



**#what
WOMEN
BRING**
YWCA
GREATER
CHARLESTON

**THANK YOU
FOR JOINING
THE CONVERSATION**

#WHATWOMENBRING

honoring women in  business  community  culture



October 27, 2022

Thank you for joining us at our first in-person #WhatWomenBring event in two years. We are so excited to be with all of you physically and virtually to celebrate and honor women changing the face of business, culture, and community across South Carolina!

This year, like every year, we were impressed by the caliber of nominations coming from you, our community. Our honorees each have a unique story of challenges, triumphs, and perseverance. I know we will all be inspired by their candor, passion, and authenticity.

This event would not be possible without the support of so many. We thank both our new and returning sponsors and our #WWB committee. We also give special thanks to veteran #WWB emcee and news anchor Octavia Mitchell for the many ways she supports this annual event, and we welcome and thank new #WWB emcee and news anchor Ann McGill.

On behalf of the YWCA.GC board of directors and staff, I thank each of you for attending today and giving us your constant support in our dual mission to eliminate racism and empower women.

Sincerely yours,

LaVanda Brown, M.Ed
Executive Director

agenda

To give, text
WWB2022
to 44321



- 10:30** Early networking & photo opps
PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS FOR THE FIRST 40
- 11:00** Sign in & networking
MULTIPLE PHOTO STATIONS
- 11:30** Ballroom opens
GUESTS ARE SEATED
- 11:45** Opening remarks
WELCOME TO WHAT WOMEN BRING
- 11:50** Introduction of panel #1
OCTAVIA MITCHELL [WCBD NEWS 2 ANCHOR & EMCEE]
- 12:30** Lunch buffet opens
SOUP & SALAD [SEPARATE STATIONS]
- 12:40** Music & entertainment
CHRISTIAN SMALLS [BLACK DIAMOND BAND]
- 12:50** Introduction of panel #2
ANN MCGILL [LIVE 5 NEWS ANCHOR & EMCEE]
- 1:30** Final remarks & adjournment
YWCA GREATER CHARLESTON



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event emcees

EMCEE



OCTAVIA MITCHELL
NEWS ANCHOR
NBC WCBD NEWS 2

Returning #WWB emcee Octavia Mitchell anchors the popular local NBC programs News 2 Today and News 2 Midday. Her Cool School segments highlight positive programs at schools each week. An Emmy award-winning journalist, she has been a member of the Count on 2 team since 2002, and was recently inducted into The Citadel’s Zucker Family Wall of Fame as well as receiving the Community Tribute honor from the MOJA Arts Festival.

EMCEE



ANN MCGILL
NEWS ANCHOR
CBS LIVE 5 NEWS

Debuting #WWB emcee Ann McGill, who lists covering Oprah Winfrey in Charleston after Hurricane Hugo as one of her most interesting assignments, has been with Live 5 News for 21 years. Among other awards, she has been honored with the Best Newscast award by the Associated Press of South Carolina, voted Best News Anchor by fans of the Black Expo, and inducted into the Williamsburg County School District Hall of Fame.

event host

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HOST



**LAVANDA
BROWN**

LAVANDA BROWN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
YWCA GREATER CHARLESTON

A formidable ally of women, LaVanda works hard each day to empower women and eliminate racism: YWCA.GC's dual mission. While honoring the nonprofit's powerful historic legacy with programs like its annual MLK Celebration, she has also transformed it with a series of highly effective programs including its Racial Equity Institute workshops, WE 360°, Y Girls Code, SheStrong, Own the Room, and #WhatWomenBring, among others.

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honorees & panelists

BUSINESS



SARAH CASTLE
DIRECTOR, AMAZON TECHNICAL
ACADEMY, AMAZON

A purposeful leader who transforms organizations and elevates people, Amazon executive Sarah was promoted to director before she was 40 years old.

Prior to taking her current role, she worked in Amazon's books division, on Amazon Alexa voice technology, and mergers & acquisitions: often as one of only a few women working on technical teams.

Today she is also an author and an

instructor at the College of Charleston, has served as a speaker at The Citadel's 2022 Women in Entrepreneurship series, and has been a guest on the Snack-Sized Business Podcast.

Sarah earned a master's degree from Cornell University after graduating *summa cum laude* with a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University. She is also a graduate of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Charleston program.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Finding career purpose: how to do it "all"
- 2 Race and gender disparities in technology and entrepreneurship

honorees & panelists

COMMUNITY



ILSIA MUÑOZ
DOJ ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE
IMMIGRANT CONNECTION

A strong advocate for the immigrant community with a keen sense of the needs and injustices faced by people of color, Ilsa is authorized by the Department of Justice to act as a legal representative for people in need as they file US Citizenship and Immigration Services paperwork.

