

Women's Conference Speakers' Bios

Meghan Woltman, Chairwoman of the Board, Illinois Chamber of Commerce



Meghan Woltman is vice president of government and community relations for Advocate Health Care, the largest provider of health services in Illinois. She leads Advocate's efforts in Springfield, IL and Washington, D.C. and works with hospital-based teams to build local partnerships with elected officials and community stakeholders and to communicate the policy priorities of the system. Meghan has been with Advocate since 2006, when she joined the system as director of government relations with a specific focus on state issues. Meghan is the past Vice-Chairman of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and has been a director on the board since 2011. She also sits on the Chicago Women in Government Relations board of directors. She earned her Bachelor's degree from St. Louis University in communication and marketing and also completed her Master's degree at St. Louis University through a research fellowship focused on political rhetoric and journalism.

Amanda H. Young, MBA, Energy Mastery™ Core Certified Practitioner



Amanda H. Young, MBA, bestselling author of *Finding Clarity: Design a Business You Love and Simplify Your Marketing*, is known for helping business owners, entrepreneurs, and their employees find the clarity they need to attract more clients, build a business they love, get out of their own way, and manage their personal energy to grow their businesses and succeed. She provides much-needed focus and clarity to ambitious business owners who have unique talents to share with the world. By identifying limiting beliefs and shifting her clients' perspectives, Amanda aligns their energy to help their business grow while attracting the clients they are meant to serve. Contact her at Amanda@CleanUpYourEnergy.com

Beverly Alfon, Partner, SmithAmundsen



Beverly is a partner in SmithAmundsen's Labor & Employment Practice Group where she represents employer interests. She counsels employers on maintaining compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, assists employers with developing employment policies and executing human resources strategies, negotiates employment and separation agreements, conducts internal investigations, and advises employers in connection with strategic planning related to collective bargaining, fringe benefit fund audits, and withdrawal liability.

Alexis Robertson, North America Manager Diversity and Inclusion, Baker & McKenzie LLP



Alexis Robertson is the North America Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at Baker McKenzie. Alexis manages the implementation of the Firm's various diversity-related programming, initiatives, and client reporting. Prior to joining Baker McKenzie, Alexis earned her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and spent over 7 years as a litigation attorney practicing at two top Chicago law firms. She also worked as a legal recruiter where she focused on placing diverse attorneys with law firms and corporations. Alexis is also on the board of the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and serves as a commissioner on the Oak Park Community Relations Commission.

Chipo Nyambuya, Founder and Principal of Virgil LLC



Chipo Nyambuya is the Founder and Principal of Virgil LLC and co-founder of CMC Healthcare Consultants LLC. She has twenty years of cross-sector experience as a lawyer and policy advisor to Fortune 500 corporations, start-ups, international development agencies, and foreign governments. Her expertise ranges from negotiating multi-million dollar corporate deals to helping establish legal and judicial institutions in post-conflict countries. She continues to advise corporations, organizations, and governments on policy and rule of law issues relative to energy, education, economic development, and technology. In recent years, she has consulted for startup companies on technology law and for not-for-profit organizations. She founded Virgil LLC in 2015. With Virgil, she advises SME and service firms to assess and implement CSR/ESG approaches to their operations and to measure and evaluate the impact of CSR/ESG approaches. Additionally, she identifies projects and financing for impact investing activities and is a certified FINRA arbitrator. She serves on the boards of Survivors' Truths, Global Smart Kids, Institute for Work and the Economy, Associated Colleges of Illinois, Minority Legal Education Resources, and The Impact Alliance. She has lectured at Northwestern University in International and Area Studies on CSR and International Development and delivered continued legal education courses on CSR and the Law with APEX Legal Resources. She is the co-author to the upcoming SRT Toolkit and co-founder of CMC Healthcare Consultants.

Ms. Nyambuya received her J.D. from The Ohio State University College of Law, and her A.B. *with distinction*, from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Leslie J. Drish, Inclusion and Diversity Manager, Tyson Foods



Leslie J. Drish is the Inclusion and Diversity Manager for Tyson Foods, in the department of Organizational Culture. In this role, Leslie ensures that diversity & inclusion is incorporated into all people programs and processes to drive greater understanding and awareness. She serves as a champion and thought leader for diversity & inclusion by sharing best practices, benchmarks, and developing relevant approaches that are aligned to Tyson Foods business strategy.

Leslie has over 20 years' experience developing innovative diversity, volunteer and educational programs with proven ability to drive performance, program improvement, quality initiatives and quantifiable results. She has been recognized for community outreach and development of programs that engage support for organizational mission, vision and strategy.

