

# 2023 WOMEN'S LEGACY CONFERENCE

## SPEAKER AND PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

*(listed alphabetically)*

### Dr. Kerri Burchill

Kerri Burchill, Ph.D., is honored to be listed as one of the top 20 coaches in her home city of San Antonio, Texas: check it out. Outside of her recognition as a coach, Kerri is the president of North Star Coaching, a company that specializes in helping leaders and teams to slow down so they can go fast. North Star Coaching offers leadership training and development, team development and culture support with a specific focus on interpersonal communication.

North Star Coaching's mission is to help you slow down so you can shine your brightest. Kerri supports you staying true to your North Star. We help you crystallize purpose, manage the day-to-day spin of the skies around you, and achieve your ambitious outcomes.

Kerri believes in progress, not perfection. Just as the North Star moves slightly, we know that leaders can be nudged off course with the day-to-day spin. Kerri help leaders and teams identify the structures and supports they need to stay the course, shine their brightest and achieve those ambitious outcomes.

North Star Coaching is your accountability partner, one that believes in you, holds you accountable to show up as your best self and shine your brightest, just like the North Star.

These leadership training and team building programs are custom-made just for you!

### Anne Marie Gaura

Anne Marie Gaura currently serves as Lincolnwood's Village Manager. She has also served as Village Manager in both Montgomery and DeKalb. Anne Marie's full-time local government career started by serving the Village of Lombard, which helped build the basic foundation of her career.

Anne Marie has proudly led the establishment of three important organizations assisting local government. They include the Montgomery Economic Development Corporation, the Metro West Council of Government which currently assists 33 municipalities in three counties, and the Legacy Project, the organization most near and dear to her heart.

Last year, Anne Marie won the Trailblazer of the Award from ICMA's League of Women in Government. The award recognizes a demonstrated commitment to championing other women in local government.

### Kellye Mazzoli

Kellye Mazzoli, Founder & Chief Executive Confidant of City Boss Coaching LLC, is a 16-year dedicated local government administrator and certified life coach. She helps successful City Executives balance every area of their life through personalized, 1:1 life and leadership coaching.

Kellye has managed Departments, Divisions, and City Council special projects in collaboration with citizens, community leaders, youth, and city staff members. Her efforts directly improved quality of life, increased

access to higher education, and furthered economic development opportunities. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration as well as an undergraduate degree in Public Policy with minors in Sociology, Political Science, and Economics. Kellye volunteers as the Chair of Curriculum for the NW Women's Leadership Academy in Washington and is designated as a Certified Public Manager.

## Sheri Miller

Sheri Miller is the Founder, Executive Director and Executive Coach with The Charmm'd Foundation, a private non-profit organization that provides opportunities for tax-exempt community leaders to build their leadership through Emotional Intelligence and Ethical Reflection.

Described as a lover of people, curious, inventive, and a lifelong learner, Sheri engages community leaders, her team, and outside experts to work together, creating a space for leaders to support one another on their personal journey as they build themselves, their teams and their organization's success. This all happens through Peer Advisory Groups, The Leadership Academy, Custom Facilitation, Executive Coaching, and Behavioral Assessments.

With a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Behaviors from Northwestern University and as a CTI certified coach, TTI Success Insights DISC Certified behavioral analyst, TTI Success Insights<sup>12</sup> Driving Forces<sup>®</sup> Certified behavioral analyst and a TTI Emotional Intelligence Certified behavioral analyst, Sheri shines a spotlight on each client's multiple gifts, having them stand in who they are as they define what they want, what could be getting in their way and where they want to go. She believes all leaders have the power to make their own path, not just follow it.

## Marianne Renner

Marianne Renner has helped thousands of leaders remove self-imposed barriers and unleash their greatest potential. She's a 2-time author of the *Chaos to Clarity Success Journal* and *Stop Thinking Like an Employee*. Marianne has been described as dynamic, engaging and thought-provoking.

In her recent *TEDx Talk*, Marianne shares her heart-warming story of helping a group of hip hop kids achieve the impossible and become National Gold Medal champions. That talk has inspired thousands to overcome fear and self-doubt.

Marianne has provided coaching and leadership training for government leaders, CEO's, and businesses of all sizes. Her personal story and professional anecdotes will touch your heart and inspire you to think differently about how you work and lead.

Oh, and by the way, did we mention, Marianne is also a former bodybuilding champion!

