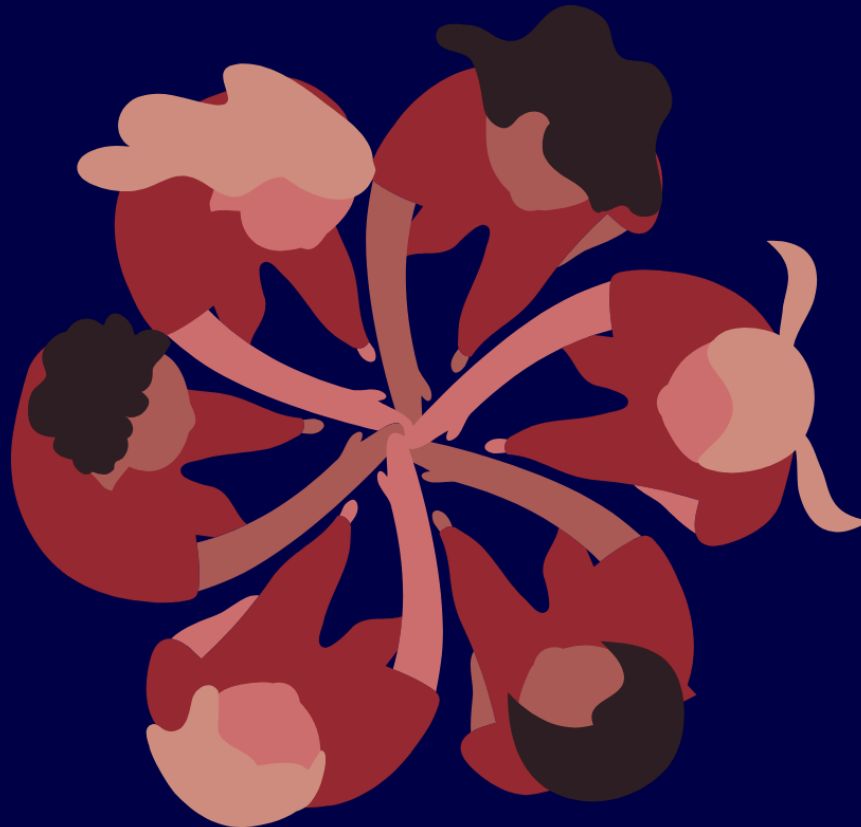




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expedia group™

International Women's Day



Speed Mentorship Event

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10 AM - 2 PM

Expedia Seattle

1111 Expedia Group Way, Seattle, WA



Andrea Ommen

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Job Title: Head of Talent Acquisition

Company: N/A

Industry: FinTech, MarTech, Design/UX Consultancy

First Job: Hostess/Server at La Foresta Italian Restaurant in Wake Forest, North Carolina

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day connects women and femmes around the world to the intersectional cause of advancing our rights by understanding where we have come from, and where we still need to go! I have been mentored and supported by countless women over my career, and plan on paying their generosity forward so that each generation of women leaders can be more successful than the last and we can finally achieve equity.

Biography: Originally from North Carolina, Andrea moved to Seattle to start her career after graduating from UNC-Asheville. She's spent the last 18 years in Talent Acquisition and Human Resources Management, in a wide variety of work environments. She currently lives in West Seattle with her husband, two adorable daughters, and rescue pup, Penny. What makes her a little different: She's a business-focused human resources leader. Her educational background is in Economics. She finds the study of systems and incentives, and how they affect and influence human behavior in varying environments fascinating. She applies what she continues to learn about incentive systems to craft people strategies that align with desired business outcomes and goals while centering humanity. She has helped build technology organizations from around 50 employees to thousands, and helped grow her function through an IPO. She has led teams and functions, created policies, helped organizations distill their culture, coached managers and executives on talent strategy (attraction, development, and retention), created, rolled out, and facilitated globally inclusive training for people across all timezones, and constructed strategic roadmaps to support business objectives. She has founded two BRGs for Parents and Caregivers, and continues to advocate for those whose second job begins when the work day ends. She has experienced her share of career setbacks; some environmental, and some self-imposed. She cherishes the opportunity to coach other professionals on their career journey, and humbly admits that the wealth of my wisdom comes from mistakes she's made, rather than any kind of exceptional intelligence.



AnnaMaria White

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Strategic Communications

Company: White Star Communications

First Job: High School Lifeguard

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Women are so important to each other, yet so often we put our needs secondary to everyone and everything else. I love that International Women's Day helps create space for us.

Biography: Founder and principal at White Star Communications, AnnaMaria brings over twenty years of strategic communications experience, spanning a variety of tech and product industries. She was the first in-house communications leader at Relativity Space, and oversaw all aspects of the company's brand leading into a \$500M Series D. Currently, AnnaMaria serves as a fractional communications partner and advisor for early stage climate tech companies and funds, including Aigen, which recently celebrated a successful Series A. Her work focuses on helping funds and companies hone compelling branding to reach investors, customers, and employees. AnnaMaria received her BA from Columbia University, and currently lives in the rainforests near Seattle with her husband, two children and their dog, Wash.



Catherine Shaw

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: VP, Consulting

Company: Sparkles

Industry: Management Consulting (current), and prior leadership experience in healthcare/ med tech, product and technology.

First Job: Working at the Gap in Bellevue Square!

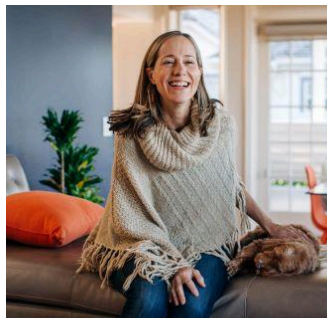
Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

She was drawn to her current role at Sparklos after often experiencing being the only woman at the table where power sits and decisions are made - leading to a strong desire to see more women in executive leadership, delivering business results that are not only rewarded, but also leading to career acceleration.

Meet Our Mentors

Catherine Shaw, continued

Biography: Catherine is a passionate global leader motivated by delivering meaningful business results. She began her career in San Francisco during the heady Internet days - and remembers fondly this as a time of profound personal and professional growth (and fun!!). She credits her steep learning curve from this time period as being critical to her role in driving successful exits at two private technology companies. Over the last ten years, she has focused on healthcare, and specifically how technology and AI can be a significant enabler to improve health access and outcomes. She was drawn to her current role at Sparklos after often experiencing being the only woman at the table where power sits and decisions are made - leading to a strong desire to see more women in executive leadership, delivering business results that are not only rewarded, but also leading to career acceleration. Fun Fact: She has strong ties to Expedia - consulted there when she was with Deloitte, and subsequently worked there, in a strategy role.



Christine Stoffels

Pronouns: She/Her/ella (bilingual English/Español)

Job Title: Founder

Company: Christine Stoffels Consulting

First Job: Paper Carrier (paper "girl")

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

I have had the benefit of traveling and meeting women from different parts of the world. When I returned to the US at 25 from my Peace Corps Guatemala assignment and was asked about my experience, I shared, "I learned more than I was able to teach". The women in Guatemala and those I've met since then, continue to teach me about humility, kindness, perseverance, trust, beauty, laughter and joy in the face of trauma and grief, and leadership. They are and were my mentors, friends, counterparts, colleagues, sisters. To me, mentorship, mentoring, is an ongoing and expansive experience that can take place in a 5 minute encounter with a stranger who imparts wisdom from the ages or a formal "mentoring" relationship that spans years. Recognizing that all of us are teachers and students and leaders and sharing the power and strength that women possess is what makes celebrating this day important to me.