She volunteers her time, expertise, and personal story to the Latino community in the Greenville area by presenting at high schools to inspire Latino students

with her own tale of hope and success, serving as a dance teacher to young girls at a Latino church, and interpreting sermons at a multicultural church into Spanish each week.

This multi-talented believer in justice for the oppressed, who graduated with honors from Clemson University as a single mother of two young boys, has also been featured by the Hispanic Alliance as one of 30 heroes representing the Latino community.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Immigration reform and rights
- 2 Anti-Blackness as a result of White supremacy, including anti-Blackness in the Latino community



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Boeing stands with those, like the YWCA Greater Charleston, who unite people and give them the opportunities to change the world.

 **BOEING**

honorees & panelists

COMMUNITY



MARGIE MOORE-WILLIAMSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE ARC OF SOUTH CAROLINA

A passionate advocate of people with lifelong disabilities and the parent of a son with autism, Margie leads a state-wide organization promoting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as supporting their full inclusion in the community.

As executive director of The Arc of South Carolina, she educates communities on the incredible abilities of people with disabilities.

She is also chair of the South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations and the Midlands chair of the South Carolina Human Service Providers Association. She has also chaired its legislative group and served as the legislative liaison and a parent educator for the South Carolina Autism Society.

A recipient of the Debbie Burton Award, she graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Limestone College.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Eliminating the need for a "special needs" program
- 2 Equality for all people with lifelong disabilities

honorees & panelists

EDUCATION



PATRICE BLACK DAVIS, ED.D
VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT SERVICES
TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The only African American vice president on the President's Cabinet at Trident Technical College, Patrice thrives on breaking down barriers for the joy of demonstrating that it can be accomplished and making it easier for the next woman.

A former member of the South Carolina Status of Women Task Force and the College of Charleston's Diversity Initiative, she was the first African American woman asked to serve as an

executive mentor in the North Carolina State Adult and Community College doctoral program, and one of two of the first women to be ordained as deacons of Charity Missionary Baptist Church. She sits on the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees and is the recipient of numerous awards. Patrice holds a bachelor's degree from Salem College, a master's degree from University of North Carolina Greensboro, and a doctorate from North Carolina State University.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Financial literacy for African American women and girls
- 2 Political engagement of the African American community: voting, power

Proud to sponsor

YWCA GREATER CHARLESTON'S WHAT WOMEN BRING



We are honored to support YWCA Greater Charleston and celebrate the successes of women in leadership across South Carolina.



SOUTH CAROLINA
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honorees & panelists

EDUCATION



SHERRIKA MYERS

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EVERY 1 VOICE MATTERS

A warrior for children who feel their voices don't matter, Sherrika is author of The Lil Herbie Series, a collection of English and Spanish children's books focused on social-emotional learning. She is also the creator of anti-bullying mascot Lil Herbie and the Lil Herbie animated series focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, financial literacy, and more. As the founder of Every 1 Voice Matters, Sherrika helps children tackle

barriers that hinder them from becoming the best version of themselves. She is the recipient of an ABC News 4 Jefferson Award, the Iota Phi Lambda Kappa Chapter Living Makers of Black History Award, Woman Life Changers Award, and a Black Excellence Community Award. This Trident Technical College alum was also named a 2020 Top 10 Entrepreneur by NY Weekly and has been featured by Black News Channel, ABC, NBC, CBS, E Monthly News, and others.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Community outreach
- 2 Equal education opportunity for all kids, especially those living in low-income communities

honorees & panelists

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



SHAKEIMA CLARK CHATMAN
OWNER, THE CHATMAN GROUP
WITH KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

Shakeima is on a mission to help every individual possess land as God has promised them. This author of "Possess the Land: The Believer's Guide to Home Buying" has been featured in REALTOR® magazine and Charleston Real Producers Magazine, named both a REALTOR of Distinction by the Charleston Trident Association of REALTORS® (CTAR) and Philanthropist of the Year by the Carlos Dunlap Foundation, and served as vice chair of the CTAR Diversity & Inclusion Task Force.

Shakeima has also hosted an Affordable Housing Town Hall to address a shortage of affordable housing in Charleston, worked with sellers to confront heirs' property problems, and served on multiple boards, including Increasing H.O.P.E. and the Jenkins Institute for Children.

