

**bizwomen**

NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

# MENTORING **MONDAY**

Presented by



Monday, Feb. 25, 2018

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A speed coaching and networking event  
powered by bizwomen.

**NASHVILLE  
BUSINESS JOURNAL**



## 1 | Missy Acosta | VP, Brand Strategy, Delta Dental of Tennessee

Missy Acosta has more than 20 years B2B and consumer branding, marketing and public relations experience with an emphasis in strategic planning and brand development. Her industry experience includes insurance, healthcare, technology, economic development, entertainment and consumer products. Missy joined Delta Dental in 2006 as Director of Corporate Communications and Public Relations. She was promoted to Vice President of Marketing in 2007 and named VP, Brand Strategy in 2018. Missy received the honor of Distinguished President by Kiwanis International for her leadership of the Nashville Kiwanis Club, one of the largest civic clubs in the country. She was named to the prestigious 15-to-Watch by PR Week Magazine, a recognition that placed her among the top of peers nationwide. As a freelance writer, she has been published in The New York Times, MIX Magazine, Country America, Christian Bride, and Campus Life, among others. She graduated magna cum laude from Xavier University with a Bachelor of Arts double majoring in Mass Communications and Public Relations, and received her MBA at Trevecca Nazarene University. Prior to joining Delta Dental, Missy was the Vice President and General Manager for Waterhouse Public Relations; Director of Public Relations at GS&F; and an Account Manager at Ackermann Marketing and PR. Previous experience was in music and entertainment industry.



## 2 | Heather Adams | Founder & CEO, Choice Media & Communications

Heather Adams is the founder and CEO of Choice Media Communications. A self-proclaimed pop-culture junkie, Heather leads Choice's impressive team of women as they serve preeminent voices in publishing, government, lifestyle, entertainment, business, and faith-based arenas. Choice is known for working with high-profile clients that are both soulful and interesting; drafting effective strategies; and Heather's warm professionalism. She has played an instrumental role in helping more than 100 authors land spots on The New York Times best-sellers list by customizing and then spearheading multifaceted publicity campaigns. She has secured clients coverage in elite national media including "The TODAY Show," "Good Morning America," TIME, The New York Times, People, ESPN, Redbook, HuffPost, Southern Living, USA Today, Forbes, and comprehensive television packages across all major networks. Impressive as they are, those defining truths aren't what first comes to mind when people who know her think of her. When today's most respected journalists, editors, producers, authors, and other personalities think of Heather, what first comes to mind first is genuine, long-term friendship. "It's never gotten me in trouble--being kind to someone and showing compassion and general interest in them personally," Heather says, laughing. "Kindness has never served me wrong. I want the people I work with to know that I care about them and want a relationship with them that goes beyond securing a four-minute segment on a TV show."



## 3 | Marcie Allen | President, MAC Presents

Marcie Allen leverages more than 24 years of music industry experience to negotiate high-profile partnerships between the world's leading brands and artists. Allen has brokered and executed multi-faceted programs on behalf of brands including: Sony, Southwest, Jeep, Microsoft, Verizon, Samsung, Citi, Nielsen, Chrysler, Capital One, Ford, Hollister, Forever 21, Delta, AT&T and artists including Chance the Rapper, Khalid, Kelsea Ballerini, Garth Brooks, Travis Scott, Rolling Stones, Travis Scott, Billy Joel, Tim McGraw, Drake, John Mayer, John Legend, Imagine Dragons, and Keith Urban. She is a fourteen nominee and seven time winner of Billboard's "Concert Marketing and Promotion Award" and has been named to Billboard's "Women in Music" list every year since 2010. Allen was included in Billboard's "Power 100" list in 2018, "Branding Power Player" list 2016-2018, named to "Hip-Hop Power Player" List 2017-2018, honored on the publications "40 Under 40" list in 2013 and received Billboard's Humanitarian Award. Variety selected Allen to its 2015 & 2018 "Power of Women: New York Impact", representing the most powerful women in entertainment. Prior to starting MAC Presents, Allen owned and operated Nashville/ Atlanta based MAD Booking which created more than 100 music festivals across the country including On the Bricks in Atlanta. Allen is currently an adjunct professor at NYU Steinhardt and Clive Davis Music Institute of Recorded Music; sits on the board of directors for The Country Music Association, serves on the advisory board for Berklee College of Music and Barclays' Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment. Marcie was a member of the 2016 Cannes Lions Entertainment Music jury and served on the 2016 Clio Music jury, was named to Nashville Business Journal's "Women in Music City" list every year since 2014 and was recognized by Nashville all-girls college preparatory school Harpeth Hall as their Distinguished Alumna of 2017.

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# Mentors

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## 4 | **Amanda Blanck** | Managing Partner, Deviate

Amanda Blanck, the Managing Partner at Deviate, is the performance coach to top minds in music, sports, and business. Trusted by major brands like the University of Chicago, William Morris Endeavor, and Skanska, she uses her innate ability to cut through to what helps — and what hinders — making her a potent force for performance. Whether Amanda is helping a football coach design for culture, support the transition of senior leadership, elevate a manager into an executive, align a firm's partners strategically, or keynote coach at a conference, her powerful edge is the ability to “connects the dots.” Her talents form clarity and progress in the face of uncertainty. The intimate relationship she creates with her clients enables a partnership to accomplish what was once believed impossible. She's coached leaders on how to stand out from the crowd to become more influential, disrupt norms to be more competitive in the market, and overcome unchecked stress to improve outcomes. Amanda is a Professional Certified Coach and the recipient of the 2016 Nashville ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award and Cable Rising Star Award.



## 5 | **Kimble Bosworth** | President/COO, Proforma Printelligence

About my biz: @ Proforma Printelligence we cover your print; promo & multimedia. If you're in a marketing pinch, sometimes we cover your ass. My book, A Reckless Optimist's Guide to an Unstoppable Life, will be available soon. About me: I have a horrible case of ADD and often exaggerate numbers. I seduce crowds with my unrehearsed and frequently unfiltered public speaking. I can pilot an innertube down a raging river with remarkable accuracy and I can cook 5 minute oats in under 4 minutes. I am an expert in plastering corners, a hopeful romantic and an outlaw in China. Occasionally, I survive airplane crash landings. On Fridays, after work, I give marketing advice to growing companies over beers at no charge. I sleep with my eyes open. I have had tea with monks at the Golden Pavillion. I advised the British not to adopt the Euro. My love story has won countless gift baskets from Valentines Day radio call in shows. Dogs trust me. I died when I was 15. I got better. And, you may not know this, but I invented the cheeseburger.