Biography: Christine is a Washingtonian and is based in Seattle. She is the owner of a leadership and team development consultancy, is an International Coaching Federation certified leadership coach, former executive director for a national non-profit, former Peace Corps volunteer, is a Mama of teens and a furry baby, and se habla Español. Christine is passionate about building her antiracist practice. Her 50-year goal is to catalyze the Black Lives Matter movement at the C-Suite level. She is learning how to sail, play jazz piano, and

Meet Our Mentors

Christine Stoffels, continued

Christine says that her greatest achievement has been to learn how to love herself so that she can do better for others. Christine is a woman for others. It is evident in each strategic career move she has made. Professionally, Christine is equal parts adaptive and servant leader, and the passion and commitment to serving others is steadfast. Christine has executive presence and excellent cross-cultural facilitation skills and is particularly adept at creating spaces for listening, empathy, collaboration, and compassion - helping turn her clients' visions into actionable realities. She provides strategic insights from a coaching perspective and supports leaders and teams to build more equitable and inclusive organizational environments tied to their mission and core values. Her client and colleague references share that you'll enjoy working with her because she brings joy, a passion and commitment to equity and inclusion, and rigor to her work.



Deborah Keltner

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Consultant

Company: Deb Keltner

Industry: Professional Services/Brand/Marketing/Communications

First Job: Production Assistant

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

It's more important than ever for women to support each other. There are challenges that are unique to this time, and we need to lift each other up.

Biography: Work creates a platform to make the world better every day. Deb uses content, design, and technology to tell stories and connect with people about the issues they care about. She's been in B2B marketing her entire adult life, and it continues to challenge, surprise, and excite her. She's moved through agency, inhouse, and consulting roles - looking at business through these very different lenses has made me a well-rounded and insightful leader. In the early days, Deb tracked her impact using data including conversions, leads generated, and reach. She still does that, but now she also looks at business impact, communications effectiveness, brand alignment, and leadership capacity. Deb is a master communicator who understands business, end-to-end. She's recognized as a high-performance and purpose-driven executive, and she uses her experience to drive integrated marketing programs at international and domestic services firms. She's an empathetic and impactful collaborator who uplifts the C-suite through initiatives such as

Meet Our Mentors

change management, sustainability, and DEI. She's tapped for my expertise in marketing, storytelling, sales integration, business development, and branding.



Eileen Hoff

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Owner/Operator

Company: Eileen Hoff Design

Industry: Technology

First Job: Graphic Designer HarperCollins - Trade Publishing

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day holds much significance in my heart for a myriad of reasons. On this important day, we unite in celebration, toasting to our collective triumphs and milestones. It is a day that beckons us to turn our gaze towards one another, offering support, mentorship, and guidance to our fellow sisters. I believe it is imperative that we seize every opportunity to cast a spotlight on the uneven scales of how women are perceived and treated in various corners of the world. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the necessity to acknowledge and address these disparities with grace and determination.

Biography: Eileen Hoff is a respected leader in User Experience (UX), recognized for skillfully directing design teams to create innovative and scalable user-centric solutions. With a hands-on approach in UX strategy and a strong foundation in collaborative leadership, Eileen has a history of enhancing customer engagement and business outcomes across various industries. As the Principal Consultant at Eileen Hoff Design she leverages extensive experience to offer tailored UX consulting services, focusing on innovation, product design, and user research. This role followed a tenure as VP of Digital Product Design at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, where Eileen's strategic direction of UX teams yielded substantial growth in user retention and SaaS business expansion. In previous roles Eileen guided a comprehensive design organization, integrating user research and design thinking to elevate product experiences. She has created UX practices to support the design and strategy for enterprise content management solutions. She has utilized user-centered design methods, which transformed product design for aviation and commodities trading platforms as well as numerous financial services clients. Eileen holds a B.F.A. from Moore College of Art & Design and has pursued graduate studies in Human-Computer Interaction at Tufts University.



Emily Kim

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Co-Founder and Community Impact Director

Company: The Pastry Project

Also a keynote panelist!

Biography: Emily Kim was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. She attended the University of Washington and studied journalism and political science, before attending law school at Seattle University. Emily then worked in public policy in Washington, D.C. before returning home to work on legislative policy at Seattle City Council. After working in the public sector where she helped pass policies furthering equity and social justice, she joined Molly Moon's Ice Cream to help form and launch their non-profit, with the goal of getting milk and dairy to neighborhood food banks. She then headed their social impact and marketing team, leading both internal and external giving and equity initiatives, before meeting Heather and co-founding The Pastry Project. At The Pastry Project Emily gets to bring her love of pastry and social justice together as their Community Impact and Marketing Director. The Pastry Project provides free baking and pastry training to individuals with barriers to employment.



Emily Reiter

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Director, Communications & Marketing

Company: Saltchuk

Biography: As the Director of Communications and Marketing for Saltchuk, Emily helps share the story of the Saltchuk family of companies.

She was previously the Director of Marketing and Communications at TOTE, and Director of Communications and Philanthropy at TOTE Maritime Alaska.

Prior to Saltchuk, Emily was the General Manager of a local business journal where she gained experience in writing, editing, advertising, broadcast production, and event planning. Emily holds a B.A. in Communications from Washington State University.



Ghaddra Gonzalez Castillo

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Partnerships and Engagement Director

Company: Path with Art

First Job: At a market research company conducting door-to-door surveys

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day is important to me because I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that women face around the world, and I recognize that each of us can play a role in helping empower women in the fight for gender equity.

Biography: Ghaddra González Castillo has more than twenty years of experience working with vulnerable populations worldwide following a successful career in marketing and advertising. She leverages her expertise in strategic communications and marketing, arts education, and philanthropy to passionately advocate for people in need. She is currently the Partnerships and Engagement Director at Path with Art, a Seattle-based non-profit organization providing free arts engagement opportunities to low-income adults in active recovery from trauma.

Ghaddra focuses on reaching underserved communities and has launched Latino and military-veteran cohorts at Path with Art. She led Path with Art's conversion to online programming at the outset of the COVID pandemic. She has also volunteered with Mary's Place, Casa Latina, and the Fair Work Centre. Ghaddra spent 16 years living in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, where she worked with vulnerable women and children to help them leverage art to move beyond the challenges they faced. She also worked at leading art museums in Budapest, Sharjah, and Singapore. Before that, she spent 15 years serving multinational corporations as an advertising executive with major agencies in the United States and Venezuela. Ghaddra has a BA in Communications from Universidad Central de Venezuela.

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Hilary Reeves

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Writer & Author

Company: Saltchuk

Biography: Hilary Reeves spent 10 years as a newspaper reporter and editor before joining the Saltchuk family of companies as a communications consultant. Since People of Saltchuk launched in 2014, Reeves has interviewed more than 200 Saltchuk employees from operating companies all over the world. Born in Tacoma, Washington, Reeves is a former president of both the collegiate and local professional chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists, a graduate of the Society's Ted Scripps Leadership Institute, and a Toastmaster. When she's not writing, she loves to read, ski, and practice the piano. She lives in West Seattle with her husband and two teenage daughters.