## Kathleen (Katy) Rush

Kathleen (Katy) Rush, prior to retirement had over 30 year's active experience as a local government management professional including service in DeKalb, Woodridge, and Riverside, IL. From 2009 until 2017, Ms. Rush served as the Village Administrator in Woodridge, a progressive, vibrant, diverse community in south central DuPage County. During her tenure in Woodridge, Katy was responsible for an approximate \$44.5 million budget and 126 full-time employees. In Riverside, IL, Katy served as the Village Manager from 1998 to 2009. As a national historic landmark, Riverside is a unique, small town with a high demand for resident service and detailed attention to historic preservation. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer

of Central Park, NY, the Village of Riverside presented a unique set of challenges and projects. The community is known for its significant amount of open space, distinctive zoning and curvilinear streets.

Prior to serving in the Manager's role in Riverside, Katy did serve as the Assistant Village Administrator in Woodridge. She interned in the City of DeKalb as well. Katy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a graduate degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University.

## Paula Schumacher

Paula Schumacher has served as the Village Administrator for the Village of Bartlett, IL since 2017 providing the day-to-day management of a community of 41,208 residents. The Village of Bartlett has 204 full-time employees, an annual budget of \$110 million, and provides a full range of high-quality municipal services, including planning and development services and code enforcement; street, sewer and water maintenance; police, and maintains a cemetery and manages an 18-hole public golf course and banquet facility.

In addition to being a Past President of The Legacy Project, she was a finalist for the 2022 Woman in Government Leadership Trailblazer Award. Paula is currently serving as Treasurer/Secretary on the ILCMA Board of Directors. She also is a member of the Public Service Institute Advisory Board at the College of DuPage. Paula lives in Bartlett with her husband, William, and their two sons David and Bennett and their spoiled Boston Terrier, Katie.

## Luke Stowe

Luke Stowe has served as Evanston's city manager since August 2022. Before that, he served as interim deputy city manager, overseeing several City departments/divisions such as Fire, Health and Human Services, Finance/Budget, Parks and Recreation, Information Technology, and Administrative Adjudication. Luke has worked for the City of Evanston since 2012 and has held many positions, including director of administrative services, chief information officer, and digital services manager. Luke also served in critical roles for the Emergency Operations Center during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luke brings nearly 25 years of local government experience to his role. Before his service in Evanston, he held related management and technology positions in Lake County and Champaign governments and the private sector. Luke was previously recognized as one of the "Top Doers, Dreamers & Drivers" by *Government Technology* magazine and was nominated for Local IT Leader of the Year by StateScoop.

## Ashley Ward

Ashley Ward serves as the Director of Community Development and Executive Coach with The Charmm'd Foundation, a private nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for leaders of tax-exempt organizations to strengthen themselves and their ability to lead their teams, succeed at their missions and enhance their communities. The Foundation serves Cook and Lake Counties.

Ashley establishes strong partnerships with community leaders and seeks to understand their needs then recommends services that will offer value, structure and accountability. She creates safe environments for people to develop personal and organizational goals, identify challenges and generate creative solutions. Ashley utilizes her natural curiosity and asks thought-provoking questions to facilitate a client's exploration of self. She engages group members by sourcing relevant, stimulating content, offering inspiring questions, listening actively and promoting collaborative discussions.

Her unquenchable curiosity and relentless dedication to helping people allows Ashley to create meaningful relationships with community leaders where their success is paramount. Her inspiration comes from the leaders with whom she works who provide selfless public services to so many in surrounding communities.

### **Cristina White**

Cristina White is the City Administrator for the City of Warrenville. She served as the Assistant City Administrator for six years prior to her recent promotion in September 2022. Before joining the Warrenville team, Cristina was the Human Resources and Risk Management Coordinator for the Village of Itasca, and HR Generalist for the City of Wood Dale.

Cristina holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Dominican University, a Master's degree in Human Resources Management from Keller Graduate School of Management, and is a Certified Labor Relations Professional through the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA). Cristina served as President of the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association (IPELRA) from 2020-2022 and is currently involved with various committees of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) and Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA).

### **Dr. Kathleen Yang-Clayton**

Kathleen Yang-Clayton joined the faculty in the Department of Public Administration, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2017 after extensive experience in legislative advocacy and voter education, engagement and mobilization. Prior to joining UIC, she led voting rights and voter mobilization work for Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago where she helped to pass landmark legislation expanding voting rights and strengthening election systems in Illinois. She is a Research Fellow at the Great Cities Institute and a member of several national initiatives that integrate public administration and racial equity together from the Kettering Foundation, National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association. Her current work focuses on the operationalization of racial equity practices inside of large public organizations that increase the public's trust in government and improves government performance, especially but not exclusively in historically marginalized communities. She was appointed associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion at her college in 2021.