



SPEAKERS

2020

**WOMEN
IN BUSINESS
CONFERENCE**

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.

Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott, President, Chicago State University



Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott was unanimously voted by the Board of Trustees’ to serve as the 12th permanent president of Chicago State University and assumed the role on July 1, 2018. Under President Scott’s leadership, CSU has a renewed focus on growing student enrollment, building the school’s regional and national reputation for scholarship and academic research, improving the resources and opportunities available to the student body, and increasing alumni and community engagement. Prior to her current role, President Scott spent more than 16 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois where she served as Chief of the General Crimes Section. She also served as Illinois’ first Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Governor and Public Universities. In this role, she created an independent executive branch state agency from its inception, developed the United States’ first statewide ethics training platform for state government employees, and created a protocol for the investigation of claims of misconduct, waste, fraud, and abuse. President Scott holds a law degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Najiba Benabess, Dean of Tabor School of Business, Millikin University



Najiba Benabess serves as Dean of the Tabor School of Business at Millikin University in Decatur IL USA. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Master's degree in Economics from Western Illinois University. Prior to Millikin, Dr. Benabess served as the Director of School of Business and Management in Norwich University in Vermont. Her areas of expertise include Industrial Organization and International Economics. She has presented in various conferences nationally and internationally; and published a variety of papers in Peer Reviewed Journals. In summer of 2018, she was honored with receiving the Academic Global Business Association (AGBA) Fellow Award in Bangkok Thailand, the highest honor bestowed to an academic/ scholar leader recognizing a person's globally acclaimed professional accomplishments. In addition to her deanly duties, Dr. Benabess serves as a peer reviewer for Higher Learning Commission, and serves the Decatur, IL community as a board director of Hickory Point Bank & Trust, the workforce Development, and of the Macon County Community Foundation.

Kathleen Caldwell, CEO of Caldwell Consulting Group LLC and Founder ThoughtLeader Women Institute



Kathleen Caldwell is CEO of Caldwell Consulting Group, LLC and founder of the ThoughtLeader Women Institute™. She is a credentialed and certified leadership coach, professional speaker, and author who has mentored and advised thousands of entrepreneurs, executives, leaders and business teams around the world to greater success. Ms. Caldwell has received numerous awards and honors including a SHAW Media Woman of Distinction, Daily Herald/Business Ledger Women of Distinction and Entrepreneurial Excellence designations and was recently honored as a Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation GEM – Generous, Enthusiastic and Motivated leader in the community. Ms. Caldwell serves on several boards and committees including the United Way of Greater McHenry County. Awards, aside, Ms. Caldwell is known best as a connector and influencer and is excited to bring her alliances and new business strategies from “The League”, a group of 7 figure earning women CEO's and the C-Suite Network Thought Council to support women's business and career success.

Ericka Perkins, Assistant State Director, Illinois Small Business Development Center



Ericka Perkins is the Assistant State Director of the Illinois SBDC Network and oversees the day to day operations of 38 locations throughout the state. Ms. Perkins has worked for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the host of the Illinois SBDC Network, since 2000 in various roles.

Janice Christiansen, President and CEO of JC Schultz Enterprises Inc., The FlagSource



Janice Christiansen is the only woman president of a full line flag and banner manufacturing company in the U.S.A. She graduated from Michigan State University and attended DePaul Law School for two years while working in the notes receivable department of Walter E. Heller Commercial Finance. Janice began her flag manufacturing career at J.S. Schultz, and worked in various positions including outside sales, marketing, and purchasing. She received a Certificate of Business Administration from UIC.

After the unexpected death of her husband at age 40 in 1985 and departure from the business of her brother-in-law in 1989, Janice was elected president of the company in 1990. At this time, the company was in a loss position and deeply in debt. Janice, with the help of her team, was responsible for turning the company around, retiring all old debt, and leading the company to a stable and growing operation.

