



EIGHTH ANNUAL

## Women in Business CONFERENCE



**MAY 1, 2025**

**NIU Center | Naperville, IL | 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

### ***Our Speakers***



#### **Jessica Tepas, Speaker, Writer, Entrepreneur, Semi-Sweet Tooth**

Jessica Tepas is a successful speaker, writer, entrepreneur, director, executive, and investor. An expert at being a beginner, Jessica is passionate about inspiring and empowering others to move forward into their bright future, even if it's only an inch at a time.

Holding a Master's in Biological Sciences, bachelor's in marketing, and Minor in British Literature, she recognizes the power of combining art and science to make big things happen. It is through this potent combination that Jessica is able to embolden others to see what is possible with a strong dose of resilience.



#### **Kim Godden, Vice President of Legal, Government Relations, Corporate Compliance and Education, Superior Ambulance**

Kim is currently the Corporate Secretary and Vice President of Legal, Government Relations, Corporate Compliance and Education for Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Inc. and has been with Superior since 2007. She also serves as President of the IL State Ambulance Association and

chairs Government Relations for the Indiana EMS Association.

Kim started her career as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for child abuse and neglect victims which led to a career with the IL Attorney General's Office as Chief of the Crime Victim Services Division. Kim serves on the boards for IL Chamber of Commerce, Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board, WorkNet DuPage, Choose DuPage, Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA) and the DuPage Local Emergency Planning Committee (DuPage LEPC). Kim lives in Chicago with her two teenage daughters and her husband of 25 years. She graduated with her BA in History and Political Science from Purdue University and with her Juris Doctorate from DePaul College of Law.



## **Pam Althoff, McHenry County Board Member**

Born in Chicago. Pam Althoff earned a bachelor's degree in education at Illinois State University in 1975 and a master's degree in education at Northeastern Illinois University in 1978. She was the city clerk of the City of McHenry, Illinois from 1994 to 2001 and was the mayor of McHenry from 2001 to 2003.

Pamela J. Althoff is a former Republican member of the Illinois State Senate, representing District 32. She was first elected to the chamber in 2002. Althoff resigned effective September 30, 2018, to focus on her campaign for the McHenry County Board, District 6, where she currently holds a seat.

Althoff served on the Committees on Appropriations II, (minority spokesperson); Local Government, Appropriations I; Transportation; Domestic Violence Task Force; Local Government Task Force; Violent Crime Advisory Commission as well as deficit reduction, Labor, and Higher Education committees. Althoff is the former Executive Director of the Cannabis Business Association of Illinois, a trade association for the legal cannabis industry in Illinois.



## **Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Will County Executive**

As a lifelong resident, Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant is honored to serve as Will County's fourth Chief Executive Officer. As County Executive, Jennifer is working hard to strengthen the local economy and ensure that Will County remains a statewide leader in attracting jobs and new residents.

Jennifer began her career teaching high school students before becoming a school principal. Jennifer first entered public service in 2006 when she was elected as Will County Regional Superintendent of Schools. Prior to her role as County Executive, Jennifer served two terms in the Illinois General Assembly.

Jennifer graduated from St. Francis Academy in Joliet before earning a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Francis. In 2007, Bertino-Tarrant completed her doctorate at Loyola University in Curriculum Instruction, with concentrations in supervision and finance.



## **Deborah Conroy, Chair, DuPage County Board**

Deborah A. Conroy was elected as the DuPage County Board Chair in 2022 after serving 10 years in the Illinois State House of Representatives. Chair Conroy is dedicated to maintaining safe communities and managing the County's finances in a fiscally responsible manner.

Chair Conroy is a passionate advocate for mental health, chairing the Illinois House Mental Health and Addiction Committee during her tenure in the General Assembly. As County Board Chair, she successfully advocated for funds to open DuPage's Crisis Recovery Center, which will provide a place

for anyone in a mental health or substance use crisis to receive the treatment they need.

Chair Conroy is actively working to find solutions for those impacted by food and housing insecurity in DuPage County. She's engaging stakeholders to create affordable homes for workers, families and seniors who want to live in the County. She is also a leading voice on the issue of Chicago area public transit reform. Chair Conroy lives in Elmhurst and has four adult sons.



## **Brittany Hizer, Co-Founder and COO, Pluie**

Brittany Hizer spent most of her career designing and innovating commercial exercise equipment found in health clubs around the world for Life Fitness, a former Brunswick Corporation. After graduating from the Kellogg School of Management Executive Program in 2018, Brittany pivoted from fitness to fishing as the President of Crestliner. She is now the Co-Founder and COO of [Pluie](#), the world's first and only self-sanitizing diaper changing table for public restrooms. Pluie was recognized by Fast Company as a World Changing Idea and TIME Magazine named Pluie as a Best Inventions of 2021. Pluie can be found in restrooms across the nation including Target,

CVS and Starbucks and was recently featured on Shark Tank Season 14, Good Morning America and recently Jeopardy.



## **Dakisha Lewis, MD, FACOG**

Dakisha Lewis, MD, FACOG is a Board-Certified Obstetrician Gynecologist at Advocate Health/ Advocate Trinity Hospital. Dr. Lewis obtained a Bachelor of Science from Hampton University in Hampton, VA and her Doctorate of Medicine from Wayne State University in her hometown of Detroit, MI. Dr. Lewis completed her residency training at Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At Trinity Hospital, she serves as the Department Chairperson and Medical Director for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Lewis is a champion for Health Equity. She is an advocate for health literacy, fair and equitable access to resources, and

empowerment in all arenas, but particularly where healthcare is concerned. She generously gives her time and talent to organizations that align with this passion including serving as a member of the Board of directors for New Moms, Lead of the Access to Care arm of the Chicago March of Dimes Collective Impact, and member of the IDFPRI Illinois Midwifery Board.

She is a wife to her college sweetheart, and mother to her three amazing and vibrant boys. She is dedicated to her family, community, and her patients.



## **LeeAnn Marie Webster, Entrepreneur, Speaker**

LeeAnn Marie Webster is the creator of the Regret Release Method and the No Regrets, No Limits Weekend. She is an attorney turned international Keynote speaker, Moth StorySLAM winner, and entrepreneur with 20+ years' experience in coaching, marketing, and business development in a range of industries.

Her first national TV appearance was as a contestant on MTV's Remote Control. Since then, her entrepreneurial insights have been featured in NBC, The Huffington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and dozens more.

She is an Ironman triathlon finisher and recently summited Mount

Kilimanjaro. LeeAnn is the creator and star of Fancy Meeting Me Here, her inspirational one woman show.