a featured program focused on Women of Color, the fastest growing sector of entrepreneurs. STEP has doubled the number of women trained in its last two years.

Prior to her current assignment, she was responsible for employee engagement, where her responsibilities included building processes that optimized the existing systems that supported volunteerism, matching gifts, and the company’s nonprofit board participation strategy. She has also served as AVP, executive assistant and program manager of Coca-Cola North America Innovation. Thompson has held other senior roles at Coca-Cola. Working with the EVP of global public affairs, she led the company’s $1 billion Empowerment and Entrepreneurial program for minority and women-owned business. Thompson also served as AVP and deputy to the president of the Africa Group. She started at Coca-Cola in the finance organization holding progressively responsible roles, including controller for The Coca-Cola Trading Company and financial services manager for the Africa Group.

Before joining The Coca-Cola Company, Thompson was a senior auditor at Price Waterhouse. A Certified Public Accountant, Thompson earned a bachelor’s degree from Morgan State University in 1981. Her family includes husband, Rodney, and daughter, Summer.

Tererai Trent, Ph.D.

Born into poverty and a culture that excluded girls from education, Tererai Trent, Ph.D., shares her stunning journey from rural Zimbabwe to a global advocate for literacy that has helped transform education in her country and illuminated the pathway for women around the world to realize their dreams.

Trent is a world-renowned humanitarian, educator, and author who has served as a consultant to major international aid organizations in program and policy evaluation. She is a fellow at the Center of AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco, and an adjunct professor in the School of Public Health at Drexel University.

From the moment she wrote down her dreams of going to America for higher education, sealed them in a tin can, and buried them under a rock, Trent launched a narrative of turning oppression and injustice into opportunity that serves as a beacon of hope for women everywhere. Her soul-stirring talks not only bring tears to eyes and smiles to faces, but also include practical, actionable steps to achieve one’s goals and overcome the most daunting challenges.

Trent along with media mogul Oprah Winfrey, actress Nicole Kidman, Olympian Gabby Douglas, and author Cheryl Strayed are among the 10 prominent women immortalized in bronze Statues for Equality that stand outside New York’s Rockefeller Center. The women are honored for fighting for gender equality for girls and women.
Eva Saha

Eva Saha is a professional emcee, moderator, and presenter. She is best known for having worked as a TV personality on the Emmy award-winning entertainment show, “190 North,” on Chicago’s ABC7. Her natural, warm, and commanding presence, both on and off-camera, has also made her the host of choice for a variety of live-event clients including Cardinal Health, Panasonic, and Caterpillar.

Saha is known to bring out the best in her stage guests. She has interviewed people from all walks of life including James Carville and Mary Matalin, Jim Kelly, Venus Williams, Magic Johnson, Michael J. Fox, and Bill Nye the Science Guy, to name a few.

Her ability to relate to all personalities and people of different backgrounds and cultures enables her to effectively interview and moderate discussions among Fortune 100 CEOs and customers of those companies alike.

A former accountant for an international energy company and corporate attorney for a world-renowned firm, Saha brings focus, dedication, and intelligence to the job.

Saha is an active volunteer for Selah Freedom and WITS Chicago, working to advance literacy and improve the welfare of disadvantaged women and children. She also supports and fundraises for a plethora of causes including international women’s rights, disease research, and advocacy for people with disabilities.

Saha enjoys activities such as traveling with her husband and two daughters, sampling the culinary treasures of Chicago, lounging on her couch reading a good book, and watching a crime drama.
Nicole Boone

Nicole Boone has been a part of WBTW News 13 in Myrtle Beach since 1989 and anchors the noon, 5, and 6 p.m. newscasts. She has interviewed and met people from all walks of life, including singer and author Gloria Gaynor, singer Darius Rucker and other members of Hootie and the Blowfish, Harlem Globetrotters, various NASCAR drivers, Tom Cruise, and pro golfer Dustin Johnson. One of her most memorable assignments was a trip to Hollywood for a special series of reports on the stars of CBS Daytime. During that trip, she appeared as an extra on “The Young and the Restless.”

Through the years, Boone has been named the area’s “Best TV Personality” by the readers of The Morning News (Florence) and has received similar recognition from The Horry Independent (Conway) and The Sun News (Myrtle Beach). She’s received the Gold Ribbon Award in 1999 from the Pee Dee Regional Breastfeeding Coalition. In March 2004, the South Carolina Medical Association presented her with the Television Journalism Award for her series of reports on childhood obesity. In April 2005, Boone received two awards from the South Carolina Associated Press Broadcast Awards contest. She was also honored by the South Carolina Girl Scout Council of the Pee Dee Region as a “Mary Dean Brewer Women of Distinction,” which recognizes women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in their personal and professional endeavors.