## 6 | **Lucy Carter** | Member and Practice Leader, Healthcare Industry Team, KraftCPAs LLC

Lucy R. Carter is a member and practice leader of the healthcare industry at KraftCPAs. Prior to joining Kraft in 2015, Lucy was the president of Carter Lankford, CPAs, PC. Lucy has more than 35 years experience in providing tax, litigations support, audit, compliance, management consulting, reimbursement, and compensation services to healthcare providers.



## 7 | **Beth R. Chase** | Senior Managing Director & Partner, Ankura Consulting Group

Beth Chase is a Senior Managing Director at Ankura, leading its Strategy & Performance organization. She was the founder and CEO of c3/consulting. Beth partners with clients to develop winning strategies. She knows that leadership requires solving complex problems and making difficult decisions. Accordingly, she acts as a valued thought partner for executives as they lead transformational change in their organizations. Beth has over 25 years of experience in the consulting realm, collaborating with in an array of industries that include private equity, healthcare, finance, banking, insurance, distribution, logistics, publishing, business services and technology. An experienced entrepreneur, she co-founded a successful technology consulting firm prior to starting c3. Her career began with IBM, where she held a variety of sales, financial and consulting positions. Beth is a Director on the board of Ingram Industries, a privately held, global content and inland marine enterprise and the Federal Reserve, Southeast Branch. She is also committed to supporting the Nashville community. She serves on multiple business and community boards, including: • Nashville Entrepreneur Center, Board Chair • Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Board Member • Nashville Healthcare Council, Board Member • YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Board Past-Chair

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## Mentors



**8 | Karen Clark | Senior Vice President/Private Banker, FirstBank**  
Karen is a 30+ year veteran in the financial services industry. She began her career in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1986 after graduating from Louisiana Tech University with her Bachelor's in Finance with a minor in Accounting and Masters of Business Administration. Her career began at Commercial National Bank in Shreveport, Louisiana and she moved to Nashville in 1989. Karen is an accomplished banker and leader and has worked at Sovran Bank/NationsBank, Third National Bank/SunTrust Bank, Pinnacle Bank and currently is a Private Banker at FirstBank. She has served on many Boards and committees in the community including past appointments at The T. J. Martell Foundation- also served as Treasurer, Leadership Music-1996 Alumna, Fifty Forward Inc., The W. O. Smith School of Music, and Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. Karen presently serves on the Board of The New Beginnings Center, Medical Group Management Association and is a member of Gilda's Club, CABLE, SOURCE, and volunteers for Junior Achievement and Book 'Em-Reading is Fundamental. She was chosen as a Research Advocate for the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center. Karen was recently chosen by the Nashville Business Journal as a 2018 Woman of Influence.



**9 | Lisa Ramsay Cole | President/Managing Shareholder, Lewis Thomason**  
Lisa Ramsay Cole is president and managing shareholder of Lewis Thomason and the managing partner of the firm's Nashville office. She is also an ex-officio member of the firm's Board of Directors and Shareholder Compensation Committee. She practices in the areas of employment law, medical malpractice, workers' compensation, and general casualty defense litigation. Ms. Cole's practice for the past 25 years has concentrated in the area of complex civil trial litigation in state and federal courts. She has achieved successful results through defense jury verdicts, summary judgment, mediation, and arbitration in each of her practice areas. Ms. Cole's current clients are national, regional and local employers; regional and local health care facilities; and insurance companies. In addition, Ms. Cole routinely defends public entities in medical malpractice and civil rights matters.



**10 | Angela Crane-Jones | CEO, Nashville Business Incubation Center**  
Mrs. Angela Crane-Jones initially came to the Nashville Business Incubation Center in 2003 and began serving as Assistant to the Director - she moved into the CEO role in 2013. Mrs. Crane-Jones jumped at the opportunity to take small business ideas and develop them into larger, successful brands. Now, as the CEO, Mrs. Crane-Jones works tirelessly to support undercapitalized and inexperienced small business owners who will benefit from a structured approach to growing their company.



**11 | Jaynee Day | President & CEO, Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee**  
Jaynee K. Day joined Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee as President and CEO in July 1988. As president and CEO, Ms. Day oversees the daily operation of the entire food bank, while providing leadership and vision in conquering the issue of hunger in our community. Ms. Day has served on the Board of Directors of Feeding America and is currently a board member for the Nashville Sports Council and Leadership Music. She is a graduate of Leadership Tennessee, Leadership Nashville, Leadership Middle Tennessee, and Leadership Music. She is a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Nashville Rotary Club, and she has served on the Mayor's Metropolitan Homelessness Commission. Ms. Day has conducted various workshops for Feeding America's national and regional conferences as well as for the Center for Non-Profit Management in Nashville. She is frequently called upon to address hunger awareness issues and is a prevalent speaker in the community. Ms. Day has over 40+ years' experience in non profit management and administration. She has recently been recognized by the Center for Nonprofit Management as 2018's Bank of America CEO of the Year.



### 12 | Mignon Francois | Owner & CEO, The Cupcake Collection

Mignon Francois is the Founder and CEO of The Cupcake Collection (TCC). While crunching numbers and creating the craze are amongst her job requirements, her favorite responsibilities within this role are giving hugs, listening, and mentoring her team and other up and coming entrepreneurs who seek after her grass roots experience. Using her "Follow Your Spirit" approach, Mignon developed an iconic flavor that drew lines and attention to the hip nature of her Historic Germantown neighborhood that hadn't seen this concept developed prior. The success of TCC thereby became icing on the cake amongst the existing North Nashville restaurateurs that would ignite a new movement to the area for other business concepts that might not otherwise have considered doing business in North Nashville. Since planting its roots in 2008, Mignon's business savvy has earned her the titles of "Woman of Legend and Merit" by Tennessee State University, "Emerging Business Leader of the Year" and Black Enterprise Magazine "Family Business of the Year Award". Prior to her career at TCC, Mignon was a Household Manager and mother of 6 plus 1. A NOLA girl from the core and die hard Charter School enthusiast, she lends her talent as a Nashville community cheerleader and entrepreneur to the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, Watkins College of Art, Design & Film, and to Republic Charter Schools as a board member. Mignon is an alumnus of Xavier University in New Orleans and received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Houston Baptist University in 1999. While she obtained her M.B.A. from the School of Hard Knocks, she is currently working on an accredited one from Lipscomb University.



