# — Meet the Mentors -



Coming Soon!

ELIZABETH AUSTIN | Chief Information Officer, Curvature



## KELLY BARNHARDT | Executive Director, Matthews Chamber of Commerce

Barnhardt is executive director of the Matthews Chamber of Commerce. She oversees the daily operations of running the Chamber. Financial decisions, event decisions and staffing are all run by her. She recently has expanded the Chamber to include a new Women-in-Business program open to members and non-members and also a Young Professionals Program which is open to members and non-members. Prior to being executive director, she worked in the public sector as director of Community & Economic Development for the Town of Indian Trail for six years. Prior to that, she was a commercial real estate retail broker for 10 years. She feels her experience working in the non-profit sector, the public sector and the private sector gives her a unique approach when dealing with different businesses. She understands the different hurdles and challenges each sector has, but also the positives of working in the three different sectors.





Benkeser helps people regain control of their property following a disaster so they can put their lives and businesses back together -- Like it never even happened.<sup>®</sup> Her company helps clean up property damage caused by fire, water or mold -- and includes a construction company that helps put it all back together again. After opening in May 2012 as the smallest SERVPRO franchise in Charlotte and surrounding areas, she has lead her team to become one of the fastest-growing SERVPRO franchises across the U.S. with a 737% cumulative growth rate in her first 3 years of business. Prior to starting a business, Penny spent 20 years in the financial services industry building high-performing teams by creating and defending a culture based on integrity, attitude, work ethic and teamwork. Those core values are present today in her SERV-PRO team and serve as the basis for all hiring (and firing!) decisions. A native of South Carolina, Penny earned a BS in Business Administration from the College of Charleston.

### **LAURA BOWLES** | Chief Financial Officer, Movement Mortgage

Bowles is chief financial officer of Movement Mortgage, an independent mortgage lender with over 500 offices in 48 states and more than 4,000 employees. As CFO, Bowles oversees the accounting, business support, financial planning and analysis, procurement, real estate, capital markets, and credit risk functions. She has over 20 years of experience in financial services, building and leading complex teams within finance, risk management and product management. Bowles joined Movement Mortgage from Citibank where she served as head of Consumer and Small Business Lending. Prior to Citibank, she managed credit and operational risk for Bank of America Home Loans. Earlier in her career, she served as a business unit CFO at Wachovia and held roles in private equity and investment banking at Chase Capital Partners and Merrill Lynch. She holds a Masters of Business Administration from Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Princeton University.

#### LATANYA BOWMAN | CEO/Owner, Disco very Chiropractic and Wellness Center PLLC

Dr. Bowman is a chiropractor and owner of Discovery Chiropractic and Wellness Center. She has been in the practice of making people feel better through chiropractic treatments for over a decade. Dr. Bowman was born and raised in Winston-Salem and attended North Carolina Central University in Durham where she received a B.S. Degree in Athletic Training in 2000. She was exposed to different branches of sports medicine while working with Duke University Athletic/Physical Therapy Department and the Wake Forest University Athletic Department. She continued her education at Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas and received a second B.S. Degree in Anatomy and a Doctoral Degree in Chiropractic in 2005. She opened her doors in the Charlotte in 2016. Within the first year of operation, the office was listed as one of the top 20 chiropractic offices in the city. Dr. Bowman is a proud recipient of the following awards: the 2016, 40 Under 40 Alumni Award from North Carolina Central University, the 2017 Trademark Women of Distinction Honors Edition, and the 2017 Women in Business Award from the Charlotte Business Journal.

### SARAH CHERNE | President & CEO, Junior Achievement of Central Carolinas

Junior Achievement of Central Carolina is an organization whose mission is to prepare youth to succeed in a global economy. Cherne is considered a visionary and strategic leader who is committed to casting positive organizational change in the non-profit arena and has served in various leadership roles for nationally recognized organizations for the past 20 years. Utilizing her entrepreneurial spirit, she has been successful in achieving increased revenue, branding, and performance for the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters and currently with Junior Achievement. Experienced in all aspects of executive management, Cherne excels at "turn around" operations and considered a "change agent" by the boards and staff she has worked with. Cherne is the current chair of the Privatization/Competition Advisory Committee for the City of Charlotte, the past chair of the NC Financial Literacy Council, past chair of Finance for the Mecklenburg GOP, and past appointed member of the Bond Oversight Committee for CMS. Cherne has run for public office as well as served on other various boards both for non-profit and professional development organizations.