Shakeima holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from South Carolina State University.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Affordable housing for African Americans
- 2 Empowerment of Black and Brown girls

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EXPLORE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE FIRSTHAND



CHARLESTON
COUNTY
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Congratulations

NATALIE HAM

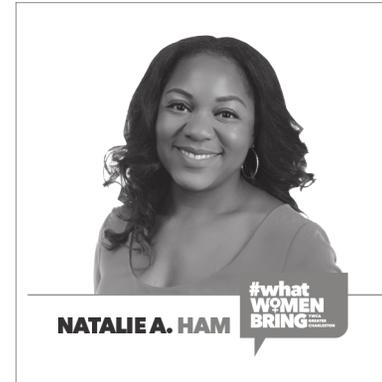
YWCA Greater Charleston 'What Women Bring'
Government Honoree



Natalie embodies our mission to promote and protect the quality of life in Charleston County by delivering services of value to the community.

honorees & panelists

GOVERNMENT



NATALIE A. HAM
COUNTY ATTORNEY
CHARLESTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

An advocate for breaking through glass ceilings and kicking down walls and doors in a way that leaves the door open for others to follow, Natalie serves as chief counsel for Charleston County Council.

As general counsel for the Charleston County School District, her previous role, she was featured by Vanguard magazine for her work helping to turn the tide of systemic racism there, and has been named one of National Black

Lawyers' Top 100.

She also serves as parliamentarian and bylaws chair for Jack & Jill of America's Charleston chapter, on the board of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, and on the SC Judicial Qualifications Committee for the SC Bar. A member of the James L. Petrigu Inn of Court, she is a graduate of the Riley Institute's Diversity Leadership Initiative Program and the University of South Carolina, where she earned her bachelor's, master's, and Juris Doctor degrees.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Helping leaders understand equality vs. equity
- 2 Representation and diversity in all areas of government

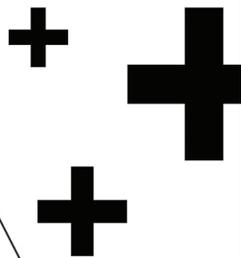
honorees & panelists

N | P S+
NP Strategy

**ALL
STRATEGIES
ARE NOT**

CREATED EQUAL

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The Charleston Gaillard Center enriches lives through the transformational power of the arts and is committed to **advancing equity and inclusion in policy and practice.**

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CHARLESTON
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CENTER

HEALTHCARE



RICHIE SIMONE LEE, BS, CLC, LCCE
OWNER
BIRTHING WITH PURPOSE, LLC

An educator and advocate for families of color preparing for a birth, Simone is a certified doula, lactation counselor, placenta encapsulation specialist, and Reiki practitioner. Inspired by the birth of her own children, she founded her firm to empower moms to make informed decisions about their experiences, to eliminate disparities for moms of color, and to improve overall birth outcomes in South Carolina.

She also co-founded, with community partners, the Berkeley Early Education & Care Collective, where she serves as doula mentor. She has presented twice at the Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing national conference on health disparities among pregnant Black women and served as volunteer doula at Florence Crittendon Home for pregnant teenage girls. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Charleston.

KEY ISSUES

- 1** The maternal mortality crisis in the US, especially for Black women
- 2** Eliminating food deserts; increasing rural access to quality healthcare

honorees & panelists

MEDIA



REBECCA RYAN COLLETT
OWNER
COLLETT MEDIA

As managing editor of NBC WCBD News 2, Rebecca led on-air and online content decisions for six hours of news daily before leaving to found her own public relations and video production firm... just two months before the pandemic hit. Accustomed to making decisions from a place of freedom rather than fear, the award-winning journalist—she took home the Associated Press Award for best investigative report in 2017—

was so successful her husband quit his job two years later. Along with running her boutique PR firm, she serves on the board of the Larry and Rebecca Collett Foundation, supporting global leadership and faith-based programs around the world.

Rebecca, who seeks to approach every conversation with a spirit of love and honesty, holds a bachelor's degree in electronic communications from the University of South Carolina.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Access and understanding of digital tools for all people, especially children
- 2 Supporting working mothers



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honorees & panelists

TECHNOLOGY



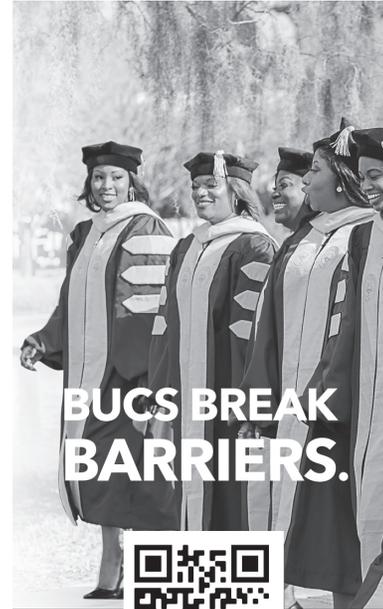
JESSICA D. KEARSE
SENIOR CONSULTANT
YOVANT