Hilary Wells

Pronouns: She/her

Job Title: Founder/CEO

Company: Eight Arm Strategy

Industry: Marketing strategy, emerging B2C brands

First Job: Retail Sales Associate at Diane's Swimwear on Balboa Island, CA; First professional job: Associate Brand Manager at Davidson Software in Torrance, CA.

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Through both professional and personal travel, I've met so many amazing women and I'm eager to celebrate the unique ways women add value to our world

Biography: An experienced marketer with 15 years in leadership roles, I specialize in driving growth of purpose-driven consumer brands. My journey began in brand management within the educational software and toys industries before earning my MBA from UC Berkeley. Post-MBA, I developed my expertise through a variety of dynamic sectors, contributing to the success of companies like eBay, SoFi, Kaplan, and most recently, Little Passports. Fueled by a passion for entrepreneurship, I founded and currently lead a fractional marketing consultancy and advisory firm. Through this venture, I empower emerging brands with comprehensive marketing strategies and hands-on leadership. My expertise lies in creating and executing strategic multi-channel marketing plans that align with business priorities while maximizing resource efficiency.

Meet Our Mentors

Hilary Wells, continued

Beyond the boardroom, I am an avid world traveler, ski enthusiast, and dedicated parent. My diverse interests fuel my creativity, allowing me to approach marketing challenges with fresh perspectives.



Jen Mac

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Head of Communications

Company: Consiglieri

Industry: Marketing Services

First Job: Team member at Donato's Pizza

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

As a first-gen woman of color, International Women's Day makes me feel seen, heard, and empowered. It's not only a day to celebrate the accomplishments of the trailmakers around me, but to also serve as a call to action for the work that still needs to be done around gender equity. It's a day to support our allies and to remind everyone that an investment in women is an investment in a better future.

Biography: Jen Mac's career in marketing and communications was built on the idea that connection is key. With experience spanning multiple industries at places like Meijer, Eddie Bauer, T-Mobile, and now a modern marketing consultancy named Consiglieri – she's got a knack for steering teams toward amazing results. As part of Consiglieri's leadership team, Jen's work extends beyond traditional marketing functions. She's the driving force behind company initiatives, leading internal and external communications, and collaborating with creative teams to deliver impactful content for internal and senior client projects. Jen passionately supports Consiglieri's recruiting and talent acquisition process and community outreach efforts, making sure our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are consistently executed. No matter what she's doing, Jen's work is anchored in connection; bringing people together and fostering those important personal and professional relationships is central to everything I do. From navigating different worlds, to leading with empathy, she's all about creating impactful change inside and outside the marketing industry. Jen lives in the Seattle area with her husband Alex and beloved dog Lemon. She enjoys traveling, watching sports (especially rooting on her Michigan Wolverines), and bringing friends and neighbors together for fun get-togethers and events.



Jennifer Spatz

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Cultural Anthropologist and CEO/Founder

Company: Global Family Travels

First Job: Logistics Coordinator for DAI in Washington DC, sending international development specialists to countries in the Global South to do agricultural policy studies.

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day is a day to honor and celebrate the contributions women have made to their communities and the world, as well as day to uplift and empower women who are in poverty-stricken situations. Even with advancements in gender equality, today we still see barriers that disadvantage women's rights, from sexual violence, global income disparities and lack of global representation. Research indicates if countries prioritize advancements for women and gender equality on a global scale, we will see a significant stride in prosperity.

As travelers, we have the opportunity to make powerful choices that support women and girls worldwide, which provide equal access to education, health care, and decent work, ultimately helping to build sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. At Global Family Travels, we intentionally look for ways to empower women and girls by aligning trip themes with the globally recognized [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UNSDGs), such as this gender equality. An example of this is our trip to [Rwanda: Women & Empowerment](#) (see blog: [Rwanda: From Genocide to Healing. A Transformative Experience of Women's Empowerment](#))

Biography: A cultural anthropologist at heart, Jennifer Spatz is Founder and CEO of Bellevue, WA based [Global Family Travels](#), whose mission is to "[Learn, Serve and Immerse](#)," offering travelers the opportunity to authentically connect with the local people, cultures and natural environment of the destinations they visit. Using tourism to help solve community challenges, Jennifer designs sustainable travel opportunities in partnership with local and global non-profit organizations. Whether it is a one-day [community adventure in the Seattle area](#), or a [small group global adventure](#), each travel experience features a unique mix of cultural and educational activities, as well as authentic community engagement to help make a positive impact on the lives of people and natural habitat of the [destination](#). Jennifer is a thought leader in the travel industry and uses a [regenerative approach to tourism](#) and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UNSDGs) to ensure that the travel experiences she designs benefit local communities and intentionally improve social and environmental systems, so that all beings can thrive.

Meet Our Mentors

Jennifer Spatz, continued

She has spoken about the topic at several travel conferences, and was featured in a recent Podcast on the topic featuring the recently launched [Seattle Street Hues Urban Art](#) project:

- [Regenerative Tourism: When Sustainability isn't Enough](#)

She is also a [Transformational Travel Designer and Ally](#) for the [Transformational Travel Council](#) and served as a Chapter Lead for the Greater Seattle Chapter of [Impact Travel Alliance](#). Prior to founding Global Family Travels, Jennifer spent her career in international development, trade, and finance, and worked in Washington D.C. for the Foreign Agricultural Services of the USDA before moving to Seattle to work as an Export Credit Manager for Weyerhaeuser. She holds a double B.A. in International Political Science and Anthropology from Bates College, and a M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.



Judy Mirkin

Pronouns: She/her

Job Title: Technology Executive/Consultant/Board Member

Company: Board Member at LifeWire (formerly Eastside Domestic Violence) and Central WA University - IT and Management

Industry: Technology, Global Enterprise Software and Services

First Job: International Data Operator at age 14 for a Global Travel Agency

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

I have been an advocate for women, their rights, their advancement, and their place at the head table since Day 1. As a global female executive in a male dominated environment, I had to fight at times for any measure of equality, respect for my contributions and my knowledge, and demolish stereotypes. The future talent that is being celebrated this IWD will continue to need help and guidance; and there is no other place that I would rather be than to add my strength and support to our important community and the goals we want to achieve.

Biography: Judy is a 360° out of the box performer and senior business executive who has grown sales revenues exceeding \$1B, executed solutions portfolios for enterprise and global accounts, and has built partner leveraged businesses in the high technology industry. Judy has a unique vantage viewpoint as she has held executive positions as a director of IT, sales leader, consultant, alliance development and board executive. Selling across vertical markets with complex opportunities in every region worldwide, Judy has been able to create global strategies; and effectively lead customers/colleagues to morph problems or measured risks to advance business goals.

Judy Mirkin, continued

With over 25 years of identifying possibilities and implementing transformation, Judy credits her broad work experience at AT&T, Microsoft, and various F500 selling and management roles with creating technology alignment, channel development, business strategy/planning, field operations and execution. Judy is effective at bridging collaboration, trust, morale and loyalty across teams; driving influence; and advising on new business acquisitions, integration, and alliance partnerships.



