



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**WOMEN IN
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

MARCH 8, 2022 | VIRTUAL EVENT

LIST OF SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Ruth Dwyer

Senior Project Manager for the International Council for Small Business. An award-winning innovator and pivoting pediatrician, Ruth is interested in social entrepreneurship, small business, and their impact on the SDG's. Her work with medical startups includes leadership of the Physician Hospital Organization that changed the face of US healthcare when it received a favorable adjudication from the FTC to allow the formation of clinically integrated networks, a major force in US healthcare today. As an advocate for children, Ruth has testified before the US House of Representatives and is a Governor's Citation recipient in recognition of contributions made to the health and wellbeing of Maryland's children.

Dr. Liesl Riddle

Liesl Riddle is the vice dean for strategy, the director of the Master of Interdisciplinary Business Studies program, and an associate professor of international business and international affairs at the George Washington University School of Business (GWSB).

Dr. Ayman El Tarabishy

Dr. Ayman El Tarabishy is the deputy chair and teaching professor of the Department of Management at the George Washington University School of Business. He also serves as President and CEO of The International Council for Small Business.

Joyce McConnell

Joyce McConnell is the first woman president of Colorado State University and is proud to currently lead one of the most diverse administrative teams in higher education. Since becoming President in 2019, McConnell has hired five women into senior leadership positions at CSU. She has also overseen a successful return to in-person academics and operations beginning in Fall 2020 and is currently leading the Courageous, Strategic Transformation of CSU, a process grounded in a commitment to equity, sustainability, and student success. McConnell previously served in progressive leadership roles at another land grant, West Virginia University, first as Associate Dean and then Dean of the College of Law, and then as Provost. In her time at WVU, McConnell led leadership culture change

both her formal roles and as a founding member of the Women's Leadership Initiative . She also galvanized innovation and entrepreneurship with the creation of the university-wide WVU Idea Hub, the WVU Humanities Center, and the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative, among other notable initiatives.
<https://president.colostate.edu/bio/>

Linda Acholonu

Linda Acholonu is a seasoned professional and expert in the area of Clinical Drug Development and Pharmaceuticals. She is a Project Director at Labcorp Drug Development, managing Oncology Phase I-IV clinical trials. She is also a 2020 graduate of the George Washington University Healthcare MBA program with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. Linda was the 2020 recipient of the Dr. Erik K. Winslow award at the George Washington University School of Business. Since graduating, Linda continues to remain a valued contributor to GWSB and ICSB. Recently, Linda came back to her alma mater in a different capacity, as part of the Adjunct Faculty for GWSB.

Ebony Johnson

Ebony Johnson is a senior policy analyst for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ebony has a deep interest in process improvements for businesses and helps women develop sustainable businesses. Ebony is a proud Air Force veteran. Ebony founded The Next Chapter, Corporation, a non-profit organization that supports veterans and survivors of domestic violence. Ebony co-owns Grey's Handyman Services with her husband, and is the founder and CEO of Career Connector, an executive coaching service for transitioning veterans and women. Ebony won the NextGen of Government Public Service's Innovator of the Year Award and the Dunkin Donuts Community Hero Award. Ebony earned a BS in Information Systems from Strayer University. Ebony was awarded a Master's Certificate in Project Management from the George Washington University School of Business, where she is also a 2023 Advanced MBA candidate.

Casey Hayes-Deats

Casey Hayes-Deats is a storyteller with business sensibilities. As a theater-artist, Casey has produced and performed in the NY premiere of Pains of Youth; developed an innovative process for using improv and devised theater to improve the quality of life of seniors with dementia; and performed alongside incarcerated men at Rikers Island. As a non-profit leader, Casey has managed education programs at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange, served as general manager of the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and currently provides financial management support to DC-based charter schools. She was voted to receive the outstanding contributor award by her peers while earning her MBA from GWU, and has maintained her relationship with the school since graduation by teaching the first ever elective on arts entrepreneurship. She is the mom of two.

Ursula Martin

Currently an MHRM candidate here at the GW School of Business, Ursula aspires to continue her research efforts upon graduation, on Management Leadership and Organizational Behavior. She serves as the first President and founding member of the GW SHRM Graduate Student Chapter #5073, a student volunteer for the ICSB, as well as a GWSB Student Ambassador. She was also a recipient of the GWSB Fellowship Award for the Master of Human Resource Management program and received her graduate certificate in Management Leadership and Human Capital. She works as a Project Manager for Human Resources within Higher Education, and is also a Volunteer Leader with the Society for Human Resource Management. Her primary focus is to heighten the awareness of many Organizational Leaders on the importance of adopting the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion spectrum, to assist them in advancing the organizational culture for the future.