Jessica, head of a software project team at insurance technology firm Yovant, was a member of the executive team that revitalized the Clemson Black Alumni Council after years of dormancy. During her tenure on its board, she served as director of technology and communications, marketing, and special events, leveraging technology to raise efficiency and raising over \$20,000 for student programming and scholarships.

Today she serves on the board of insurance technology collaborative Its.col, where she chairs the talent committee. She has also served as vice president of the Edisto Clemson Club, a board member of the Clemson Women's Alumni Council and the Clemson Black Alumni Council, and a Young Professionals InsurTech panelist. This ambitious servant leader holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Clemson University and an MBA from Webster University.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Representation and diversity in insurance technology
- 2 Mentoring of students of color at predominantly White institutions



In December 2021, 10 of the 23 EdD graduates of CSU's first doctoral program were Black women. We are proud to empower women as they choose their path to purpose.



Learn more about CSU at charlestonsouthern.edu

The Arc of South Carolina is proud to support

WHAT WOMEN BRING

The Arc is on the frontlines to ensure that people with intellectual & developmental disabilities have the support and services they need to be fully engaged in their communities. arcsc.org



sample questions

- Q When and how did you get involved with diversity, equity, and inclusion work?
- Q How has COVID affected your work?
- Q What do you wish you knew before you started your business or career, which you can now share with women new to the field?
- Q How has your gender played a role in your career path?
- Q How do you use your platform to empower women of color?
- Q Who have been your role models throughout your life, and how did they influence you?
- Q What do you think about the influence of social media on young women?

*Honoring those who
**empower
and inspire**
South Carolina's
businesses,
communities,
culture and more.*



Dr. Patrice B. Davis
*2022 What Women Bring
Honoree, Education*

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#wwb leaders

THANK YOU!

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Robin Hillyer-Miles | YWCA.GC team
Tiffany Jonas | YWCA.GC team

YWCA.GC BOARD

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Courtney Johnson | Treasurer
Judge Tamara C. Curry | Past Board
Chair; Chair, Governance Committee

YWCA WISH

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A few hours per week & a warm heart are all that's needed.

Contact CJ at cj@ywcagc.org!

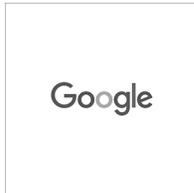
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Natasha Chisolm
Ardmease Cunningham
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Carol A. Jackson
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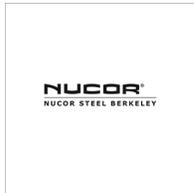
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TRENDSETTERS



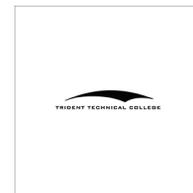
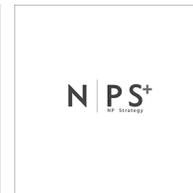
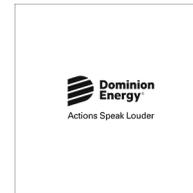
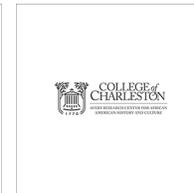
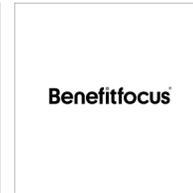
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#WHATWOMENBRING PARTICIPANTS, supporters, and sponsors are individuals committed to using their voices and positions, strength, courage, past experiences, and future opportunities to promote the full engagement of women in our society and support what women bring to our workplaces, conversations, industries, and communities.

#WHATWOMENBRING AWARDS recognize women who have made significant contributions to their professions and industries. They have demonstrated exemplary professional expertise, and their work or activities have contributed to community sustainability. They also exhibit a commitment to YWCA's mission to empower women.

#WHATWOMENBRING HONOREES serve as catalysts to advance their professions, contribute powerfully to their organizations, serve as role models and mentors to others (especially women), demonstrate a commitment to their communities through work and/or volunteerism, remain true to their values, and lead authentically.

#WHATWOMENBRING #WWB #POWERLUNCH #READYTOGETREAL



**#what
WOMEN
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#WHATWOMENBRING

honoring women in  business  community  culture