### STEPHANIE COUNTS | Co-founder & CEO Emeritus, Vision Keeper, Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange

Counts is co-founder and inaugural CEO of the Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange (WIE), an award-winning non-profit organization building and bridging social capital among women of diverse cultures. She is president of Counts & Co., a strategic consulting firm providing creative solutions to profit and non-profit businesses. She holds a BS from State University of New York and an MBA from UNC-Charlotte. Counts is a national and local educational leader and consultant. She is instrumental in developing the "world class' magnet schools for the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system. She has served as White House consultant and author on Public School Choice and led U.S. school districts in re-engineering efforts. She also served as the CEO of the YWCA of the Carolinas. Her community and national work includes secretary at YWCA World Service Council, board of trustees at UNC-Charlotte, board of advisors or trustee to the Governor's North Carolina Women's Conference, UNC-TV, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, Mint Museum of Art, Public Arts Commission, Urban League, WFAE, Mecklenburg Citizens for Public Education and the United Way. She is a member of the Links Inc. and Women Executives. Her honors and awards include National and North Carolina Distinguished Principal, Distinguished Alumnus UNC-Charlotte, Spirit Square, Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Charlotte Business Journal Diversity in Business and Women in Business Awards, 50 Most Influential Charlotte Women by The Mecklenburg Times, Maya Angelou Women Who Lead and Women Worth More's Outstanding Woman Award by Worth Advisors.

### MICHELLE DONNELLY | Chief Commercial Officer, Movement Mortgage

**REBECCA EDWARDS SPHR SCP** | Director of Human Resources, City of Concord

**DR. TRACY ESPY** | Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Pfeiffer University

Dr. Espy is a seasoned executive with over 20 years of experience in higher education. Along with the faculty and academic leadership team, Dr. Espy is engaged in advancing several bold new academic ventures at Pfeiffer University. In addition to being active in several local and national organizations, Dr. Espy serves as vice chair of the newly formed Montford Park Partners and has a passion for research in

Donnelly is a Harvard Business School alum with executive leadership experience across both the health care and financial service industries. Michelle has held various roles throughout her career in strategy, operations, marketing and sales and has demonstrated business success in leading across multiple func-tions, general management and P&L operations. She has been recognized as an innovator, strong strategic partner and pace-setting leader. Donnelly lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband Bob and their two boys.

# NANCY EDDINS | Regional Director, JLL

Eddins has been with JLL for over 10 years and has had the pleasure of working with numerous clients in a wide variety of industries. Today, she works with clients on developing and implementing new real estate and facilities management solutions. Prior to her current role, she led JLL's ProSite Assessment business which helps clients with capital planning and evaluating facility condition and operational performance to ultimately identify cost savings opportunities, improve productivity, reduce risk, and improve safety. Her experience at JLL also includes leading facilities management operations and special projects for a 50M+ SF portfolio with specific responsibilities spanning capital planning and budgeting, real estate and facility management technology, supplier management, work order management, business continuity and disaster recovery, and code/compliance regulations. She is passionate about client service, new solutions and innovation, and mentoring fellow colleagues to help them advance their careers. Eddins is active in JLL's Women's Business Network and was honored to be named as one of the top 25 women in business in the Charlotte region in 2016.

Originally from Gulfport, MS, Edwards is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana where she attained her BSBA with special distinction in English. She was a National Toyota Academic Scholarship spokesperson and intern and began her career with Toyota at their headquarters in Torrance, CA. She has worked in large corporate, non-profit, small private and now government organizations in both CA and NC. She accepted her first management role in Human Resources at 27 years old and, in her current role, is the youngest director on the leadership team for the City of Concord. In her role as director of Human Resources, Edwards provides subject matter expertise and management of federal and state employment law compliance, policy, employee relations, management training, recruitment and retention, safety and risk management, classification and compensation, traditional and ancillary benefits, and directs the management of an onsite employee wellness center for approximately 1,000 employees. She is honored to supervise, develop and support a wonderful staff of 11 within the HR department. She is also very proud that the wellness initiatives of her department, garnered the city recognition as one of the



















Farrow is the vice president of staffing at AccruePartners, an award-winning, women-owned staffing, search and project solutions company supporting both mid-size and large Fortune 500 companies. graduated from UNC Wilmington and has lived in Charlotte for over 15 years. With over six years of experience in the staffing industry, Farrow is a top producer at AccruePartners and manages two highly productive teams. She is highly involved in her sorority's local chapter at Wingate University as a chapter advisor. When she's not finding talent for clients, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs Cooper and Poquito.