Prior to joining Tyson Foods, Leslie was Manager of Diversity & Inclusion at the YMCA of the USA and the Director of Education at the Chicago Urban League. In addition, she was the Manager of Teacher Services at John G. Shedd Aquarium and an Educator at Morgan Park High School in Chicago IL. Leslie earned a Master of Educational Leadership from National-Louis University in Chicago, IL, a Master of Public Administration from University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

Michael Holub, M.A., C.P.C., Vice-Chair, Illinois Committee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve



Michael Holub has been a member of the Illinois Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) since 2004. Mr. Holub has received 2 ESGR Seven Seals Awards, 3 Patriotic Employer Awards, the Above and Beyond Award (as an employer) and the U.S. President's Lifetime Achievement Award for more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service to ESGR. In 2012 he was selected by ESGR Headquarters as the National Public Affairs Volunteer of the Year.

Michael Holub is a retired Chief of Police and he had an illustrious law enforcement career spanning more than forty years. He served as the Police Chief in four municipalities in the Chicago suburbs and holds the distinction of Certified Police Chief (C.P.C.). During his career Chief (Ret.) Holub was the Chair of both the Executive Search Committee and Police Chief Certification Committee for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and he served as the President of two Police Chief Associations.

Mr. Holub is a veteran of the U.S. Army and he served in the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard. The Old Guard is the oldest active-duty Infantry Regiment in the Army and is the Army's Official Ceremonial Unit and Escort to the President in Washington D.C. As a member of the Old Guard, Mike participated in hundreds of Military Ceremonies and State level events. He is a Life Member of the Old Guard Association and served on their Board of Directors. In 2015 the Secretary of the Army granted Michael Holub the distinction of Distinguished Member of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (DMOR).

Colonel Patricia S. Klop, Reserve Assistant Chief of Staff, Marine Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii



Colonel Patricia S. Klop graduated from Berry College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Broad Field Social Science and minors in education and psychology, and subsequently commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps via the Platoon Leaders Class Program. After basic training, then Second Lieutenant Klop graduated from Adjutant Course and served overseas as an Adjutant and Protocol Officer in Okinawa, Japan and Songkhla, Thailand in support of COBRA GOLD 1996. Second Lieutenant Klop was 1995 Woman Athlete of the Year for All Marine Corps Bases; Okinawa, Japan. From July 1996 through August 1999, First Lieutenant Klop was assigned to women boot camp, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina to supervise drill instructors as they trained recruits.

She worked her way up through the ranks as First Lieutenant, Captain, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel before receiving her current commission as Colonel and is currently the Reserve Assistant Chief of Staff G-1 for Marine Forces Pacific at Camp Smith, Hawaii.

Colonel Klop graduated from Webster University, Beaufort, South Carolina in August 1999 with a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development and Management. Additionally, she graduated from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois in December 2004 with a Master in Science in Physical Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy.

Colonel Klop teaches junior high adapted physical education and health to students with disabilities at Prairie Grove Consolidated School District 46 in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

Brian Caputo, Interim President, College of DuPage



Brian W. Caputo became the Interim President of College of DuPage in January of 2019. He brings to the presidency more than 35 years of strategic management and leadership experience drawn from a broad range of senior-level positions in higher education, local government, and the military.

Prior to assuming the position of Interim President, Dr. Caputo served for approximately two years as the College's Vice President for Administration and Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer).

Dr. Caputo holds a B.S. from the United States Military Academy at West Point, an M.S. in Accountancy from DePaul University, and an M.P.A. from Northern Illinois University (NIU). He earned a Ph.D. degree from NIU with fields of study in public administration, public policy, and government finance. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Public Finance Officer.

In 2004, Dr. Caputo retired from the United States Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his more than 22 years of active and reserve military service, he specialized in financial and human resources management.

Maria Doughty, Director of Public Policy and Corporate Counsel, Allstate Insurance Company



Maria Doughty has been at Allstate for over 20 years. She identifies and develops public policy positions and advocacy strategies. She actively supports and oversees research on a broad range of issues and trends that impact the Company at the state and federal levels. She cultivates, maintains, and manages legislative and regulatory relationships and uses strategic tools to promote business objectives and the Company's public policy goals.

Prior to that role, she served as the State Regulatory and Government Affairs Midwest Region Director and Corporate Counsel where she served as the chief legal counsel for the field operations in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. She also educated and influenced legislators, regulators, and other government officials and helped manage public opinion on critical corporate issues. Also, while at Allstate, she was Managing Counsel in the Insurance Operations Division where she supervised and handled countrywide claims related legal issues. Before that, she was a member of the Corporate Litigation Division, where she managed class action, employment, and insurance related litigation. Prior to working at Allstate, Maria was a litigator at the law firms of Johnson & Bell in Chicago, Illinois and Fortson & White in Atlanta, Georgia. During her career, Maria has counseled senior executives on a broad range of strategic issues, including business planning, risk reduction, litigation prevention, and crisis management. She is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow. Maria also serves as President of the Latino Policy Forum board, as Secretary of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence board, Co-Chair of the Illinois Task Force for Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities, and member of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Maria received her J.D. and B.A. from Emory University in Atlanta, and did post graduate work as a Bobby Jones Scholar at the University of St. Andrews, in Scotland.