Dr. Senay Ağca

Şenay Ağca is the chief diversity officer and a professor of finance at the George Washington University School of Business (GWSB). As the chief diversity officer, she chairs the Dean's Diversity Council and leads the school's diversity, equity, and inclusion activities. Senay has been working as a mentor for women in finance and economics associations. She has been invited as a speaker on diversity, equity and inclusion both in the U.S. and Europe. She has worked as a program director for the Science of Broadening Participation program at the National Science Foundation (NSF), advancing research on understanding the factors that advance and the barriers that limit ability of participation in science. She is also currently working as an advisory committee member on an NSF supported National Bureau of Economics Research (NBER) project to promote and mentor researchers for external funding opportunities in institutions with statistically underrepresented groups in science.

Her research interests are corporate-government dynamics, macro-finance, credit risk, bioeconomy, and supply chains. She has worked as an economics program director at the NSF. Her roles at the NSF included working in developing and managing strategically important research programs for the U.S. She was the lead program director in managing COVID-19 rapid response proposals in economics and finance, and was awarded a certificate of excellence for these accomplishments from the NSF. She was a steering committee member for the bioeconomy program, and a program director of the Future Manufacturing program on cyber-, eco- and bio-manufacturing areas. She has also worked in running idea labs for Harnessing the Data Revolution, as well as in programs on Graduate Research Fellowship, Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison for Industry (GOALI) and the 2026 NSF idea machine. She has also worked as a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund and Sciences Po at various periods since 2006.

Senay has published in major finance and economics journals, and her papers including those with her Ph.D. students have been nominated for best paper awards. She has won diverse grants such as the National Science Foundation Grant, the J. Wendell and Louise Crain Research Fellowship, GW-CIBER research grants, an American Consortium on European Union Studies grant, a GW Institute for Corporate Responsibility grant, and a Dean's Scholarship. She was one of the key members who worked on developing and launching the IFC-Milken Institute Capital Markets Program at GW.

Dr. Obianuju Okoye

Dr Obianuju Helen Okoye is a Research Physician, Healthcare and Business Executive with a Medical Degree (MD), an MBA in Healthcare Management, and a Masters in Epidemiology/Public Health. She has been featured on NBC News, Yahoo News, The Huffington Post, Insider, Tonic by VICE, She Knows, Massage Magazine, Carol Roth, among others. Dr Okoye is a contributing writer to notable platforms such as Entrepreneur magazine online, where she has written on the top African Entrepreneurs Changing the Business Landscape, and about Emotional Intelligence. Her background includes being a Former C-suite leader at a Chicago community health center, a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Research Fellow, and a State of Michigan HIV/AIDS Epidemiologist, and leader in HIV health policy. She has a plethora of clinical research experience. Dr. Okoye's business interests center around helping empower female entrepreneurs. Most recently she founded an international consultancy, where she worked with small and mid sized healthcare start-ups. Based in Chicago USA, Dr Okoye has a strong passion for amplifying the voice of underserved communities at the global table.

Rita Grant

Rita Grant is the Director of the School of Accounting at the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her teaching interests include Intermediate Accounting and International Accounting. Her research interests include harmonization, family business and financial disclosure issues. She is a member of the American Accounting Association and AAA sections APLG, FAR and TLC. Rita

became a member of Beta Alpha Psi as a student at Michigan State University and has been a faculty co-advisor for six years.

Winslow Sargeant

Winslow Sargeant is the Senior Advisor for Globalization and Head of Capital Markets for Genaesis. In this role, he syndicates opportunities with unaffiliated third-party capital partners – both domestically and internationally – facilitating optimized valuations and deal structures. He is the 2021 Chair of the Board of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB).

Vicki Stylianou

Head of advocacy and policy at Institute of Public Accountants, Australia

Ahmed Osman

Immediate Past Chair of ICSB. Ahmed is also the Managing Director of the Global Entrepreneurship Network in Egypt (GEN Egypt) and is a Project Management & Strategy Advisor for several Government and Private organizations in Egypt.

Linda Mueller

A certified life coach who empowers expat partners to gain a deeper sense of self so that they can design a life they love; one that flows through the ups and downs of their international journey.

Lauren Servin

Lauren Servin is the Co-Founder and CTO (Chief Tree Officer) for Löpe Tree a skincare company focused on the new ingredient Desert Date Oil, based in N. Uganda. Lauren is also an international development consultant and has been working in the field for the last 15 years with a regional focus on South Sudan. Her area of expertise is in agribusiness, value chain development, access-to-finance and youth employment. She completed her MPA at the NYU Wagner school of Public Service, where she was an NYU fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. As a student in the GW School of Business, she is developing a model for distributing value that ensures equitable dividends for primary producers, while still making the company profitable for investors.