### 13 | Leisa Gill | Director, Client Experience, Private Cos, LBMC

Leisa Gill is the Director of Client Experience at LBMC and leads LBMC's Privately Owned Companies segment. Leisa utilizes her communication skills, business acumen, and forward-thinking abilities to help companies and teams build better businesses. An experienced business developer, she understands that the sale is not made at the end of a process, the sale is a continuous process when helping clients be the best they can be. Her enthusiasm and genuine interest in meeting new people, hearing different opinions and bringing out the best in others has made highly regarded among her peers, leadership and the community. It is no wonder she is considered such a trusted advisor and team member among LBMC's top accounts. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Management, both with honors. LBMC is a top 50 professional services firm with offices located in Nashville (Brentwood, Knoxville and Chattanooga, TN).



### 14 | Kimberly Goessele | Chief Operating Officer, 180 Health Partners

As Chief Operating Officer, Kimberly Goessele is responsible for the execution and implementation of the overall company strategy as well as supporting the 180 Health Partners culture of helping mothers, their babies, families and the support communities. Prior to joining 180 Health Partners Kimberly was the Senior Vice President of Operations at Premise Health where she focused on operational excellence, streamlining workflows to increase efficiencies and introduced a model of placing the patient experience and satisfaction as the core of their delivery model. She also created the Office of Innovation which is responsible for creating the company's strategic roadmap, vetting candidates for strategic investments, and working with the resources within the medical centers in identifying new technologies for implementations. Kimberly joined Premise Health through an acquisition of W Squared where she was the Executive Vice President of Healthcare Strategy. In this role, she was responsible for assisting clients navigate the changes inside the healthcare delivery systems while leveraging technology, understanding regulatory and policies changes that impacted care delivery and with a degree in Management Information Systems, Kimberly has served as the Vice President of Business Technology for Healthways and was the Chief Information Officer and Chief Security Officer for CHD Meridian. Kimberly is active in the Nashville healthcare community. She is the co-founder of the Nashville based Leadership Healthcare, was the founder and president Tennessee based Health Information Management System Society (HIMSS), a member of Women in Technology since 2003, a participant of the Nashville Race for the Cure, member of the Nashville Breakfast Club since 2008, was a Nashville Future 50 Recipient 2008 and 2009, honored by the Nashville Business Journal as a Healthcare 100 and a Who's Who. Kimberly is a Chicago native but has called Nashville home for over 20 years with her husband and daughter.

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## Mentors

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### 15 | Mila Grigg | CEO, MODA Image and Brand Consulting, LLC

Mila Grigg, CEO of MODA Image and Brand Consulting, is passionate about brand, marketing and leadership. MODA is the leading individual and corporate brand, leadership, marketing, social media and executive coach. MODA helps individuals to communicate their Personal and Professional Brand, companies to discern and share the Corporate Brand with the world around them and management teams to develop strategies that give monetary value to their brand strengths. MODA helps individuals and companies to share WHO THEY ARE and what they do in a way that allows the public to see their unique individual and corporate value. MODA ensures that companies sell their products and increase their bottom line. MODA is the only company in the US that is able to integrate corporate brand, personal brand, leadership, marketing, sales, image, internal and external communication, non-verbal communication, emotional intelligence, brand storytelling, social media strategy, the 'why' exercises, professional etiquette, executive presence and fashion into training seminars and 1:1 coaching that benefit both the company and its employees. She is serving companies in the ranks of the Fortune 100 to 500 listings, private practices and private companies. Her company has advised professional firms of all sizes, small businesses, executive suites and even placed senior executives in their corporate dream jobs.



### 16 | Jami Hall | Chief Executive Officer, Stones River Electric

Jami Hall has 40 years of experience in the electrical construction and lighting management industry, which encompasses all aspects of the business. In 1990, she founded Stones River Electric, a diverse electrical service company. Her vision was to take the firm in a different direction from that of the typical electrical construction company. This successful approach was specialization in electrical and lighting management. As a result, Ms. Hall found a unique niche in the marketplace. Stones River Electric specializes in energy efficient projects, lighting design and solutions, electrical & lighting maintenance, and energy management. Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the firm performs work throughout the United States, along with projects in Canada and Mexico. This performance is widely recognized as a leader in the lighting & electrical industry. As Chief Executive Officer of Stones River Electric, Ms. Hall is committed to quality and integrity in the lighting industry by ensuring that her staff delivers professional, well-designed and installed projects to their clients. A Nashville native and a graduate of Lipscomb University, Ms. Hall is active in the community. She has won numerous awards including Woman Business Owner of the Year (NAWBO) and 2009 Women of Influence - Entrepreneur (Nashville Business Journal).



### 17 | Terry Hardesty | Managing Partner, Deloitte

A global audit partner with over 30 years of serving large public and multinational companies in several industries focusing on retail and distribution, manufacturing and healthcare. Terry's client experiences include merger and acquisitions, spin-offs, refinancing's and restructurings. She also has experience with integration activities as well as leading controls optimization projects. Serving in the roles of the lead audit partner has allowed Terry to deliver the power of Deloitte by providing access to specialists assisting clients with industry specific challenges and opportunities. In addition to Terry's client service roles, she has also held various leadership roles in the firm. These leadership roles within Deloitte have helped Terry establish a strong network within the firm that she can engage quickly for client needs. Beyond these roles, Terry also serves as the technical review partner for several SEC engagements.



### 18 | Cordia Harrington | CEO, The Bakery Cos.

Cordia Harrington is CEO and founder of The Bakery Cos., a highly-automated, high-speed baking company that bakes over 7 million baked goods daily and employs more than 500 people, serving elite customers in the United States, South America and the Caribbean. As CEO, Ms. Harrington guides the executive team to successful planning, business development, sales and marketing, and brand management. Ms. Harrington serves on the Zoës Kitchen Board of Directors and the Tennessee Lottery Board. She is a member of the Chief Executives Organization Board of Directors (President-Elect), American Bakers Association Board of Directors (President-Elect) and the Nashville Entrepreneur Center Board of Trustees. Ms. Harrington attended Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan; she graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree. She currently resides in Franklin, Tennessee, with her husband Tom.