Julia Freeland

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Executive Coach/Author/Humergence Engineer

Company: Revolve You

First Job: Red Cross 'Meals on Wheels' Coordinator at 15

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

I believe the best decisions are made when we are in balance. To achieve a better future globally, in our governments, our environment, and our societies, we need to tip the scales more towards the feminine energy. Only then, when we see balance between the male and female power will we realize the true potential for humankind and realize greater balance and peace for all. I have been a champion of women and helped them see beyond their limits for most of my life. Today, while I am still an advocate for women, my focus is shifting to empowering everyone to embrace change more easily.

Biography: Julia Freeland is the founder of Revolve You, the creator of the Humergence Model, and the author of the best-selling book "Take Your Shoes Off First: A story about a simple idea with the power to change everything." She is a nationally recognized expert in helping humans embrace change and a formally trained engineer and educator who has spent her life helping others unlock their ability to adapt and get through the hard parts of life easier. After rising through a trifecta of trials over 10 years, Julia noticed a pattern to how she kept becoming a version of herself that was better equipped to thrive in changed conditions of her life. Four years of research and experimentation later, she discovered the process of Humergence and proved that adversity can be easier to get through when you have the capacity to harness your human nature, getting it to work for you rather than against you. Today, she coaches, writes, and speaks about her journey and work,empowering people to thrive in our changing world.



Julia Penfield

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: VP, Research and Machine Learning

Company: VelocityEHS

Industry: Environmental, Health, and Safety SaaS

First Job: Electrical Engineer

Why does International Women's Day matter to you? For 101 reasons, but workwise in particular, because I believe it is a moral and economic imperative to encourage women to advance in their career and aim for the highest rankings in their organizations.

Biography: Dr. Julia Penfield, Vice President of Research and Machine Learning at VelocityEHS, leads the Research department in the R&D organization, where she has worked on a range of machine learning and data science projects. She has expertise in application of artificial intelligence, in particular Machine Learning, for risk assessments, failure prediction, anomaly detection, long-term and short-term forecasting with proper uncertainty estimations, root cause diagnostics, and mathematical optimizations.

In VelocityEHS, Julia has utilized Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Computer Vision (CV) in several machine Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) software solutions projects. In her previous role, Julia led the machine learning and data sciences team of BC Hydro, one of Canada's largest energy suppliers in British Columbia, Canada. There, she led several programs, including the electrical demand forecasting using advanced probabilistic recurrent neural networks architecture, the generation of plant asset failure prediction using unsupervised machine learning, and wind farm generation forecasting using fully connected neural networks architecture. Julia received her Ph.D. in the application of machine learning in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada. She has 4 patents with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and several peer-reviewed publications.



Lakshmi Nidamarthi

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Chief Product Officer

Company: Former DreamBox Learning, Former Amazon

Industry: ECommerce, ED Tech, AI

First Job: Education Consultant, Software Developer

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Women working across technology, and many other fields, stand upon the shoulders of countless women who have made our choices possible — be it the ability to vote, get an education, or the freedom to choose what's best for our bodies. A Ruth Bader Ginsburg quote that resonates deeply for me. *"Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. That means don't do it just for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having tried."*

Every day I draw inspiration from leaders like Ruther Bader Ginsburg. When I have an opportunity to hire talent or build teams, I look across leadership to evaluate if we have the right representation at the table. While I may not get it right every single time, I strive to work towards equity. I also like to reflect on my daily work by asking myself if I've improved an idea, project, or team. I constantly think of ways in which I can add value to make things better for the next person, team, or generation. This strategy has shaped the way I approach my work and live my life. International Women's Day is one such day to celebrate women across all industries and my opportunity to give back.

Biography: Lakshmi Nidamarthi is an executive leader and innovator with over two decades of expertise in building cross-functional teams in the delivery of technology, product development, operations, and design results on a global scale. Most recently, as Chief Product Officer for DreamBox Learning, she drove a series of cutting-edge new EdTech solutions and helped scale the business to a successful acquisition by Evergreen Coast Capital in 2023. During her extensive tenure at Amazon, Lakshmi left an indelible mark, demonstrating profound proficiency in the Marketplace platform. Notably, she led Alexa's monetization and product verticals, including news and the Alexa app. She pioneered the launch of groundbreaking products such as Amazon's Kindle and introduced industry-leading sustainability innovations like Frustration-Free Packaging. Her impact extended beyond product development, encompassing successful business growth, international expansion, and the implementation of workforce excellence, alongside a commitment to robust reporting and auditing practices. A proven architect of success, Lakshmi is driven by a passion for applying technology at the intersection of profit and purpose, particularly within the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Her track record is

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distinguished by the launch and sustenance of world-class products that drive growth, revenue, and innovation.

Lakshmi Nidamarthi, continued

Beyond her corporate endeavors, Lakshmi is deeply committed to societal advancement. Her role as a board member and Chair of the Governance Committee for the Washington Autism Alliance (WAA) reflects her dedication to initiatives related to education and neurodiversity. Additionally, her previous role as a board member of Asians@Amazon and active involvement with nonprofits like Amrita Seattle and Shanti Bhavan Children's Project further underscore her commitment to providing support to underrepresented populations globally and helping advance the career success of women and minorities. Currently serving as an advisor for an AI-based streaming platform, Lakshmi Nidamarthi is not only a builder at heart, but also a catalyst for positive change. Ms. Nidamarthi holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and a Masters in Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Laura C. Rudert

Job Title: Strategy and Management

Company: Former Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Former Millennium Challenge Corporation

My thoughts on this year's IWD theme: This year's theme, Inclusion, is more critical than ever. Inclusion isn't only about fairness- it's also about resilience and reinvention. Because the

truth is that traditional approaches to problem-solving aren't cutting it. The world is navigating crucial conversations and decisions about climate, AI, the future of work, diversity, and economic inequality. More inclusive workplaces, economic and political systems, R&D, education, healthcare, and security are needed to create more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous economies. No one group or demographic holds the key to solving these problems. I want my daughter to inherit a more equitable, peaceful, prosperous, and regenerative world- and I know you do too.

Biography: Laura C. Rudert has two decades of experience leading global economic development and poverty reduction programs. Formerly Deputy Director of strategy and management of global policy and advocacy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, she also served as a Senior Executive in the US Government. In 2012, the Diplomatic Courier Magazine recognized her as one of the top 99 foreign policy professionals under 33. During her 14-year tenure at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Laura held various roles, including Resident Country Director in Cote d'Ivoire where she collaborated with the Prime Minister to implement a \$545 million infrastructure and reform program during the COVID-19

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pandemic. Her contributions also include supporting the White House National Security Council on Power Africa and Partnerships for Growth. Laura collaborated with the Prime Ministers of Senegal and

Laura Rudert, continued

Lesotho in the design of critical energy investments, and health systems strengthening and enabling environment reforms for private investment. As Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Laura was responsible for evaluating a global portfolio of \$3 billion investments. Prior to joining MCC, Laura managed Counterpart International's food security programming in Africa. Laura holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. There, she helped teach a graduate course on the Politics of Development Policy and was a researcher on African governance for the OECD and Mo Ibrahim Foundation. She has lectured at the University of Washington on social entrepreneurship and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from New College of Florida. Laura is fluent in Spanish and speaks French.