Leslie Bowman, Owner, Interior Designer, The Design Bar



Leslie Bowman is a high-end luxury interior designer and owner of The Design Bar, located in Burr Ridge, Illinois. Recently named one of Chicago's top 30 Interior Designers by Powerhouse Smart, Leslie's effortless style is just the right mix of classic + modern. Having recently completed the design of over eight different custom luxury homes in the Western Suburbs, she is regularly sought after by builders and homeowners alike to help streamline the building process. Leslie, who serves as the Design Director, oversees each project from inception to completion, always putting her client's needs first. She works closely with each client bringing

their vision to reality while adding her signature flair into each project. Her love for mixing organic and glamorous elements can be seen in all her work.

Leslie began her career in Public Accounting before switching paths to pursue her passion of interior design. Upon earning her Master's of Interior Design from the prestigious Harrington College of Design, Leslie created The Design Bar whereby clients can design, build and decorate their homes effortlessly. The Design Bar is an upscale design center for homeowners building or renovating their home and is also home to a retail showroom which serves clients and consumers alike where they can shop for one of a kind furniture, accessories, textiles and artwork all under one roof.

Cheryl McKinney, VP, Strategy and Portfolio, BP Fuels, North America



As a member of the leadership team of one of BP's largest refining and marketing businesses, Cheryl McKinney is accountable for strategy, investment, and business development across North America. Her remit includes the BP refineries in Toledo, Ohio, Whiting, Indiana, and Bellingham, Washington, as well as the BP U.S. Pipelines business, and the BP North American Sales and Marketing businesses, which carry both the BP and Arco/ampmbrands. Cheryl serves as President of the holding company for the BP-Husky joint venture at the Toledo Refinery and an Executive

Committee Member for the Advance Biofuels Association. She serves as executive sponsor for BP's

corporate relationship with the Society of Women Engineers, and the BP Chicago Women's business resource group. Cheryl supports the University of Akron as a member of the Presidential Advisory Council and Women in Engineering Industry Advisory Council. Cheryl holds a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Akron, Ohio and has more than 30 years of experience with BP including 20 years in-plant refining experience. Her background includes production optimization, business development, and performance management. She currently calls Naperville home, where she lives with her husband, Danny Hart.

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. Meghan is the 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 Bachelors 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.

Kim Brown, Speaker, Author, Consultant, Centrally Human



Kimberly Weisensee Brown is a highly accomplished growth executive and nationally-renowned speaker, author and consultant with over 15 years of proven success. She founded Centrally Human to focus on empowering the people in this very technology-first world. She has a background with companies such as GE, Acxiom, Hyatt and American Family Insurance and has her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University. As a professional coach and consultant, she helps individuals and corporations transcend technology and find human-centric success. Her upcoming book is titled "Centrally Human: Harness the Soul of Your Brand for the Future of Your Company".

Kim developed the human-centric model, which helps brands embrace their true identity with Radical Transparency, Simplicity and Transparency to be relevant and achieve measurable business goals in today's 1:1 and highly connected world. She is an active leader in the Chicago community as the founder of TechHive, a university lecturer, and expert advisor at 1871.

Leslie Geissler Munger, Former Comptroller and Deputy Governor, State of Illinois

In 2015, Leslie Geissler Munger was appointed State Comptroller by then Gov. Bruce Rauner and led the office responsible for maintaining the state's financial accounts and making all state payments. In 2017, Munger was appointed Deputy Governor, and in 2018, she added the role of Acting Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to her responsibilities. As Deputy Governor, she served as a senior advisor to the Governor and led efforts to drive economic development throughout the state. She oversaw the expansion of Intersect Illinois, the state's economic development organization. She led the state's effort with City of Chicago leadership on the Amazon HQ2 bid. She worked closely with the University of Illinois leadership to advance the Discovery Partners Institute initiative. She guided the Illinois Bicentennial Commission efforts to execute a statewide, yearlong celebration in honor of the state's 200th birthday.

Prior to serving in state government, Munger was a brand management executive with Helene Curtis/Unilever where she led the US Hair Care business. Before that she worked at Procter & Gamble and at McKinsey and Company, Inc. Munger is a 1978 graduate of College of ACES at the University of Illinois, and she received her MBA in 1982 from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.