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## Mentors

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**19 | Marjorie Feltus Hawkins | President, FH Design**

Marjorie F Hawkins is an award-winning interior designer with 30 plus years of interior architecture and design experience in the hospitality, healthcare and corporate industry. Her portfolio is a study in the blending of classic and modern elements to support business operations, drive efficiencies, and deliver interior spaces supporting each client's vision. As a 100% woman-owned firm, Marjorie leads a talented team of designers to create inspiring, task-focused spaces, and each project demonstrates her commitment to the business philosophy of building customer relationships through communication, leadership, teamwork, and trust.



**20 | Jacqueline Hayes, MBA | Principal & Chief Marketing Strategist, Crayons & Marketers**

Jacqueline Hayes, MBA is chief marketing strategist and principal of Crayons & Marketers, a WBENC-certified Women's Business Enterprise and certified Minority Business Enterprise and WOSB. Under her leadership, Crayons & Marketers, a full-service marketing company, helps organizations find smarter ways to connect to their audiences using data-driven marketing strategies that support business growth. Before starting Crayons & Marketers, Jacqueline was the Marketing Manager for Harpeth Marketing where she led the firm's lead building and nurturing programs for market research firms across the country. She has an extensive background in client relationship management and training. Jacqueline serves as current communications chair and past president of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Nashville Chapter. Jacqueline is a frequent guest contributor and writer for various publications, including the Mt. Zion Trumpet Magazine and is the Lifestyles Segment Contributor for the "IN THE KNOW" Radio Magazine Show on WRFN Radio Free Nashville 103.7 FM 107.1 FM.



**21 | Karol Hernandez | Marketing Director, Lee Company**

As Director of Marketing for Lee Company, Karol brings a service-focused approach to work and a customer-focused approach to marketing and communications. She is responsible for marketing strategy and execution, and leads an award-winning team that handles: digital communications, social media, direct marketing, media planning, online reputation management, internal communications, sponsorships and promotions. Karol has worked with high performing marketing and communication teams for Fortune 500, private and non-profit companies within logistics, transportation, housing, construction, and mission driven organizations.



**22 | McKel Hill, MS, RDN, LDN | CEO and Founder, Nutrition Stripped**  
McKel leads Nutrition Stripped and nutritionstripped.com. She holds a Master of Science degree in Clinical Nutrition from Ohio State University and is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist. With 7 years of coaching experience, she teaches the simplicity behind the science of nutrition and art of healthy living through recipes, health articles, online education programs, and a private coaching practice. While a teacher at heart, she is always learning, and currently enrolled in training as an Integrative Functional Nutrition Certified Practitioner through the accredited Integrative and Functional Nutrition Academy™ (IFNA). She's dedicated her career to helping people feel amazing through nourishing multiple pillars of health—and also feel good about the information they were getting about nutrition and wellness. She lives in Nashville, TN with her husband and Luna (their adorable Samoyed dog).



**23 | Kelly Hodges | Division Vice President, Gresham, Smith and Partners**  
Hodges oversees operations, staff development and client service and satisfaction. She also serves in a business development role.

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## Mentors

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**24 | Hayley Hovious | President, Nashville Health Care Council**

Hayley Hovious is the president of the Nashville Health Care Council. Prior to her appointment as president, Hovious served as the executive director of the Council Fellows, an initiative which seeks to engage, educate and inspire senior executives in health care. Prior to joining the Council staff, Hovious served as trade director at the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development where she developed and managed the states export program. She worked as a marketing manager for software startup Consensus Point, and before that as a brand manager at E.J. Gallo Winery in Modesto, Calif. A Nashville native, Hovious is a cum laude graduate of Smith College and has an M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management. She was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve on the Tennessee District Export Council, is a member of the Downtown Nashville Rotary and is on the board of Sister Cities of Nashville.



**25 | Patricia Brown James | Consultant & Coach, PB&J Consulting**

Over a three-decade career in key management and leadership roles in three global corporations, Patricia James has developed and executed successful strategies for sustainable change in human resources and shared services. Recognized as an inspirational leader, coach, and mentor, James has advised leaders at every level, from CEO to emerging leader. She has a passion for mentoring, coaching, and lifelong learning. Patti's career began as an HR analyst at Shell Oil, followed by time with Schlumberger Limited, before joining part of what is now Bridgestone Americas from 1992 to 2013. Following retirement from Bridgestone Americas, James revitalized a regional nonprofit leadership program by applying business expertise and experience to an organization focused on stronger leadership for organizations in Middle Tennessee. Currently, James operates her own consulting firm, PB&J Consulting. She provides career transition and executive coaching, competency-based training course design and delivery, and business development services to private and corporate clients. James also serves as an Advisory Director for Stanton Chase, a global retained executive search and consulting firm. James holds BSBA and MBA degrees from The Ohio State University and a Master of Arts in Civic Leadership from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.



**26 | Rita Johnson-Mills | Chief Executive Officer, RJ Mills Enterprises**

Rita Johnson-Mills has acquired over 25 years of corporate executive experience. She spent over 15 years as a senior executive with Centene Corporation and United-Healthcare, of which her last role was CEO of UHC Community Plan of TN. Over this time period, Rita has received numerous honors and awards and was voted 2017 CEO of the Year by the Nashville Business Journal. Among other appointments, Rita serves as a member of MyNexus Advisory Board and as an Independent Director on the Brookdale Senior Living, Inc. Board of Directors. Rita holds dual Masters Degrees from Ohio State University, one in Labor and Human Resource Management and the other in Public Policy. Rita is a Hogan certified Executive Coach and a Senn-Delaney Certified Corporate Culture Facilitator.



**27 | Daynise Joseph | Community Impact Manager, Google Fiber**

Daynise Joseph leads Community Impact initiatives for Google Fiber in Nashville, TN and Huntsville, AL. As Community Impact Manager she works with nonprofits, government agencies, and community stakeholders to support efforts to make digital literacy, STEM, and minority entrepreneur programs more widely available to underrepresented communities. Before joining Google Fiber, she was a nonprofit management consultant and nonprofit Executive Director in Nashville and grassroots community organizer working on various quality of life and social justice issues like affordable housing, living wages, public transportation, and education.