Madalina Man

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Legislative and Regulatory Specialist

Company: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory – PNNL

First Job: Legal Intern, Office of Legal Affairs, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Women have always had and will continue to have key contributions in the areas of security, non-proliferation, international law and good governance. March 8 is an important holiday that brings back in focus not only the women's rights movement, but also universal efforts for peace and security, equality, decent standard of living, dignity and human rights.

Biography: Madalina Man is a lawyer specializing in nuclear security and nonproliferation, with experience in public international law and treaty implementation. In her role as a legislative and regulatory specialist, she contributes to the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Radiological Security, International Nuclear Security, Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence, and International Nuclear Safeguards Engagement program. Her focus is the development and implementation of technical assistance, helping partner countries to improve their national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials security. She also advises DOE headquarters on strategies for the universalization and implementation of international instruments for

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nuclear security. She is also the Chair of the Working Group on Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation of the International Nuclear Law Association.

Malinda Man, continued

Meet Our Mentors

Madalina spent almost a decade working for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in various roles, ranging from legal research and analysis on international treaties and agreements to managing the IAEA nuclear security assistance portfolio for 25 member states. Madalina contributed to shaping and promoting the IAEA's Nuclear Security Division's program of legislative and regulatory assistance, by developing guidance, reference and training material, and designing diplomatic engagements and implementation strategies. She enjoys working collaboratively across diverse teams and engaging with a multitude of stakeholders to offer technical assistance in a tailored and strategic fashion. She has been fortunate enough to collaborate with a suite of international organizations, ministries and governmental agencies, and to build a network of contacts across many states. These interactions have refined her professional experience and led her to appreciate domestic challenges that governmental institutions face in their efforts to enhance CBRN materials' security.



Mallory Blaylock

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: General Manager

Company: YPCommunities

Industry: Non-profit

First Job: Apple Retail

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Being raised by a single mom I saw first hand, and learned to appreciate very early in life the incredible strength and power of women. I have had some of the most amazing women as role models in my life, here and all over the world both professionally and personally and I want to create and cultivate those relationships in my community and in others. I believe that there is room for everyone at the table and that there is strength and beauty in lifting each other up. I am honored to be part of a community that empowers each other, appreciating the things that bring us together while celebrating the things that make us unique. I believe in the power of women and the wonderful things that we can accomplish together.

Biography: Mallory is a trivia nerd, coffee lover, tarot reader, vinyl collector and art history buff from Northern California. She went to school in San Diego and moved to Seattle on a dare from her sister about 10 years ago. Since then she has loved discovering new coffee shops, concert venues, farmers markets and spending time with my family, especially her almost 2 year old nephew. She has a passion for community and connection and a background in Hospitality and customer service. After getting her bachelors in Graphic

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Design, she worked in several industries including Event Planning, Print and Web Production, Community Management / Coworking and now Nonprofit.



Mallory Boulter

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: VP, Business Enablement and Reporting

Company: Remitly

First Job: Gonzaga Athletics department (work study program!)

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

I believe that Melinda Gates says this best: "If you want to lift up humanity, empower women. It is the most comprehensive,

pervasive, high-leverage investment you can make in human beings."

— Melinda Gates, *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*

Biography: Where to start? I am a community leader with a passion for equity, economic empowerment and all things people and culture - Focused on advancing women and youth in our global communities, and building trusted relationships with people and organizations to build strong communities. I have had the opportunity to live in several places around the globe - Growing up in the U.K., moving to Seattle in junior high, living in Australia for a year in college, and then 10 years in Boston, before returning back home to Seattle. I am a leader, a woman, a runner, a skier, someone who is passionate about people, culture, and learning, and an avid traveler, exploring the globe to new places whenever I can.

I currently work in finance at Remitly, supporting new initiatives and external reporting, and co-leading our women's affinity group in the US. Prior to this role, I led PwC's *Capital Markets & Accounting Advisory Services Deals* team in the Pacific Northwest, supporting companies through transformative changes, such as acquisitions and public and private offerings. In the community, I am a club advisory board member for the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, and have spent the last 9 years supporting youth education for families in a small community in Tanzania, focused on advocacy and creating sustainable change together.

While my locations and roles have changed over the years - one thing has been a driving force for purpose: *Showing up for others to inspire confidence and believe in themselves* - and in particular, partnering together with other women and youth to support education, economic opportunity, and fostering community to support each other. A quote from Bob Goff has always stood out to me: "*Pick something you aren't just able to do; instead, pick something you feel like you were made to do and then do lots of that.*" And while I haven't yet gotten that "right" every day to day - it certainly keeps me centered on taking one step closer to that purpose, on my journey.



Marina Hennessy

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Vice President, Partner Relations

Company: American Diabetes Association

First Job: Frontline retail sales

Industry: Healthcare, Non-profit

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

As an "international and immigrant woman" myself and a mother of 3 girls, empowering women across the world, particularly in underserved communities, has been both

my professional and personal passion.

Marina Hennessy, continued

I had the privilege to work with women of all ages across many parts of the world (Africa, Asia, Middle East, Eastern Block and North America) and in all of my work women who were given opportunities, access to resources and skills were instrumental in lifting their communities out of poverty and enabling positive change in livelihoods and health.

Biography: Marina brings over two decades of program leadership, alliance building and stakeholder engagement in complex healthcare and international contexts. From Kenya to Sri Lanka to Myanmar to the UK and the US, Marina has fostered and led innovative public-private partnerships, driving mutual value while generating transformational change in livelihoods while improving health in under-resourced communities.



Mimi Li

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Board of Directors

Company: 1,000 Dreams Fund

Industry: Tech

First Job: Research Associate @ NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day is an opportunity for women and our allies to elevate each other, celebrate how far we've come and recognize that there is still so much more to do in our journey. My career is the product of many amazing mentors and sponsors. I am always looking for ways to pay it forward. #InvestInWomen

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Biography: Mimi is a data executive with 23 years of experience across a myriad of industries including aerospace, healthcare, telecom, gaming, e-commerce, and payments. She just completed 4 years at Stripe in October, where Mimi led orgs that built metrics and reporting infrastructure to make Stripe public ready and scaled analytics for business teams across the globe. Prior to Stripe, Mimi led the product engineering org that relaunched Amazon Prime Member Central with ML driven campaign automation and optimization. Mimi is currently on the Board of Directors for 1,000 Dreams Fund, a non-profit that helps women achieve their dreams through microgrants, mentorship and more. Outside of work, Mimi loves musicals and the circus, but is terrified of clowns. She also has a passion for designing and transforming living, working and outdoor spaces. Her latest project is Sun Rose Cabin, an Airbnb in Granite Falls, WA.

Miya Nazzaro

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Managing Attorney

Company: Nazzaro PLLC

Industry: Legal

First Job: Business Consultant

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

It is important to honor the public and private achievements of women that add to our economic, political, social, and cultural centers. It is also an opportunity to create intentional programs that empower more girls and women to effectively participate in the economic and political spheres.