Boone speaks to school, civic, and church groups and enjoys participating in events for the Grand Strand Miracle League, American Red Cross, and other organizations. She grew up in Roebuck, S.C., and earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Winthrop College.

Patsy Kelly

Patsy Kelly is the weekday lead morning anchor and morning manager at WBTW News 13 in Myrtle Beach. You can see her every morning from 4:30 to 7 a.m.

Kelly moved to the Grand Strand in April 2015 after she accepted the morning anchor position. She came from a sister station, WTHI, in Terre Haute, Ind. She worked there as an anchor/journalist. She previously worked at another sister station, WLFI, in Lafayette, Ind., as the new media executive producer.

Kelly earned a bachelor’s degree in video broadcasting and a minor in voice performance from Liberty University in Virginia.

Meghan Miller

Meghan Miller joined the WBTW News 13 team in February 2014 and anchors Fox News at 10 and News 13 at 11.

She has previous experience working as a weekend morning anchor and reporter in the Myrtle Beach/Florence market. Miller has covered important stories in the Grand Strand and Pee Dee, ranging from the Horry County wildfire and Hurricane Matthew to the Brittanee Drexel and Heather Elvis cases.

A native of York, Pa., Miller moved to Myrtle Beach in 2005 to attend Coastal Carolina University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication with a minor in journalism in 2008. While at CCU, she had the opportunity to freelance for FOX News, CNN, and HGTV.
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Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
843.626.7444
myrtlebeachareachamber.com

Nelson Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLC
843.448.3500
nelsonmullins.com

New York Life/NYLIFE Securities LLC
843.449.7805
eaglestrategies.com

Pinnacle Financial Partners
843.626.2265
mypinnacle.com

Ryan Smith Gauthier Photography and Video
843.742.1277
smithandgauthier.com

SC Coastal Region Human Trafficking Taskforce
937.867.4802
humantrafficking.scag.gov

Socialite Boutique
843.651.2317
Socialitemi on Instagram and Socialite Murrells Inlet on Facebook

South Carolina Women in Leadership
803.730.3521
scwomenlead.net

Spartina 449
843.712.8108
spartina449.com

Stox & Co.
843.651.5233
stoxandco.com

The 5th T Innovation Group/
Conway Innovation Center
843.488.2783
cicinnovation.com

The Atheneum Press at
Coastal Carolina University
843.349.5099
theatheneumpress.com

The Chanticleer Store
843.349.2360
coastal.bncollege.com

The Power of Elderberries
843.503.4545
thepowerofelderberries.com

TopGolf
843.945.3318
topgolf.com/us/myrtle-beach

United Contractors Roofing
843.455.4350
myrtle-beach-roofing.com

Walmart
843.215.3688
walmart.com

WIPL Photo Booth and Silent Auction
843.349.5033
coastal.edu/wipl
VISIT the WIPL booth in Exhibit Hall A
to learn more about getting involved with our organization and
making an impact on our community and the students at CCU.

SUPPORT student scholarships and programs
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Auction items include gift certificates and items from:
- Blumera jewelry
- Spartina 449
- Attractions Tickets
- Kendra Scott jewelry
- ... and more!

INTERESTED in becoming a member of
Women in Philanthropy and Leadership?
As a WIPL member, you will:
- Receive invitations to events throughout the year.
- Support scholarships for CCU students.
- Stay connected.

Go to coastal.edu/wipl to become a member and see our
events calendar.

SAVE THE DATE
WIPL Reconnect • March 10, 5-7 p.m.
Reconnect and share what inspired you at the
2020 Women’s Leadership Conference!
Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar.

The Village House
13089 Ocean Hwy., Building E
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
Anyone who does not believe in miracles is not a realist.
-Audrey Hepburn-
"I am very thankful for receiving scholarship support from Coastal Carolina University. Without this support, I wouldn’t be able to give my complete attention to pursuing my degree in financial management and accounting. I hope one day I will be able to help others achieve their goals at CCU just as so many people are generously helping me to achieve mine."

Hilton Smith, Conway, S.C.
TEAL 1000 Scholarship recipient
Finance and accounting major

**TEAL 1000** gives individuals and business owners the opportunity to support CCU and its local students by making an annual investment of $1,000.
All **TEAL 1000** donations go into an endowed fund, and the interest supports scholarships for students from Horry and Georgetown counties.

Visit coastal.edu/teal1000 or call 843.340.7253 to become a TEAL 1000 member!

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