## JESSICA GRAHAM | President, Fionix Consulting LLC

Fionix Consulting LLC is a firm Graham started in 2017. Bringing her expertise from the intersection of public relations, internal communications, community affairs, customer care and corporate responsibility, she consults with corporations, small businesses and nonprofit organizations, providing strategic communications and community outreach counsel. Graham has more than 25 years of experience in virtually every aspect of public relations in a variety of industries, including retail, telecommunications and education. Prior to Fionix Consulting, Graham served as vice president, chief communications and community officer for Belk Inc. where she handled public relations; community outreach; corporate, community, fashion and store events; internal communications; and diversity and inclusion. Graham is a member of the Leadership North Carolina, Dress for Success Charlotte and Mitchell's Fund Boards of Directors. She is a graduate of Leadership North Carolina Class XXI, Leadership Charlotte Class XIX and is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America where she currently chairs the National Governance Committee.

### STACY S. GRAY | Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Belk Inc.

Prior to joining Belk, Gray practiced in the Atlanta and Charlotte offices of Alston & Bird LLP and was a judicial clerk for The Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. Gray is on the Boards of the North Carolina Retail Merchants' Association, the Charlotte Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) and the Harris YMCA. She is a member of the ACC, the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), the State Bars of North Carolina, Georgia, and New York and the Mecklenburg County Bar. Gray obtained a B.A. in English and Spanish from Duke University and received her J.D. from Washington & Lee School of Law. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband Brett, her daughter Reynolds, and her Australian labradoodle Monty.

### **TAMERA GREEN** | President, Viridian Marketing

Green founded Viridian Marketing following a successful career developing innovative partnership marketing programs for numerous Fortune 500 companies. She played a key role in the effort to bring the Carolina Panthers National Football League franchise to Charlotte working with team owner Jerry Richardson and her mentor pioneering sports marketer Max Muhleman. In addition to other NFL projects, Green is recognized for her expertise in partnership marketing integration. Her groundbreaking efforts include programs for Coca-Cola, Allstate and HBO. In 2011, the Sports Business Journal named Green to its inaugural class of "Game Changers: Women in Sports Business." Green has also been recognized as one of Charlotte's "40 Under 40" by the Charlotte Business Journal and was selected as a "Woman Extraordinaire" by Business Leader Media. Prior to launching her own firm, Green served as a vice president for GMR Marketing, the global event-marketing agency owned by Omnicom Group. Green spent nearly seven years as a leader in the corporate consulting team at IMG, one of the largest sports and entertain-ment agencies in the world. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in journalism, Green also earned an MBA from Queens University.







# **LESLIE HAYTON** | Managing Director, Wells Fargo

Hayton is a managing director in the Wells Fargo Commercial Mortgage Servicing platform leading the Accounting, Investor Reporting and Data Steward teams. Based in Charlotte, she leads teams in Charlotte, the San Francisco Bay Area, New York and greater Washington, D.C. Her teams are responsible for reporting on over 1,000 CMBS, GSE and Specialty Investor transactions as well as reconciling, monitoring and reporting on over 5,600 custodial accounts. Hayton has over 20 years experience in the financial services industry with an extensive background in financial controls and servicing. Hayton received her M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and her B.S. in Accounting from the University of Delaware. Hayton is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of North Carolina and recently earned her CCMS designation from the Mortgage Bankers Association. She is the current co-chair of the Investor Reporting Committee of the CRE Finance Council and has spoken on numerous panels on relevant topics to the servicing industry as well as written several articles in national CRE publications.

## LINDA HOLDEN | President/owner, The Linda Construction Company

Linda Construction is licensed and operates in seven states and has an N.C. unlimited and unclassified general contractors license. The company employs about 70 people. Clients include WSOC-TV, Coca Cola and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. The company does commercial renovations and upfits as well as demolition. It was listed as one of the top 25 women-owned businesses in the Charlotte Business Journal. When Holden went to Raleigh to get her general contractors license in 1982 (no computer-testing then), she was the only female out of 235 men taking the test. Linda Construction Company has been in business for over 30 years. Gross sales were about \$8 million last year. Holden says she is 78 years old and should be retired and at home, but her job is more fun.