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## Mentors

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### **28 | Beverly Keel | Chair, Dept. of Recording Industry, MTSU**

Beverly Keel is a professor and chair of MTSU's Department of Recording Industry and an award-winning music journalist whose work has appeared in *People*, *Parade*, *The Tennessean*, and many other publications. In 2014, she joined forces with Tracy Gershon and Leslie Fram to create *Change the Conversation*, which has become an influential movement in the area of gender equality in country music. *Forbes* recently included her on its national list of "40 Women to Watch Over 40," a group of innovative women recognized for disrupting industry and society. She also serves as publicist for Jamey Johnson and has been a consultant for various projects and artists, such as Alison Krauss, Lionel Richie and Scotty McCreery. She has hosted album-launch events for artists including Don Henley and Barry Gibb. She returned to MTSU in 2013 after a leave of absence to serve as senior vice president of artist and media relations for Universal Music Group Nashville, where she was responsible for the media campaigns of projects, including Lionel Richie, Vince Gill, Sugarland, Shania Twain, George Strait and many more.



### **29 | Dimeta Smith Knight | Partner, Smith, Pelmore & Dobbs, PC**

Dimeta a Principal with Smith, Pelmore & Dobbs, PC an accounting and consulting firm located in Nashville, TN. Her firm consults with small to large size corporations, sole proprietorships and partnerships from various industries within for profit and nonprofit sectors. She has facilitated seminars and workshops for various organizations including the Small Business Administration, Pathway Women's Business Center and the National Association of Women Business Owners. She is also a frequent guest on *Common Cents: The Money Show* on WFSK 88.1 FM radio. She has almost 20 years of financial accounting, internal auditing, and financial system consulting experience. Previous corporate roles include Internal Auditor, Financial Systems Implementation Consultant and Chief Financial Officer. She also spent seven years as an Adjunct Accounting Professor, lecturing on numerous disciplines of Accounting, such as Accounting Principles, Strategic Cost Management and, Individual and Corporate Taxation. She frequently shares her passion for financial literacy and economic development with the community. Her recent conferences include *Girls To The Moon* and *National Association of Women MBAs' Annual Thrive Conference*. She was recently selected a 2018 *Woman of Influence* by the *Nashville Business Journal*. Dimeta received her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a major in Accounting from Tennessee State University and Master of Accountancy Degree from Belmont University. Her current civic involvement includes serving on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Respite Coalition, West End Homes Foundation and New Leaders Council.



### **30 | Laura Lemon | CEO & Founder, Lemon Laine**

After over a decade in merchandising, marketing and product development in the beauty industry, Laura Lemon created *Lemon Laine* to bring a bit of fun and clarity to the beauty shopping experience. Partnering with some of the best vendors and beauty experts in the world, Laura hand-picks each product with an emphasis on quality and natural ingredients. Laura is dedicated to the discovery process of testing and curating a simplified list of products that really work so you can fall in love with your beauty routine again.



### **31 | Julie Lilliston | President, Julie Lilliston Communications LLC**

Julie Lilliston Communications, LLC is a WBENC certified woman-owned Nashville-based public relations agency specializing in corporate communications, thought leadership and reputation management for clients across industries including professional services, healthcare, higher education and technology. Julie is an award-winning professional with more than 15 years of experience developing communications campaigns to help businesses and non-profits share their stories with audiences who matter. She's worked with diverse clients including Apto Global, Sweet Creations Pie Bakery, Affinity Technology Partners, Marcelle Guilbeau Interior Design and DevMar Products, LLC. She cultivated her expertise at global public relations firms Weber Shandwick and MSL-Group in Chicago and Lovell Communications in Nashville. Her work on the Go Direct national public education and engagement campaign for the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve Banks earned numerous awards including a PRSA Silver Anvil. Julie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

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## Mentors

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**32 | Dr. Millicent Lownes-Jackson | Dean, College of Business, College of Business, Tennessee State University**

Dr. Millicent Lownes-Jackson is the Dean of the College of Business at Tennessee State University and has over 40 years of experience in higher education administration, research, teaching and entrepreneurial endeavors. Previously, Dr. Lownes-Jackson served as the Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Tennessee State University and the Associate Dean for the College of Business at Tennessee State University. A recipient of numerous awards and honors for service to society, she is the Founder of The Inter-denominational Services Organization of America, Inc.(ISOA), the Business Exchange for the Entrepreneurially Minded (BEEM) Program, and The World Institute for Sustainable Education and Research (The WISER Group). Dr. Lownes-Jackson is also a founding member of the Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Business Deans Roundtable. Internationally recognized as a small business expert, Dr. Lownes-Jackson is author of 15 books, numerous refereed journal articles, proceedings, and book chapters, and has made over 200 academic and professional presentations. Dr. Lownes-Jackson holds a B.A. from Fisk University. She also holds masters degrees and the doctorate degree from Vanderbilt University where she became the first African American woman awarded the MBA by the institution.



**33 | Wanda Lyle | Managing Director/General Manager - UBS Nashville Business Solution Center & Americas Head of Employee Conduct, UBS**

Wanda Lyle is the General Manager of the UBS Nashville Business Solutions Center (BSC). In her role, Wanda oversees the ongoing expansion of the Nashville BSC, and will be responsible for setting up the center's operating model and associated service delivery. She will also provide leadership and management for a number of functions in the Nashville BSC including Information Technology, Operations, Human Resources, Finance, Legal, Compliance & Operational Risk and Control and Corporate Real Estate and Administrative Services (CREAS). Wanda, who joined UBS in 2010, is also the Head of Employee Conduct for the Americas, overseeing Monitoring & Surveillance, Employee Compliance and Compliance Training and Education for the Americas Region. Wanda began her career at Merrill Lynch where she worked for nearly 30 years, having most recently served as Managing Director in the Managed Solutions Group running the Personal Investment Advisor business. Prior to that, she was responsible for business risk management for Global Investment and Solutions and was also Business Risk Manager for Wealth Management Americas for a number of years with responsibility for supervision and risk management for the branch offices in the U.S., Latin America, Private Banking and Investments and the Financial Advisory Center. Wanda is a graduate of the University of Mississippi. She is married and has two daughters and one granddaughter.



**34 | Rhonda Marko | President and CEO, Retired, Destination Nashville**

Recognizing the need for a destination management company in Nashville, Rhonda founded Destination Nashville in 1994. In 2007, Women's Business Enterprise Council named Rhonda as Nashville's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year and The Nashville Business Journal named Rhonda "2012 Woman of Influence." Rhonda led Destination Nashville to be ranked on the Nashville Business Journal's list of "25 Largest Women Owned Businesses in Nashville" since 2008 and list of "Best Places to Work in Nashville" since 2010. In 2015 Destination Nashville was named to the Nashville Business Journal "Best Places to Work in Nashville Hall of Fame." The Association for Destination Management Executives (ADMEI) named Rhonda as "2009 Destination Management Professional of the Year" and presented her with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2015. In 2016 Rhonda facilitated the Nashville chapter of The Woman's Advantage Forum, a program giving women who own small businesses an opportunity to receive mentoring and support they need to move their businesses to the next level.

