

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

ILLINOIS CHAMBER

2022
Women In Business Conference

June 22, 2022
8:30 am to 2:30 pm
NIU Center | Naperville, Illinois

Our Speakers



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.



Allison Sues, Partner, SmithAmundsen, LLC

As a member of SmithAmundsen's Labor & Employment Service Group, Allison handles workplace disputes, including claims for discrimination, harassment, retaliation, lost wages, and failure to accommodate a disability. Her experience includes representing clients in a variety of industries, including health care systems, state universities, public agencies, and small employers, in state and federal court litigation.

Prior to joining SmithAmundsen, Allison was an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General's Employment Law Unit where she represented state agencies in federal and state court and administrative agencies. In that capacity, she defended employers against claims brought under Section 1983, Section 1981, Title VII, ADEA, ADA, FMLA and the Illinois Human Rights Act.



Tremese C. Davis, Vice President, Operations, Nicor Gas

With the company for 23 years, Tremese is responsible for leading the safety, compliance, emergency response, workforce management as well as other operational aspects for Nicor Gas.

In her most recent role as director of Supplier Sustainability & Inclusive Growth for Southern Company, Tremese led systemwide efforts to increase our impact on minority owned businesses while reducing our supply chain risk by developing strategies to expand our local supplier base. Since joining the company in 1999, Tremese has held positions of increasing responsibility at Southern Company and Southern Company Gas.

Tremese has developed an extraordinary background in people leadership, analysis, operations, and workforce development.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Georgia Southern University and holds a Master of Business Administration from Mercer University. She is Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certified. She is a 2015 graduate of Leadership DeKalb and a 2016 graduate of Leadership Rockdale. Tremese sits on the boards of Leadership DeKalb and Cristo Rey Jesuit School.



Michelle Larson, President and CEO, Adler Planetarium

Dr. Michelle Larson's professional passion is to welcome everyone into the journey of scientific discovery by enabling engagement and communication between scientists and the public. Dr. Larson oversees a 21st century space science center that includes the institution's landmark museum and observatory complex; one of the world's leading collections documenting the history of astronomical science; and an award-winning digital platform that engages millions of people around the globe. Annually, more than 500,000

people visit the Adler on the shore of Lake Michigan, making it one of Chicago's leading attractions. Since Michelle joined the Adler Planetarium, the team has found new and innovative ways to meet people wherever they are and welcome them into the scientific community. The museum has expanded astronomy programming and partnerships in neighborhoods across Chicago; developed online experiences that engage people around the world through virtual field trips, sky observing hangouts, and even a space comedy show; and the Adler remains home to Earth's largest platform for citizen science, the Zooniverse—an online tool that connects researchers with millions of volunteers around the globe.

Michelle earned her PhD in physics from Montana State University, and enjoys making connections with people through science in everyday life. Don't be surprised if you end up speaking with her about rising cells of cream in your coffee, or protecting dark skies with responsible lighting choices. She also enjoys sharing the more spectacular objects of the night sky with the public through her telescope. A favorite highlight was when a young child exclaimed, "Wow! Saturn looks just like a Chevy symbol."

Michelle serves on several national and Chicago-area advisory boards, and lives just outside Chicago with her husband—who is also an astrophysicist—their daughter, and two cats.



Kim Godden, Vice President, Legal & Government Relations, Superior Ambulance

Ms. Kim grew up in Barlett, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. She received her BA in History and Political Science from Purdue University and her law degree from DePaul University College of Law. After graduating from Purdue, Kim worked for the Illinois Attorney General's Office while attending law school in the evening. While with the Attorney General's office, she was a policy analyst/attorney for criminal justice and victims' rights initiatives. During this time, she reviewed, drafted, and testified on various legislative and regulatory initiatives.

In 2007, Kim was able to bring this experience to the ambulance industry when she joined Superior. In addition to sitting on the AAA board, she also sits on the boards of the Illinois State Ambulance Association and the Indiana EMS Association. She also participates on the government affairs committee for the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services. In addition to overseeing government relations and regulatory and compliance matters for Superior, Kim oversees the legal department which manages litigation, contracts, real estate and employment matters.

Kim has been married to her husband, Nick, for 16 years and they have two daughters, Hannah (8) and Amelia (6). As for hobbies, kids and work keep her busy, however, when she has a chance, she enjoys running and reading (not at the same time).



Elizabeth Cook, Board of Directors, CME Group

Ms. Cook has been a member of CME since 1983, starting her career in 1978 as a runner for Clayton Brokerage Inc. She is a member of the board's compensation and audit committees. Ms. Cook actively participates as co-chair of the CME arbitration and floor conduct committees and serves on the board of the CME Gratuity Fund. In addition, she serves on CME's membership and business conduct committees and continues her involvements as a CME political action committee member. Ms. Cook is the founder and owner of MiCat Group LLC, a firm specializing in option execution services focusing on equities, FX and interest rates. She also serves as president of Lucky Star LLC, a commercial property management company. Ms. Cook is also on the board of Women in Listed Derivatives and Associated Colleges of Illinois. Her external activities include NACD Governance Fellow and completion of its Director Professionalism course, member of Business Executives for National Security, Ambassador of the Navy Seal Foundation, Ambassador for The ALS Association Greater Chicago Chapter and an active supporter of Honor Flight Chicago. Ms. Cook has participated in numerous risk and audit educational programs and as a long-time market participant has significant risk management experience.