DONNA JULIAN | SVP of Arena & Event Operations/General Manager, Hornets Sports & Entertainment Julian is the lead executive for Spectrum Center since its inception, construction and grand opening in 2005 (then Charlotte Bobcats Arena). Today, she is Hornets Sports and Entertainment's senior vice president of Arena & Event Operations and Spectrum Center General Manager. HSE is the parent company of the Charlotte Hornets (NBA) and Greensboro Swarm (NBDL) and operates the 19,000-seat Spectrum Center. She oversees a \$27.5 million Arena Enhancement Plan which includes a new state-of-the art scoreboard. Over her 30-plus year career in the sports and entertainment business, she has hosted a multitude of events including NCAA basketball tournaments and 2012 Democratic National Convention. Prior coming to Charlotte, she worked for SMG as the general manager of the Baltimore Arena. She is on the executive committee of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Charlotte and is a member of the Women's InterCultural Exchange and the Charlotte Women's Executive Organization. She was selected to the *Charlotte Business* Journal's 2016 class of Women in Business and BizWomen's Women to Watch. In 2017, she was one of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Times' 50 Most Influential Women and received the North Carolina Women's History Month Leadership Action Award.

# SHIKHA KASHYAP | CTO, Syntelli Solutions Inc.

Kashyap is Syntelli's solutions architecture powerhouse and go-to expert. She has two decades of expe-



socialization, adolescent self-esteem and leadership.

healthiest employers in the Charlotte region for 2017.







rience in delivering advanced IT solutions. Her focus has always been on data and data analytics, master data management and now, constructing big data solutions for her clients. From proofs of concept to full deployment of Hadoop and visualizations platforms, Kashyap helps lead the industry by creating reference designs that consistently deliver successful results. She has also helped her company provide managed analytics as a service (MAaaS) and end-to-end big data infrastructure solutions. She has had an active role in the development of DataRev, a first-of-its-kind geo-contextual platform for data monetization. In addition, Kashyap is a Microsoft Azure and AWS guru and skilled in the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning across various industries. Kashyap is actively involved in the community and holds the following positions: Society for Information Management Board & Committee Member, ABD Society for Social Good Co-Chair, CCI Women in Computing Mentor, WISE, Professional Development Board Member (former). She is also part of the Data Science Initiative for using data for social good and the effort for Reducing Human Trafficking.

**DR. COLLEEN PERRY KEITH** | President, Pfeiffer University Coming Soon!





KIRSTEN KHIRE | Executive Director of External Relations, UNC Charlotte Belk College of Business Khire, APR, MA, is executive director of external relations at the Belk College of Business at UNC Charlotte. Prior to joining the Belk College of Business, Khire was head of communications for Bioversity International. She also worked for 10 years at Michigan State University as director of communications for the College of Communication Arts & Sciences and as director of communications for the National Food Safety & Toxicology Center. She has extensive international work experience having lived/worked in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. She holds bachelor's degrees in journalism and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has a master's degree from UNC Chapel Hill in technology and communication. She is accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America.

# VANJA LANE | Associate Global General Counsel, Britax

Lane is an in-house attorney with the global division of Britax, a leading brand in the juvenile products industry primarily focused on car seats and strollers. In addition to her responsibilities as corporate counsel, Lane is currently serving a three-year term on the board of the Charlotte Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, as well as a three-year term on the board of the non-profit organization ANSWER Scholarship. Lane has served as a mentor for the Charlotte Business Journal's Bizwomen Mentoring Mon day three years in a row, and has been recognized as part of the Charlotte Business Journal's Corporate Counsel Awards in 2015 and 2018. Lane immigrated to the U.S. from Bosnia at a young age and spent most of her life in Georgia. Prior to going to law school, she obtained her B.A. in Mass Communications.



### **KIM LANPHEAR** | CEO, Apparo

Apparo is an award-winning organization that empowers local nonprofits through technology that enhances their missions. Apparo is the leading provider of technology strategy, implementation, consulting and support services for Charlotte nonprofits. As CEO, Lanphear applies her diverse leadership experience in strategic development, international business management and fundraising to ensure Apparo provides much-needed technology solutions for nonprofits in need. The Mecklenburg Times recently recognized Lanphear as one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Charlotte." Lanphear has been in nonprofit and corporate leadership roles for more than 20 years. Prior to joining Apparo in 2009, she was executive director of Northlight Theatre in Chicago. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy from Duke University, a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) and a Masters of Arts Administration (M.A.A.) from Southern Methodist University. Under Lanphear's leadership, Apparo continues to receive national recognition and awards. She is a proud member of the North Carolina Technology Association, NC Center for Nonprofits, Nonprofit Technology Network (NTEN) and Senior Information Managers (SIM).