Biography: Miya Nazzaro, Managing Attorney at Nazzaro, uses business strategy to counsel clients, leveraging her background as an entrepreneur and executive in finance and development. Miya supports businesses from formation to exit, and those who are solopreneurs to multimillion dollar enterprises. She works with clients to successfully develop and execute business strategies that lead to explosive revenue growth and scalable legal systems. She has worked with clients to successfully develop and execute business strategies that led to explosive revenue growth and scalable legal systems. As part of the overall business and exit strategies, she has negotiated multi-million dollar Federal and foreign government contracts, teaming agreements, strategic agreements, and asset purchase agreements. In addition, she has counseled clients on corporate governance matters such as risk management practices, the adoption of policies and procedures, and effective training programs. She has overseen government audits and instituted policies and procedures to streamline compliance functions. Miya helps clients understand how to effectively integrate legal insights into operational management and why it is important that

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legal functions should not sit divorced from other business functions. Since 2022, Nazzaro has served entrepreneurs, growth businesses, and those in the nonprofit and social enterprise sectors. Nazzaro is pioneering a law firm model that encourages attorneys to recognize their boundaries and practice self-care to better serve their clients. Nazzaro actively supports women and minority-owned businesses.



Nicole Bateman

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Senior Research Manager

Company: USAFacts

First Job: (1st job related to my current career path) Senior Research Assistant @ Brookings

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

I welcome any opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women! It's also an excellent moment for reflecting on where work is still needed and to support/lift up one another.

Biography: Nicole Bateman is a Senior Research Manager at USAFacts, a non-partisan, not-for-profit civic initiative focused on making government data accessible and understandable to the American public. Prior to joining USAFacts in 2021, Nicole was a Senior Research Analyst at the Brookings Institution with the Metropolitan Policy Program. While at Brookings, her research and analysis focused on workers and the labor market, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for those our economy most often leaves out or leaves behind. She received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington Evan's School where she also served as a Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Mark Long. Under Long, she worked on projects studying the long-term impacts of AP courses on high school students and the end of affirmative action at large public universities. She completed her bachelor's degree at Seattle University in Political Science and English Literature.



Molly O'Connor

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Senior Program Manager, Strategy

Company: Remitly

First Job: Office assistant at athletic club

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

It's a reminder of the progress we've made to support women's rights and the vast opportunities we still have.

Biography: I'm from Milwaukee, WI and I currently live in Seattle, WA. I studied Finance and Spanish in college, but I didn't end up pursuing these areas! I have

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experience at large and start up financial service companies focused on strategic operations. I

Molly O'Connor, continued

like spending my time at work solving complex and ambiguous problems by partnering with teammates around the world. In my personal life, I spend a lot of time cooking and eating great food and hanging out with my dog!



Monique Gablehouse, MSW, LICSW

Pronouns: She/Her/Elle

Job Title: COO, Post Acute Care

Company: EvergreenHealth

Industry: Healthcare

First Job: Domestic Violence Advocate

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Mentorship is a passion of mine. Especially enjoy mentoring other BIPOC women and watching them grow in their careers. We've come a long way... but we have a long way to go.

Biography: Monique Gablehouse is responsible for home health, hospice, palliative medicine, behavioral health, and virtual/digital health services at EvergreenHealth as the COO of Post Acute Care. She is also the Executive Sponsor for their Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Council. Gablehouse joined EvergreenHealth in 1998 as an Emergency Department social worker and served in several leadership roles. She was then promoted to Hospice and Palliative Care Director (2008), Home Care Executive Director (2010) and Vice President, Clinical Integration & Home Care/Hospice (2012) prior to the COO position in 2019. As the VP of Clinical Integration, she helped launch the first Clinically Integrated Network (CIN) in the Puget Sound region in 2013, EvergreenHealth Partners. In 2017, she expanded the CIN to 4 hospitals and over 1,300 providers as Eastside Health Network. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Washington, along with a Master of Social Work degree. She is on the board of LifeWire (Together Against Domestic Violence). Gablehouse is an avid fan of Husky football and does not miss a game or sailgate. She lives with her husband and three daughters in Kirkland, WA. She enjoys international travel and has lived/worked in several countries including Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, and Ecuador.



Pamela Oakes

Pronouns: She/Her/Queen!

Job Title: Owner/Principal Consultant

Company: The Profitable Nonprofit

First Job: Herfy's Hamburgers

Also a keynote panelist!

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

Because it is important to recognize and be reminded of the fact that when women are empowered local economies are strengthened, families are better able to rise out of poverty and more skilled labor is added to the workforce. In other words, if you want a better world and a better life - empower a woman!

Biography: Owner of The Profitable Nonprofit, has remained at the forefront of driving racial equity solutions across the globe. She consulted with the top 100 corporations in South Africa during the post-apartheid Racial Reconciliation period, conducting training workshops for government, corporate, community, and faith-based organizations in the areas of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Gender Equity, Employment Equity, Affirmative Action, Organizational Transformation, and Change Management. Pamela worked for nearly a decade with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As a grant maker managing a multi-million dollar portfolio, her team worked to create a more equitable system of promoting social mobility and economic development for low-income, underrepresented, student populations of color. In 2020, she designed a participatory engagement strategy for the Race & Equity Advisory Committee of a Californian community foundation on their multi-year \$4.5Billion initiative. The project goal was to implement inclusive economic initiatives targeting disparate outcomes in health and economic mobility for specific races and vulnerable populations. In 2021, Pamela facilitated a mayoral-appointed community taskforce developing investment recommendations as part of a \$100 Million City of Seattle initiative. This initiative was an historic investment in BIPOC communities addressing the deep disparities caused by systemic racism and institutionalized oppression.



Ramya Grama

Pronouns: She/Hers

Job Title: Founder CEO

Company: SvaDhruthi (Non-Profit) & Starprise Global (Business consulting & Skill development)

Industry: Technology Consulting - FinTech, HealthTech,

AviationTech

First Job: Business intelligence software engineer on Wall Street, Bank of NY Mellon

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

IWD is a reminder of the work that is yet to be done to enable an equitable society. It's a day to engage, enable & empower.

Biography: "Transformation is the relentless pursuit of aligning your actions to your purpose with an inclusive mindset that leads to thriving in harmony." – Ramya Grama

Ramya's passion to actively engage and create positive social impact led her to start my nonprofit called SvaDhruthi, be Self Reliant.

Ramya Grama, continued

An organization aimed at empowering the vulnerable to thrive with education & wellness with a team of dedicated volunteers across age groups & identities. Ramya is the Executive Director of Starprise Global, a Business Transformation Consulting & Coaching services company. As a business transformation strategist & product coach, she helps business & professionals discover their path to prosperity. As a curious explorer, she has always marveled at the dynamism of the environment and nature around me. Her school walks provided her with more learning experiences than traditional classrooms—observing people and discovering the beauty of plants. Growing up as a misfit, Ramya is self-taught in the art of learning, falling in love with solving impactful problems. Her journey to self-discovery taught me to lead with kindness, guiding others to overcome obstacles and realize their dreams. As an optimist, visual thinker, engineer, and entrepreneur, she sees the art of the possible. Connecting with people in meaningful ways and leveraging technology, she's helped businesses and professionals transform toward new pathways of growth. Over two decades, she has had the privilege to create value for over 25 medium to large enterprises across Fintech, Aerospace, Healthcare, and Retail. Additionally, she's positively impacted over 200 professionals, aiding them in navigating career transitions within product and technology domains. At Starprise Global, her journey continues through Business Transformation Consulting & Coaching Services. As the founder of SvaDhruthi, a non-profit organization, Ramya leads a dedicated team of volunteers committed to empowering vulnerable communities sustainably. 🌱☀️



Rashmi Rao

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Managing Director

Company: Recubed Ventures

Industry: Tech Entrepreneurship

Biography: Rashmi Rao is an accomplished entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in the Consumer,

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Automotive, and Healthcare industries and 40+ patents. She has built and launched innovative products and businesses that have generated over \$500M in revenue. As a passionate advocate for innovation and sustainability, Rashmi constantly seeks new ways to drive change and positively impact people's lives through technology. With a proven track record of accomplishment, Rashmi has been instrumental in building and launching new products and businesses in three distinct industries at Qualcomm, Apple, Samsung, and Philips Healthcare.