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## Mentors

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**35 | Amanda Mathis | Chief Financial Officer, Bridgestone Americas**  
Amanda Mathis was named Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (BSAM) in May 2017. In this role, Mathis is responsible for overseeing all strategic aspects of finance, accounting, procurement and financial shared services for BSAM's international operations, including management of the 900 teammates within these departments. Additionally, she is responsible for BSAM's mergers and acquisitions, financial reporting, cash flow and debt management. Amanda joined BSAM as Controller for the Consumer Tire Division in 2012. She was later promoted to Vice President, Finance for Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations (BATO) North America and concurrently named Acting CFO in September 2016. Prior to joining BATO, Mathis spent nine years at Yum! Brands, Inc., the world's largest system restaurant company. In her last role at Yum!, Mathis served as CFO of Long John Silver's and A&W Restaurants. Prior to that, Mathis held finance positions of increasing responsibility at Yum!, having started her career in investment banking at the Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets and Morgan Keegan. Mathis received a 2016 Women of Influence Award from the Nashville Business Journal and serves on the board of directors for the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition. She graduated from Emory University with a BBA, double majoring in Business and Economics, with concentrations in Finance and Marketing.



**36 | Janet Miller | CEO and Partner, Colliers International**  
Janet Miller has been a key player in Nashville's development community for over 30 years. She joined Colliers Nashville as CEO and Partner in 2014, following 21 years of service as Chief Economic Development Officer for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Miller led the ten-county region's top agency for recruiting new companies to the region and working with existing companies on retention/expansion projects. Miller led a team that was named a top ten economic development group in America for 4 of the last 5 years of her tenure and successfully worked with over 400 corporations on major job-creation projects including Asurion, HCA, Beretta, Mars Pet Care, Nissan, Bridgestone, Dell Inc., BNY Mellon, and UBS. At Colliers, Miller is responsible for talent development, business and brand development and all operations for the Colliers Nashville office. Janet is a proud supporter of the YWCA, Friends of Radnor Lake and the Tennessee Women's Forum. Janet is a sought-after lecturer and has spoken on economic development in university classes around the country. She was recognized with the 2016 "Spirit of Nashville Award" by the T.J. Martell Foundation and was the 2015 recipient of Nashville Post magazine's "Boom" issue. Bio info bio info bio info Bio info bio info Bio info bio info



**37 | Hasina Mohyuddin | Director, Peabody Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Research Associate, Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University**  
Hasina is the Director of the Peabody Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and a Research Associate at Vanderbilt University. She is also a PhD candidate in the Community Research and Action (CRA) program at Vanderbilt University. Prior to joining the program, she received a BA in Economics from Yale University and an MBA from Vanderbilt University. After working in the healthcare industry for several years, she went back to school to complete her doctoral degree. Her dissertation research explores the religious identity development for Muslim American youth in the context of widespread negative stereotypes of Islam and Islamophobia. As a Research Associate, Hasina is currently serving as the Study Coordinator for a grant evaluating HIV/AIDS education programs for the Southeast AETC. She is also an active member of the Nashville Muslim community, and currently serves on the boards of the League of Women Voters, PENCIL, Nashville OIC and the Maddox Foundation. Hasina has been married for over 20 years to her husband Shuaib and has three sons - Ibrahim, Mohammed and Isa.

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## Mentors

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**38 | Julie Nimmons | President, EXO Living, LLC**

Julie Nimmons is a former Group Chair for Vistage International In Nashville and St. Louis, MO, and former CEO of Schutt Sports. As CEO of Schutt, she led the company's growth for over two decades, taking the head count from 30 to over 400, expanding its production facilities from 37,000 square feet to 274,000 square feet and growing revenue by a factor of 16. Julie was the first woman elected to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association's Board of Directors, and was later elected Chairman. In 2002 and 2005, Sports Edge named her as one of the "25 Leaders to Watch". In 2010, Julie was inducted into the National Sporting Goods Association's Hall of Fame. Julie served on the Board of Trustees for Eastern Illinois University for ten years, and also served as its Chair. Julie also holds an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Eastern Illinois University and has been recognized by the Eastern Illinois University Alumni Association as a Distinguished Alumni. She is Past-Chairman of the National Board of Trustees for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and currently serves on the Nashville and Tennessee Leadership Boards. Julie is a Founding Member of the Nashville Chapter of the Private Directors Association.



**39 | Lisa Purcell | Vice President of Development, Education, and Community Outreach, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**

Lisa Purcell is the vice president of development, education, and community outreach for the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum, which is among the most vibrant and visited history museums in America. In this role, Purcell's division oversees the Museum's contributed income department, supporting the nonprofit's mission to preserve the evolving history and traditions of country music, as well as the education department, which develops, implements, and evaluates programs that share the beauty and cultural significance of country music with an international audience, while maintaining a service emphasis in Middle Tennessee. Prior to joining the Museum's staff, Purcell served as vice president of external affairs for Hands On Nashville (HON). During her tenure, HON was nationally recognized for its role in mobilizing over 150,000 volunteers in the wake of the May 2010 flood that devastated Middle Tennessee. Purcell previously worked for diverse arts organizations, such as The Frick Pittsburgh and Frist Art Museum. She has served as a grant review panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, and she has worked for music business charity T.J. Martell Foundation. Purcell holds degrees in art history from West Virginia University and a certificate in executive leadership from Belmont University.



**40 | Suzanne Reed | Director - Marketing, LBMC**

A recognized marketing strategist and Chief Marketing Officer of the year finalist, Suzanne has more than 25 years of experience in professional and financial services industry. Suzanne's an accomplished B2B/B2C Marketing Executive with experience at three Fortune 500 companies and a proven record of success in identifying and developing business opportunities, driving growth and overall client engagement for multi-state, multi-service operations. I specialize in providing visionary marketing leadership that motivates companies to high-level performance and exceeding financial targets. I have led digital transformations for national financial and professional organizations. Skilled at managing change throughout full life cycle, I thrive in dynamic environments requiring a strong analytic, quantitative, and strategic operational focus. A marketing leader with a proven track record of enhancing brand equity and revenue. Suzanne champions growth by using an integrated approach to marketing and sales that produces profitable results. She is a strong advocate for the client while creating revenue generating programs. She is an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University teaching Fundamentals of Marketing and serves as an advisory board member on the University of South Florida Digital Marketing Executive Certification Program. In 2018, Suzanne was named a Nashville Business Journal -Women of Influence in the mentor and inspiration category which recognized her contributions for improving the business community.