# JENN MCGUIGAN | CMO, American City Business Journals

McGuigan is responsible for the overall brand and growth of American City Business Journals' audience. She leads a fantastic team who manage audience development and circulation, ad sales marketing, demand generation and research. Prior to that, she ran her own marketing consultancy in New York City, specializing in demand generation. She was executive marketing director of The Economist Intelligence Unit, a unit of The Economist, for several years. McGuigan also held senior-level marketing positions with National Geographic Channels, Hallmark Channel and HGTV. Jenn resides in Charlotte with her husband and twin 5-year-old daughters. She has a passion for developing women's careers and has volunteered with organizations such as Dress for Success, helping women find their voices and understand how awesome they are.

### SUSAN MCGUIRE | Vice President, Principal, Foundry Commercial

McGuire has more than 30 years in commercial real estate, providing asset and portfolio management, brokerage, lease administration, accounting, marketing and consulting for all asset classes throughout the southeast. She served as senior vice president of Retail for Crosland LLC where she grew a third party platform from 350,000 to more than 3 million SF. She oversaw construction and leasing for approximately \$605 million in cost of ground-up development totaling more than 3.3 million SF. Her notable clients include New York Life, Northwood Investors, AEGON, Stiles, Ferncroft Capital, SJ Collins Enterprises, and Westwood Financial. Her education and accreditations include a B.S. from UNC-Greensboro, cum laude, Certified Retail Property Executive (CRX), Certified Shopping Center Manager (CSM), Certified Leasing Specialist (CLS), Broker of Record in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia. McGuire was recognized in 2016 as one of Real Estate Forum's Top Women in Retail Real Estate. She was awarded the *Charlotte Business Journal* 2016 Women in Business Achievement Award. Her community involvement includes acting as broker of record for Foundry Commercial and being a member of International Council of Shopping Centers and the Charlotte Region Board of Realtors. McGuire is a graduate of Leadership Charlotte does volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity and Matthews Health Clinic.



### MARIE MCLUCAS | CFO, Primax Properties

McLucas joined Primax Properties in 1995 following a 7-year career in public accounting. She oversees Primax's policies and procedures for all financial functions including budgeting, credit/loan administration and cash management, financial reporting, tax reporting and planning, insurance and risk management, and human resources. She is also actively involved in the company's strategic and succession planning. McLucas has received numerous professional awards and recognition from organizations such as the CREW Network, NCACPA, the Charlotte Business Journal, The Mecklenburg Times and Career Mastered. She is the past president of CREW Charlotte and chairs the national CREW organization finance committee. McLucas serves on the Girl Scout Hornets' Nest Council board and is a member of the Audit Committees. She is actively involved in "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" and the and Property "Primax Pink Warrior Team" which was recognized as the top non-sponsored fundraising team in Charlotte and the top team in the Southeast with the team raising over \$500,000, becoming third in the nation for fundraising this year for the American Cancer Society. McLucas was personally recognized as a Pacesetter by ACS for her fundraising efforts the last five years.



Milazzo's principal areas of practice are senior debt and private financing transactions, mergers and acquisitions, technology, supply chain and outsourcing transactions, commercial business transactions, loan modifications, and other general corporate work, such as corporate organization or dissolution. She has represented numerous clients on legality of online promotions as well as large financial institutions, global media and entertainment companies, and clients in all industries in negotiation of their commercial contracts. In addition, she is also a skilled negotiator having conducted numerous transactions of all sizes and in many industries. Milazzo has had the privilege of being the recipient of numerous distinguished awards including the 2012 NC Bar and Girl Scouts Raising the Bar Award, the Girl Scouts Thanks Badge, being named one of the 50 Most Influential Women of 2013 by *The Mecklenburg Times*, 2013 Distinguished Rotarian by the Rotary Club of Charlotte-Evening, a North Carolina Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* maga-Lawyers & Best Lawyers in North Carolina, 2016 and 2017 *Business North Carolina* Legal Elite, and two SmartCEO awards as the recipient of the 2016 Charlotte Brava Award and 2017 Future 50 Award.