Rashmi Rao, continued

As the founder of rcubed | ventures, Rashmi is committed to leveraging her expertise to help identify and disseminate transformative ideas with the potential for global impact. rcubed | ventures is focused on fostering innovation by providing investment and strategic guidance to select startups especially founded by women and minorities.

In addition to her leadership experience, Rashmi is an active STEM advocate and passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to the technology and business fields, including being inducted into the Women in Technology Hall of Fame by WITI.



Rebecca Wilson

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Director of Organizational Capacity

Company: Seattle Universal Math Museum

First Job: 1st official job - Nordstrom stock room and sales, 1st unofficial job - selling produce from the family garden

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day serves as a time of reflection for me every year. I have been fortunate enough to have been supported by amazing women throughout my career. I use this time to celebrate them and also commit to supporting other women through my professional and volunteer roles.

Biography: Rebecca Wilson's professional and community work focus on her passion for furthering education, volunteerism and healthy communities. Professionally, Rebecca works as the Director of Organizational Capacity at the Seattle Universal Math Museum. She also is an education placement consultant, assisting families with the school search process. A Washington State native, Rebecca holds a B.A. in Psychology and Communication from Western Washington University, a Master's Certificate in Organizational Change and Leadership from Hawaii Pacific University and a Master's of Education Degree in Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Texas at Arlington. She is also a 2010 graduate of the Leadership Tomorrow Seattle program. Rebecca's civic involvement mirrors her professional work. She currently serves as a member and Past President of the Burke

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Museum Association Board of Directors, Founder and Past President of the Seattle Children's Color Me Happy Guild, sustaining member and Past President of the Junior League of Seattle, member of the Seattle Repertory Theater board of trustees and a member of the advisory board of the National Museum and Center for Service.

Rebecca Wilson, continued

Rebecca has also held volunteer leadership roles with the Sanctuary Art Center, YMCA of Greater Seattle, The Ruby Room, YMCA of the USA, Seattle Works, Girls on the Run and the Seattle Center Advisory Commission. In her free time, Rebecca enjoys running, golf, tennis and cheering on the Seahawks and Mariners.



Roxy Stimpson

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: VP of Engineering | Head of Innovation

Company: F5, Inc.

Industry: Technology

First Job: Embroidery Maker & Business Owner studies.

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day matters to me because it emphasizes the challenges women face locally and globally. It's a chance to uplift women's voices, advocate for solutions, and work towards a community with equal opportunities.

Biography: Roxy is a technology industry veteran with over two decades of experience. She's the VP of Engineering and Head of Innovation at F5, where she accelerates innovation and leads the company's AI initiatives. Roxy has a proven track record of delivering scalable solutions across industries, leveraging her expertise in IoT, cloud computing, data analytics, and lean agile processes. She's passionate about empowering individuals and believes in using technology and human connections to create positive change.



Rubelyn Chu

Job Title: Co-Founder

Company: Access2

First Job: Operations Assistant at my high school's student store, Data Entry Clerk with Food Services of America

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Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day matters to me because growing up, I didn't see very many women of color or representation in the business industry, specifically in the C-Suite.

Rubelyn Chu, continued

When I was younger, the idea of equality for women was rarely spoken about as much as it is today. It's important to continue with the progress that has been made for women, but there's a lot more work to be done.

Biography: [Rubelyn Chu](#) is the Seattle Community Leader with YPCommunities, and Co-Founder of [Access2](#), a sourcing and staffing marketplace that operates in tandem with community organizations. We help ensure that space is occupied by providing opportunity through events and storytelling through our unique platform, one of them being sports. Rubelyn is also part of the Alumni Advisory Board and Advisee in the Entrepreneurship Program at Northwest University and is a mentor to local high school and college students and in the local startup community. When Rubelyn isn't working, Rubelyn can be found in the gym, going on road trips/traveling or with family and friends.



Sarah Frazar

Job Title: Senior Nonproliferation Policy Advisor

Company: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

Biography: Sarah Frazar is a senior nonproliferation policy advisor at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). Her work explores the policy implications of PNNL's technical solutions, focusing specifically on the impact emerging technologies will have on U.S. Government nonproliferation missions. She specializes in international safeguards policy and implementation, with a particular focus on establishment of State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material and nuclear infrastructure development. Before joining PNNL, she was the deputy team lead in the International Nuclear Safeguards Engagement Program and a Nonproliferation Graduate Program fellow at the National Nuclear Security Administration. She started her career in national security serving as a researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; development director and investigative reporter covering national security issues at the National Security New Service; and White House intern. She received her undergraduate degree in government from Colby College and her master's degree in security studies from Georgetown University. Sarah is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the World Affairs Council in Seattle.



Shelley Knisley

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Job Title: Head of Sales & Customer Success

Company: Armoire Style

Industry: Retail, Ecommerce, Fashion

First Job: Food service – Front of House, McAlister's Deli in Richmond, VA

Biography: Shelley is a dynamic sales leader with a proven track record in strategic account management and customer success. As Head of Sales & Customer Success at Armoire, Shelley is proud to lead the team to provide elevated member experience, and foster corporate and event partnerships to help spread the Armoire story and help working women show up stylishly and sustainably in their lives. She's a proud new mom, and passionate about how we show up for working parents to support and sustain healthy balance and allow folks to bring their full selves to their community.



Sherri Lynch, PhD.

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Job Title: Assistant Dean

Company: Gonzaga University

First Job: Courtesy Clerk at Rosauers Supermarkets in Spokane, WA

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

The celebration of women and shining a light on the advancement of women is a true reason to celebrate! This day is about the community that women create and the many gifts that women bring into the spaces they are in. This day is about celebrating what it means to be female, what it means to be a part of a community, and what it means to lift others. This day reminds me that we don't do this work alone and that we are better and can do more when we collaborate.

Biography: Sherri Lynch, Ph.D. is the Assistant Dean of the School of Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University. A trained sales and marketing professional for most of her professional career, Sherri has worked in a variety of industries, from pharmaceutical to retail. She took a 10-year break in her career to be a "stay-at-home mom," a term she finds laughable. In higher ed since 2014, Sherri has worked to provide corporations with access to leadership education, ranging from professional development to graduate level. Sherri founded the Women Lead initiative at Gonzaga, with a mission to educate and empower women toward personal and career advancement.