Allison Wyler, President, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

Allison Wyler is responsible for leading hospital operations, propelling service line growth, driving a culture of safety, building team member and physician engagement, and cultivating relationships with the community. Wyler started her career as an administrative fellow at Advocate in 2010. Over the past 12 years, she has held operational leadership positions of increasing responsibility at several Advocate acute care hospitals, including Advocate Good Shepherd, Advocate Condell, Advocate Lutheran General, and the Central Chicagoland Patient Service Area. She earned a Master of Science degree in health systems management from Rush University and a Bachelor of Science degree in community health from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a board member of Easterseals DuPage and Fox Valley, the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation, and Choose DuPage. She also is an active member of the Junior League of Evanston-North Shore. Allie received the 2019 Young Healthcare Executive award from the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Chicago Chapter. Featured on Crain's Chicago Business *Twenty in their 20's* list of the city's most distinguished young leaders in 2014, Wyler's achievements have been broadly recognized.



Cheri McEssy, Owner, CMAC Ventures LLC

Cheri McEssy is the owner of CMAC Ventures LLC which allows her to financially invest and formally provide coaching, mentoring, and consulting to businesses and healthcare innovation start-ups. She is a partner in McVentures LLC which is focused on investing in and advising on business endeavors that work in the wellness, aging and health technology fields with a special emphasis on empowering women founded companies. She works with Project Sunflower which is a unique private equity platform that co-invests in buyout transactions with premier sponsors who value the importance of the female perspective in investment strategy. Following a successful exit from her BrightStar Care of Chicago home care, care management and healthcare staffing business, Cheri uses her experience as a Nurse Executive and business owner to now focus on investment opportunities, consulting, and philanthropic interests. Cheri is an experienced and sought-after board member in both advisory and governance roles. She attended Marquette University and is a member of their Leadership Board at the College of Nursing. Cheri has received numerous clinical, business, and professional excellence awards and is also the founder of Springboard Chicago, a women's professional development group. Cheri is from the Chicago area and is actively involved in the community. She chairs the Strategic Planning Board for a faith-based organization, chairs the governance committee as a member of the Illinois Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors, and is a member of the Necessities 100 Board serving Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Research. Cheri has served in many other leadership roles, including chair of the BrightStar Franchise Advisory Council (FAC) and as a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA).



Susan Beth, Founder and Managing Partner, Team Up Advisory Services

Susan Black-Beth is the Founder and Managing Partner of Team Up Advisory Services, a coaching and advisory business focused on private capital managers, and their portfolio companies. Previously Susan was the Chief Operating Officer of NRD Capital, a private equity fund managing \$220MM focused on investing in franchise and multi-location businesses. She was recruited to the fund as "Employee #1" to leverage her deep and varied operational experience to launch the fund in early 2015. Susan is one of a very few people who have truly experienced franchising from every angle. She spent 14 years as a franchisor at Super Wash® car washes, 9 years as a franchisee having bought her first location at the age of 19, 12 years as a supplier to the industry dating back to when she launched her professional speaking career in 2010, and most recently had the opportunity to invest in franchise businesses. Susan received the International Franchise Association's (IFA) prestigious Bonny LeVine Award in 2012; she was named by *1851 Magazine* as a "Young One to Watch" in 2016; was named a 2017 "Emerging Leader" by The M&A Advisor, was recognized as a 2018 "Influential Woman in Business" by The Daily Herald; was selected as one of 2019's "Most Influential Women in Middle Market M&A" by Mergers & Acquisitions magazine, as well as being named a 2021 Honorable Mention; and in 2022 was named a "Top Influential Woman in Franchising" by *Entrepreneur*.



Trisha Prabhu, Entrepreneur | Inventor | Change Agent

Trisha Prabhu is a 21-year-old innovator, social entrepreneur, global advocate and inventor of ReThink™, a patented technology and an effective way to detect and stop online hate. In the fall of 2013, Trisha, then just 13 years old, read the shocking news story of Rebecca Sedwick's suicide. After being cyberbullied for over a year and a half, Rebecca, a 12-year-old girl from Florida, took her own life. As a victim of harassment herself, Trisha was shocked, heartbroken, and outraged - she couldn't be a bystander, and decided to be an Upstander. In response, Trisha created the patented technology product ReThink™, which detects and stops online hate at the source, before bullying occurs and the damage is done. Her globally acclaimed research has found that with ReThink, adolescents change their mind 93% of the time and decide not to post an offensive message.

As a social entrepreneur, Trisha has received worldwide acclaim in the business world. In 2016, President Obama and the U.S. State Department invited Trisha to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, to showcase her work and share her story with other entrepreneurs. Not long after, ReThink was featured on ABC's hit T.V. show, Shark Tank. In 2019, ReThink was the Grand Prize Winner of Harvard University's President's Innovation Challenge. In 2020, Trisha was named one of the inaugural winners of the prestigious Elevate Prize, as well as an Adrian Cheng Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Social Innovation and Change Initiative. In 2021, she was the youngest honoree named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 Social Impact list.

Trisha is currently pursuing her undergraduate education at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. She is originally from Naperville, Illinois.



Garry Straker, Vice President Compensation Consulting, Salary.com

Garry has over 20 years of experience specializing in providing total rewards consulting services to a diverse list of clients including higher education institutions, healthcare organizations, public sector employers, and privately held companies from a variety of industries. Garry's focus is helping organizations achieve strategic goals by leveraging technology, data, and labor market insights to design sustainable, market-aligned, and internally equitable total compensation plans.

His technical proficiency and collaborative approach are singularly focused on developing long-term solutions that help to attract and retain critical talent. His expertise includes evaluating trends, organizational challenges, and opportunities to develop rewards programs that are appropriately aligned with organizational workplace culture, and business priorities. Guided by data-driven insights, which considers external labor market dynamics and internal workforce needs and expectations; he helps organizations understand key drivers in reward and recognition programs that foster greater employee engagement and elevate the employee experience.