### KERRY BARR O'CONNOR | Executive Director, Dress for Success Charlotte

A former newscaster, O'Connor changed career directions after becoming involved with the AmeriCorp VISTA program. She has since worked with non-profit organizations in New York, Ohio and North Carolina developing nationally recognized initiatives. Kerry was named executive director for Dress for Success Charlotte in 2005 and charged with re-building the organization shut down due to a lack of sustainable funding. In 2009, DFS Charlotte moved its operations to newly renovated Boutique and Career Trans formation Center. The design won the coveted "Design Is" Global Award from Shaw Contract Group and named the 2010 "People's Choice" with more than 400,000 votes. A Women's Empowerment Zone, DFS Charlotte provides a continuum of workforce development services, including job preparedness, job acquisition, employment retention, and career advancement to more than 800 women annually seeking employment as a means to achieve economic independence and strengthen their families. In 2015, DFS Charlotte hosted the Worldwide Annual Leadership Conference resulting in a significant economic impact for Charlotte. O'Connor's awards and recognition include the National Association of Women Business Owners Nonprofit Leader of the Year, Rotarian of the Year, Charlotte Business Journal Women in Business Award, and Career Mastered Women's Leadership in Action Award. She is on the DFS Worldwide Board of Directors and represents 150 affiliates in 30 countries.

# **AMY PACK** | Principal Partner, AccruePartners

Pack is the co-owner and principal partner at AccruePartners, an award-winning, women-owned staffing, search and project solutions company supporting both mid-size and large Fortune 500 companies. With over 20 years of experience in the staffing industry, Pack has expanded the AccruePartners footprint to 41 states. She has actively participated in The First Tee of Charlotte, sitting on the board for the last five years. Outside the office, she enjoys cheering on the Alabama Crimson Tide with her family!



### FABI PRESLAR | Owner, President, SPARK Publications

Preslar is founder and owner of SPARK Publications a creative firm specializing in design and content creation for magazines, catalogs and custom books for national clients. Her firm will soon celebrate its 20th year in business. Preslar was recently named Marketer of the Year by the Business Marketing Association of the Carolinas and named 2017 Women Business Owner of the Year by NAWBO. She serves as a mentor and advisor with the Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange and also mentors several women small business owners. Her newly launched book "Fabulous F-Words of Business Ownership" shares her strong entrepreneurial passion as well as her journey through fear, failure, faith and a variety of other F-words along the way.

### DR. CHERYL RICHARDS | CEO & Founding Regional Dean, Northeastern University Charlotte

As CEO and Founding Regional Dean of Northeastern University-Charlotte, Dr. Richards was the first regional executive. In six years, the campus has grown to more than 40 master's and doctoral degrees, accelerated bachelors, certificates & non-credit programs. Dr. Richards is a recognized community leader serving three terms on the Charlotte Chamber's Executive Committee as chair of talent development, education chair and chapters chair. She presently serves on the boards of Apparo, Charlotte Chamber, Charlotte the Regional Partnership, Smart Start of Mecklenburg County and Women United. She served consecutive board terms with MeckEd and Women Executives and held multiple leadership posts including president and WINGS scholar mentor. She has been honored as a Smart CEO's top female, twice by the The Mecklenburg Times as Charlotte's 50 Most Influential Women, and in 2014 was named Woman of the Year. The Charlotte Business Journal recognized her as a 40 Under 40 leader and a Top 25 Women in Business. She has also served as guest host for Carolina Business Review and featured speaker for BizWomen's nationally aired webcast. Dr. Richards holds a BS in Speech Communication, MS in Student Affairs in Higher Education and Ph.D. in Leadership for Higher Education.

### STEPHANIE SADOWSKI | Managing Director, Accenture Coming Soon!





Warren counsels the company on matters within the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. She has served in leadership roles as chairperson of the steering committee of the National Energy Compliance Forum, co-chair of the Charlotte Legal Diversity Clerkship Program, president of the Charlotte Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, and is a member of the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission. She has also received awards for her leadership and community Involvement including the "Top 10 30-Something" award from the Association of Corprate Counsel, the Outstanding Corporate Counsel award from the *Charlotte Business Journal*, the 50 Most Influential Wom-en award from *The Mecklenburg Times*, the 40 Under 40 award from the *Charlotte Business Journal*, the North Carolina Leader in the Law award from *NC Lawyers Weekly*, the Outstanding Individual Pro Bono Attorney Award by the Mecklenburg County Bar, and is a member of the 2016 North Carolina Pro Bono Attorney avard by the Mecklenburg county Bar, and is a member of the 2016 North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society. Warren graduated summa cum laude from Marquette University and holds a Juris Doctor degree from Vanderbilt University Law School. She is admitted to the state bars in North Carolina, Texas and the District of Columbia.