Sherri Lynch, continued

Sherri co-designed and teaches in the Certificate in Women's Leadership Program at Gonzaga and is a faculty member in the Comprehensive Leadership Program, an undergraduate leadership program. Sherri's doctoral research focused on women's leadership and the ways women build community. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and events, focusing on leader identity, emotional intelligence, and female leadership topics. Sherri obtained her Bachelor of Arts, her Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership, and her Ph.D. in Leadership Studies degrees from Gonzaga University. She serves as Vice Chair for the Board of Directors at Canopy Credit Union in Spokane and is a member of the Board of Directors for the YWCA of Spokane. In her off time, Sherri enjoys spending time outdoors, training for her next adventure, and traveling the world with her family.



Sindhura Bikkani

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Director, Software Development Engineering

Company: Expedia Group

Industry: Technology/Software Engineering

Also a keynote panelist!

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

For me, it is a crucial reminder of the strides women have made, prompting reflection of our journey thus far and consideration of the path ahead. It's a time to acknowledge both the progress achieved and the hurdles still faced, fostering awareness of the ongoing challenges women encounter on their journey towards equality and success.

Biography: Sindhura is a leader in technology, adept at building collaborative, inclusive, and high-performing teams to solve business problems through technological solutions. She was born and brought up in India but moved to the US 15 years ago. She attended the University of Washington, where she studied Computer Science before taking on a developer role. Since then, she has worked with various companies in different roles, accumulating a wide range of experiences that have contributed to both her personal growth and that of her teams.

Currently, Sindhura is accountable for the packages experience at Expedia Group, which assists travelers in booking everything they need for their trips, generating 25M gross profit for the business. Along the way, she has recognized the value she brings to her teams and advocates for a diverse and equitable team environment. She is passionate about

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mentoring early-career women in tech and strives to provide guidance and support for women to

Sindhura Bikkani, continued

succeed in the technology world. Sindhura also shares her knowledge to empower women to pursue jobs, especially where it remains a challenge in developing countries. Additionally, she financially supports the education of two children who are the daughters of families that were once household help, with hopes to expand this support in the future.



Sophia Ahmad

Pronouns: She/Her

Job Title: Financial Risk Manager

Company: Amazon

First Job: Market Research Interviewer

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day provides an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the accomplishments of women, honor those who have influenced our lives, and empower women and girls in our communities. It serves as a reminder of the progress achieved and

highlights the ongoing commitment needed to address existing disparities and foster a more equitable society.

Biography: Sophia is a Financial Risk Manager at Amazon. In her 8+ years at the company, she has held roles across Accounting, Program Management, and Risk. Before joining Amazon, Sophia worked as an Accountant at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (formerly Seattle Cancer Care Alliance). Sophia attended University of Washington, where she majored in Accounting and Finance. Outside of work, Sophia enjoys cooking and spending time with her family.



Summer Hanson

Pronouns: she/her

Job Title: E-Commerce Manager, Specialty Bicycle Mechanic

Company: Cycle & Coffee

Industry: Outdoor industry

First Job: Embedded Site Merchandiser for Amazon Fashion (shoes)

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

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I believe that women hold wisdom in our instincts that is valuable to follow especially in a society built upon the values of men. International Women's Day and uplifting women in general is important to me because I

Summer Hanson, continued

crave seeing more women using their most valuable resources – time, effort and attention – to pour into what they care about the most, as opposed to what society tells us to care about. I believe that if more women pursue their passions and take leadership roles in organizations, institutions, governments and communities, we could live in a healthier, more compassionate and connected world.

Biography: Summer's career has been a winding one so far, and she's glad to say it has been guided mainly by intuition. Summer graduated from Princeton in 2016 with a BA in Public and International Affairs, and worked as a site merchandiser at Amazon for 2 years before transitioning to entrepreneurship in the sustainability field. She ran a sustainability publication, and then an eco-friendly wellness and personal care shop with 2 business partners from 2018–2021, helping to transform what was once a Fremont Market stand to a bustling Ballard shop and online store. From there she transitioned to e-commerce consulting agency work, however she learned she's happiest when she has a deep personal connection to the products she's helping to sell. So now Summer feels more connected and inspired by her work than ever, putting my e-commerce skills to use at a local bike shop, primarily fixing up and selling used bicycles. Summer is extremely passionate about getting more people out riding bikes, and hopes to influence Seattle's bike culture and infrastructure to make our city more connected and vibrant. Outside of her day job, Summer is also an actress, writer, photographer, and film director. She enjoys spending lots of time outdoors and in community with her family, neighbors, as well as fellow Jews and artists.



Summer Redmon

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Job Title: Chief Financial Officer

Company: Ascend Healthcare

Industry: Healthcare

First Job: Drive-thru at KFC

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

International Women's Day is an important global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. I was raised by a single mother who was unable to even open a credit card account by herself until just a few years before I was born and was forced to return to her very physically demanding job that took her out of town for half the month when I was only two months old, and she was one of the lucky ones. We have made some progress since then, but our world still faces an ongoing struggle for gender equality and the

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need to address the challenges women face worldwide. International Women's Day is a call to action for individuals and communities to strive towards a future where women have equal opportunities, rights, and representation in every aspect of life.

Summer Redmon, continued

Biography: Summer Redmon, CPA has over 20 years of diverse experience spanning advertising, international manufacturing, and healthcare. Her finance background is complemented by her prior experience as both a Quality Manager and Security Officer, rounding out her holistic understanding of finance, security, and quality control. She is passionate about how finance partners with an organization at all levels to drive improvement and support making critical decisions.



Yamila Sterling-Baker

Pronouns: she/her

Job Title: Food Access and Education Department Director

Company: Solid Ground

Biography: Yamila Sterling-Baker (she/her pronouns) has been in Solid Ground for five years and recently became the Food Access and Education Department Director. She oversees the Food System Support program, which staffs the Seattle Food Committee (a coalition of food banks in Seattle) by providing technical assistance and administrative support. Her program also coordinates food deliveries to 22 food banks weekly. In addition, she administers government funding. She also oversees the Community Education Program, which provides cooking and nutrition education classes. Moreover, she is a South Seattle Community Food Hub advisory group member. Yamila has over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit, corporate, and higher education sectors. Formerly, Project Manager for Xerox Corporation, Director of Publication for the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, and Asst. Program Director in the South Bronx for the I Have a Dream Foundation. She has a Bachelor's in Sociology and African and Puerto Rican Latino/as Studies from Hunter College. She is on the board of Harvest against Hunger and the Afrolatin@ Forum.

Yomara Gomez-Naiden

Pronouns: she/her

Job Title: Sr VP, Quality and Operations

Company: MEI Pharma

First Job: Taco Maker, near the University of Puerto Rico Cayey, where I completed my Chemistry degree

Why does International Women's Day matter to you?

It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate women's accomplishments. This day means a lot to me as it reminds me of the many hurdles I and many women have had to surpass to accomplish their goals.

Yomara Gomez-Naiden, continued

I have always worked in a male dominated industry and it was harder to grow, to be seen, but with the support of mentors both male and female, I was able to grow and I am proud to now be able to support other women in their journey.

Biography: Yomara is a global quality assurance, systems and regulatory management leader of a progressive experience building. She helps develop teams that deliver sustainable compliance solutions, and helps world-class pharmaceutical and biotech companies develop safe, high-quality products that meet strict regulatory standards. Yomara is bilingual (English/Spanish) and has a reputation for providing strong technical expertise. Yomara is regarded as a highly effective team leader, change agent, strategist, and motivator.