Michelle B. Larson, PhD, President and CEO, Adler Planetarium



Michelle Larson attributes her career path to looking up, literally. Growing up in Alaska she enjoyed the beauty of the Northern Lights, and she became further captivated by astronomy in her 20s when she pointed a pair of binoculars at the Moon. The stunning details visible on its craggy surface were a complete surprise, and the experience left her eager to explore what other secrets the cosmos had to offer. Now, as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, Michelle leads a talented team that connects people to the Universe and each other under the sky we all share.

Since Michelle joined the Adler Planetarium in 2013, that team has found new and innovative ways to meet people wherever they are and welcome them into the scientific community. The museum has expanded programming and partnerships in neighborhoods across Chicago; developed a live lecture series that projects stunning data visualizations onto planetarium domes around the world; and remained home to Earth's largest platform for citizen science—an online tool that connects researchers with millions of volunteers around the globe. During this time, annual attendance at the museum has increased by 35 percent.

Michelle earned her PhD in physics from Montana State University, and serves on several national and Chicago-area advisory boards. She lives just outside Chicago with her husband—who is also an astrophysicist—their daughter, and three cats.

Monica Mueller, Senior Director Government Affairs, Motorola Solutions



Monica serves as a senior director of government affairs at Motorola Solutions where she manages operations for the Government Affairs organization, leads the organization's international advocacy efforts, manages state government affairs and civic engagement in Illinois for the company, serves as director of the company's Political Action Committee (PAC), and coordinates the country management organization.

Prior to her existing role, Monica served as chief of staff for Motorola's Public Affairs and Communications organization which encompassed government affairs, communications, sustainability initiatives and philanthropic giving. Monica also previously served as the manager of state government relations at Motorola where she handled state public policy issues in the 50 states. Before joining the private sector, Monica managed the Chicago office of Lt. Governor Bob Kustra, and previously managed his first campaign for statewide office. Additionally, she served as a legislative liaison, and later as special assistant to the director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), the state's economic development agency. Upon graduating college, Monica was one of eight individuals selected by Governor Jim Thompson of Illinois to serve as a Dunn Fellow. Monica serves as the chairperson of the Civic Federation of Chicago. In addition, she is on the board of the Chicagoland Chamber and on the executive committee of the Illinois Chamber where she chairs their government affairs committee. Monica also serves on the board of the Harper College Educational Foundation and is a board member of the Public Affairs Council. Additionally, she is a member of "100 Women Who Care" in Chicago and a volunteer at North Shore Exchange. Monica is a native of Uruguay and speaks Spanish fluently. She is the mother of two children, Konrad and Franchesca.

Susana Meza, Vice President Community Impact, Wintrust Financial



Susana Meza oversees the Community Impact department at Wintrust to invest in future profitability and preserve the company's mission and values within the communities it serves. This area fulfills broader obligations to anchor every aspect of Wintrust's business within three key pillars: strategic initiatives, economic development, and civic engagement.

Through her work, Susana collaborates with customers and non-customers, as well as internal and external stakeholders in various communities across the state.

Under her direction, Community Impact maximizes reporting mechanisms and develops thoughtful diagnostics to ensure community partners achieve specialized goals while laying the groundwork to attract new customers and generate revenue.

As a regular contact for many local partners, her team serves as a resource by integrating Wintrust's values, teams, and business lines to ensure a positive market impact and become a model for innovative community banking. Previously, she served as vice president of marketing for Wintrust.

Industry and Community Leadership:

Susana is a founding member of the Wintrust Community Impact Council. She currently serves as chair of the International Business Council for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. She recently served on the Governor's Illinois Bicentennial Commission. She is also a member of the Executives' Club of Chicago.

Sally Washlow, Practice Lead, International Center for Executive Options, Managing Director, SW Consulting Solutions, LLC



Sally Washlow currently leads the Midwest practice for the International Center for Executive Options, a boutique provider of executive transition consulting services. She is also the Managing Director of SW Consulting Solutions LLC, a strategic and executive management consulting firm. From 2015 to 2017, Sally was the Chief Executive Officer of Cedar Electronics Corporation, a supplier of radar detectors, GPS systems, dash cameras and other electronic products, and led the integration of the Cobra and Escort electronics businesses.

Prior to that, Sally worked for 13 years at Cobra Electronics Corporation in various capacities, including as President from 2013 until 2015. Sally received a Masters in Business Administration in Marketing from DePaul University and a BA in Supply Chain Management Management] from Michigan State University. She is also a former member of the Executive Board of the Consumer Technology Association and presently serves on the boards of public and private companies.

Elaine Hand, President, InnerView LLC



Innerview Inc. owned and operated by Elaine Hand, has been in business since 1995. She works within organizations on Human Resource Management as well as Leadership and Management Development. Her seminars have proven over and over again the philosophy that all companies have two major concerns: Systems and People. No matter how much money an organization spends on top of the line, high quality systems, the organization is only as good as the people who own, operate, manage, and work for them.

Elaine has facilitated workshops and conducted seminars on basic management, strategic planning, generational diversity, internal and external customer service, time management, team building, leadership, motivation and employment assessment strategies. She has spoken at national, regional and local conferences.