**41 | Kelly Rich | Senior Label Relations, Amazon Music**

Rich joined Amazon Music in February 2017, ensuring Nashville's priority releases have a direct advocate, are properly set up within the Amazon eco-system and that Amazon's global reach is leveraged on all of their properties for Nashville's multiple genres.

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## Mentors

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**42 | Jennifer Robinson | Office Managing Shareholder, Co-Chair of Hospitality Industry Group, Littler Office Managing Shareholder, Co-Chair of Hospitality Industry Group, Littler**

With more than 20 years of experience practicing labor and employment law, Jennifer Robinson has been the lead defense attorney in nearly 40 state and federal wage and hour class and/or collective actions. Jennifer also conducts high-level workplace investigations for clients and often follows up with appropriate training, as needed. In addition, she defends employers in single and multi-plaintiff lawsuits involving claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and failure to accommodate. She works with a wide range of industries, including, but not limited to food and beverage manufacturing and distribution, hospitality and entertainment. Jennifer co-chairs Littler's Hospitality Industry Group and serves as the office managing shareholder for the Nashville office. Prior to joining Littler, Jennifer was a partner at a full-service firm in Nashville. She also worked as an attorney in California for nearly a decade.



**43 | Jill Robinson | Director of External Relations & Executive Learning, Jack C. Massey College of Business, Belmont University**

In 1995, Jill's career started in Nashville with various nonprofits in marketing, outreach, and programs including Tennessee 200, the non-profit managing Tennessee's 200th birthday, TACA, an organization supporting statewide artists, and LifeWay, the national Baptist organization. Concurrently, she joined Charter Resource, a change management and CEO coaching consulting firm. In 1999, she managed TPAC's first volunteer department, eventually moving to Director of Development supporting fundraising and event goals for their education programs. Finding a passion for organizational development, she obtained an M.A. in Organizational Management in 2002, and completed her M.B.A. in 2004. February 2005, she joined Belmont University's Office of the President focusing on presidential initiatives, donor relations, and cross-functional team management. Summer 2007, she moved to the Center for Executive Education as the Director of Executive Learning and Marketing combining her love for learning and marketing. Jill's current role as Director of External Relations of the Jack C. Massey College of Business started in January 2014 moved her to the Dean's Office and expanded her role to include strategic initiatives, community outreach, and leadership development, working with the Massey School's 5 Centers of Learning, marketing for the college, and community and business alliances. In 2009, she received the inaugural NBJ 40 Under 40 award, in 2010 the Nashville Chamber NEL Education award, in 2016 the NBJ Women of Influence non-profit award, and in 2017 received her International Coaching Certification. Jill launched her side business in coaching in 2017 focusing on job transition, career visioning, and execution. Through her role at Belmont and her coaching company, she serves those that she connects with and enjoys encouraging them to be their best selves. In her spare time, you can often find Jill spoiling her nieces, painting, at yoga class, or hiking in Percy. The novice foodie can be found eating out with friends in Nashville at the latest restaurant opening, or in class learning about vino!



**44 | Heather J. Rohan | Division President, TriStar Health**

Ms. Rohan serves as President of HCA's TriStar Division, which includes TriStar Health and nine additional HCA facilities in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Northwest Georgia. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, she oversees a total of 22 hospitals and related care settings that are supported by approximately 2,800 physicians and over 15,000 employees - including over 5,800 nurses - who, above all else, are committed to the care and improvement of human life.



**45 | Mari Ross-Alexander | CEO, Ross Behavioral Group**

Mari Ross-Alexander is a native of Las Vegas, NV and the graduate of Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. She has spent the last 20 years as the wife of a 12 year NFL veteran, mother of 3 and a psychotherapist focused on minority mental health with an emphasis on sport behavioral health consulting. Mari is the founder and CEO of Ross Behavioral Group which specializes in behavioral health services for minority populations encouraging mental, emotional and behavioral wellness. Currently Ross Behavioral Group operates, manages and integrates services in 16 different locations including Tennessee State University Counseling Center as well as a number of collegiate sports teams throughout the Southeast.

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## Mentors

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**46 | K. Dawn Rutledge | Director of External Communications and PIO, Metro Nashville Public Schools**  
K. Dawn Rutledge is a veteran writer, media, marketing, public relations and events management professional with more than 20 years of diverse experience. She has been a working journalist in print and broadcast and has served in key communications roles in the media, non-profit, corporate, entertainment, government, and education sectors. She lead Metro Nashville Public Schools' first-ever strategic marketing efforts, and currently serves as Director of External Communications in which she works with nearly 86,000 students, 12,000 employees, community partners, elected officials and other stakeholders. Also, in this capacity she is the district's Public Information Officer and designated spokesperson.



**47 | Nancy Schultz | Vice President, North Highland**  
Nancy Schultz is a Vice President of North Highland, a global consulting firm that delivers tactical and strategic business solutions to multi national organizations. Nancy has over 30 years of experience in the consulting industry. Nancy's consulting career has focused on helping clients design and implement growth strategies using technology as an enabler; customer experience and data & analytics being key areas.



**48 | Becky Sharpe | CEO/Owner, International Scholarship and Tuition Services**  
Becky owns two local business, ISTS and Collegiate Sports Data. She is involved in the community as a member of the board for Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Girl Scouts, Major League Baseball's RBI, Walk Bike Nashville and Nashville Sports Council. She loves international food and people whose glasses are half full all the time.



**49 | Joycelyn Stevenson | Executive Director, Tennessee Bar Association**  
Joycelyn is a native of Macon, GA. She graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and received her law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville, TN. Joycelyn has served as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Bar Association since July 2017. Prior to joining the TBA she worked for 16 years in private practice as labor and employment attorney in the Nashville offices of two prominent law firms. She is a past president of the Nashville Bar Association, the Lawyers' Association for Women in Nashville and the Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee. She was recently selected by NashvilleBusiness.Net as one of the "Most Leading African Americans in Nashville." She is the recipient of many professional honors including recognition in The Best Lawyers in America as well as recognition as a best of the Bar Honoree by the Nashville Business Journal. She served as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University Law School where she taught employment discrimination law and is a member of the 2014 Leadership Nashville class.



**50 | Loretta Stokes | Senior Engineering Manager, Eventbrite**  
Loretta Stokes is a technology leader with 18 years of software engineering experience and management experience. Loretta graduated from Austin Peay State University with a major in Computer Science and a minor in Math. She is currently the Senior Software Engineering Manager for Eventbrite in the Nashville location. Her programming experience includes C++, C#, and Python. Earlier this year, she was named one of Nashville Business Journal's 2018 Women of Influence. This award has recognized the women in Middle Tennessee who are shaping their companies, improving our communities and paving the way for the next generation of influential female leaders. Loretta is passionate about developing future female leaders in technology through mentoring, coaching, and speaking at conferences.



**51 | Laquita Stribling | Senior Vice President, Randstad USA**  
"Laquita Stribling is Senior Vice President with Randstad USA. She is responsible for four districts and nine offices across three states, approximately 1,500 employees, and over \$40 million in revenue. Laquita earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She continued her education at the University of Memphis, where she obtained her Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in human resources. She is currently enrolled at Trevecca Nazarene University, where she will graduate with a doctorate degree in Leadership and Professional Practices in May 2018."

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## Mentors

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### 52 | Deborah Varallo | President, Varallo Public Relations

Deborah Varallo, Nashville native and graduate of Baylor University, founded Varallo Public Relations, a marketing, public relations and crisis management firm in 1991. VPR provides support to professional firms such as architects, engineers and to the legal, financial and healthcare industry. She has been named to Nashville Post's InCharge list and named to their All-Star Board. She was recently named a Society of Fellows for TEDxNashville and recognized by the YWCA of Middle Tennessee as Woman of Achievement. Deborah is president-elect of the International Women's Forum - Tennessee Chapter. She is past board chair for Leadership Middle Tennessee and its Alumni Board. She co-chaired Leadership Nashville Program and chaired its alumni board. She was president of LMT's 2004 class and is a graduate of Leadership Music. She served as Community Chair for Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee, co-chaired the Celebration of Mission to Service for Catholic Charities; co-chaired the Girl Scouts major fundraiser and is active at St. Stephen Catholic Community. She was honored by the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee for her community service. Deborah is married to Jim Varallo, owner of Varallo Investment Properties.



### 53 | Amanda Weeks-Geveden | Senior Vice President, Managing Director TN/KY, U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management

Amanda has spent twenty-six years in the banking industry. She began her career in an in-store retail branch and has spent the last fourteen years in Private Wealth Management. Amanda chairs the Development Committee on the YWCA board and is a co-founder of Women Influencing Nashville.



### 54 | Christie Wilson | Owner and President, The Wilson Group Real Estate Services

The Wilson Group is a residential real estate firm specializing in listing and sales of homes, condos, land and investment property with 25 agents and a full service property management division, specializing in Davidson, Williamson, Sumner, Wilson and Cheatham Counties. Graduate of Father Ryan High School in Nashville and The University of TN, Knoxville. A past president of The Greater Nashville Association of Realtors and the recipient of the GNAR "Realtor of the Year", and the Tennessee "Realtor of the Year". She is a recipient of the President's Award from the Tennessee Association of Realtors. (only 4 Realtors in the state of TN have ever been awarded both the Local and State Realtor of the Year) Professional designations include the ABR (Accredited Buyers Representative); CRS (Certified Residential Specialist); CRB (Certified Residential Broker); GRI (Graduate Realtor Institute). Former host of "Real Estate Real Talk" on Channel 5+, which is Nashville's only live real estate call-in talk show. Current Boards: Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity; The YWCA; Women's President's Organization; Nashville Wine Auction; Leadership Nashville Alumni Board, Charter Member of the YWCA's Fulcrum Society. Former Boards on which she has served: Greater Nashville Association of Realtors; Realtracs Board; Metro Sports Authority Board, Metro Board of Equalization; The New Beginnings Center; Tennessee Housing and Development Agency Realtor Advisory Board; The Housing Fund of Nashville; TN Assoc of Realtors; The National Assn of Realtors, Chairman of the Board of Equalization of Metro/Davidson County (Tax Appeals Board); Governmental Affairs of The TN Association of Realtors. Recent Professional Awards: Best Places to Work 2016; Most Admired CEO 2014; Best in Business 2013, all from the Nashville Business Journal; Most Admired CEO 2014; 40 Under 40 in 2006; Nashville Leukemia Lymphoma Society Woman of the Year.

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## Mentors

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**55 | Dr. Tameka T. Winston | Associate Vice President of Research and Institutional Advancement, Tennessee State University**  
Dr. Tameka Winston is the Associate Vice President of Research and Institutional Advancement, Department Chair and an award-winning Professor in the Department of Communications at Tennessee State University. She is also a national radio show host on Sirius XM and an accomplished author. Winston has been working at the collegiate level for 16 years in various roles. Her passion for education and community service has helped her earn several recent accolades. A highly sought-after speaker, she also facilitates numerous workshops on various topics. Dr. Winston was recently awarded the prestigious 2017 Athena Young Professional Leadership Award and Nashville Business Journal's "2017 Woman of Influence Award". She was also among this year's Class of 2018 protégés for the Millennium Leadership Initiative Institute that took place in Washington, DC this summer. The purpose of the Millennium Leadership Initiative is to prepare, enhance and advance the prospect for qualified candidates, who have progressed in their professional careers, to successfully compete in the future for positions of president or chancellor at universities or colleges, public or private. She is very passionate about promoting the importance of having strong mentorship programs in place. Winston has implemented a total of 3 mentoring programs.



**56 | Carol Yochem | President-Middle Tennessee Region, First Tennessee Bank**  
Carol Yochem is President of First Tennessee Bank in Middle Tennessee and oversees a combined portfolio of loans and deposits of over \$9.0 billion and 600 employees. Carol serves as chairman of the board of the Nashville Downtown Partnership, serves on the boards of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA of Middle Tennessee, and the Andrew Jackson Foundation. She is a member of Nashville's Agenda Steering Committee, Partnership 2020, Leadership Nashville Alumni Association, and Rotary Club of Nashville. Carol is a 1929 Club member and past Board Trustee of Cheekwood Estate and Gardens. Carol has been recognized as a Nashville Business Journal Power Leader in Finance, Most Admired CEO, and Woman of Influence.

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