



Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School
University Connections: School of Design, Arts & Engineering



GRACE TOGETHER WITH ENTERPRISING WOMEN FOUNDATION

The Enterprising Women Foundation Mentoring Program provides Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School girls with an opportunity to meet and connect with outstanding women entrepreneurs in their community at a local event, on April 24, 2023 at 11:00am - 2:30pm — designed to recognize their leadership potential, inspire them to dream big, and focus on the next steps to realize their potential as entrepreneurs or leaders in STEM-based fields and other industries.

OUR COMMITMENT

Iris Phillips, President & CEO of Grace Federal Solutions, LLC is part of the advisory board, and leads Grace in the commitment to bring focus on STEM opportunities. Iris and Grace work together to shine a light on STEM opportunities and the gap between women professionals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Iris contributes to this initiative by mentoring and speaking at local high schools and colleges to encourage young women in their quest for greatness in these industries.

THE PURPOSE

Enterprising Women is a partner in the Million Women Mentors Project and has committed to bringing a focus on opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to high school girls who may

not have role models or mentors. Over the next 20 years, STEM based industries will lead the way and participation among young women is still lagging in technology, engineering, and related fields. In communities where mentorship programs do exist, the Enterprising Women Foundation Program provides existing mentoring programs for high school young women with a unique resource to enhance their programming. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and learn from highly successful women entrepreneurs and corporate leaders from a wide range of industries—many from STEM-based fields.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

One girl from Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School will receive a scholarship to attend the Annual Enterprising Women of the Year Awards Celebration & Conference in Clearwater, Florida from May 21-22. The scholarship includes airfare, transportation, hotel (Wyndham Grand), meals, and a gift card for incidentals for the winner and one parent or adult chaperone. Guardians can attend all events with the winner, if they choose.



MENTORING EVENT PROGRAM

The event program provides a highly interactive environment. The format includes a panel discussion featuring successful women entrepreneurs and partners with diverse backgrounds sharing their stories and answering questions from the high school girls.



What's next?



AFTER THE PANEL DISCUSSION

Following the panel discussion, we will feature roundtable mentorship discussions in small groups with the high school girls seated at tables based on their interest areas (for example, young women interested in technology would be seated with women entrepreneurs with technology expertise). The young women should come prepared with questions to ask about career choices, entrepreneurship, leadership, or related issues.

Want to know more?



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY DETAILS

One girl from Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School will receive a scholarship to attend the Annual Enterprising Women of the Year Awards Celebration & Conference in Clearwater, Florida from May 21-22. The scholarship includes airfare, transportation, hotel (Wyndham Grand), meals, and a gift card for incidentals for the winner and one parent or adult chaperone. Guardians can attend all events with the winner, if they choose.

The winner will have an opportunity to meet highly successful women entrepreneurs and leaders from around the world. She will participate in a unique program developed specifically for her which includes inspiring speakers, the opportunity to meet in one-on-one mentorship sessions targeted to her areas of interest, ask questions of women business owners and leaders, and participate in special workshops.

The Scholarship winner will be announced following the event. An alternate will be selected. Winners must be in attendance.

EVENT CHAIRPERSON

Iris Phillips, President & CEO

Grace Federal Solutions, LLC



Iris Phillips is the Founder, President & CEO of Grace Federal Solutions, LLC (Grace), a nationally recognized leader in healthcare and digital transformation. With more than fifteen (15) years of healthcare service administration and management expertise, Iris founded Grace as a professional services company that provides healthcare and information technology consulting solutions, and services to government agencies (federal and state), healthcare organizations, and universities. Iris also has extensive experience in project management, business development, and human resources management in working with a wide range of national, commercial, state and federal clients.

Iris is a member of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Board of Advisors; the Women Presidents Organization; the Management Council Board of Defense Alliance of North Carolina; the UNC-Chapel Hill Patient Family Advisory Council; member of the NC MedAssist Board of Directors; a recipient of the 100 Women to KNOW in America Award; a recipient of the Andrea Harris MBE Award and a recipient of the 2022 Enterprising Women of the Year Award. Iris was featured in the Triangle Business Journal, and recently a panelist at the North Carolina Chamber 2022 Healthcare Conference discussing the importance of Health Equity.

EVENT CO-CHAIRPERSON

Carolyn Covington, Founder & CEO

Insightful Visionaries, Inc.



For over 30 years, Carolyn Marshall Covington had been busy building a successful beauty empire where she worked creatively heart in hand, guided by sight. But, in 2001 she was diagnosed with a devastating degenerative eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). Carolyn's vision continued to be restricted and ultimately she became totally blind. In time, this new challenge revealed itself to her as an opportunity to share her experiences for the benefit of others.

At the same time, God revealed His plan for her, as she transitioned to this new phase in her life. This was the vision and inspiration that is now Insightful Visionaries, Inc., a North Carolina based a 501 (c)3 non-profit that relies totally on grants and donations to fund its programs for persons with disabilities. Carolyn was a 2020 inductee into the North Carolina Women Business Owners Hall of Fame. She currently serves on the Raleigh, North Carolina Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities and has been a featured keynote speaker at their Annual Banquet. She is a member of the Advisory Board of Enterprising Women, the North Carolina Council of the Blind and the Governor Morehead School for the Blind Alumni Association.

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO

Monica Smiley, Mentor Enterprising Women



Monica Smiley is the editor and publisher of Enterprising Women, a national and now global magazine. Monica serves as president of the Enterprising Women Foundation, a nonprofit she founded in 2010 to encourage philanthropy among women entrepreneurs and support initiatives to strengthen women's entrepreneurship in the U.S. and globally. The Enterprising Women Foundation has also achieved significant growth and recognition since it was founded 10 years ago. They now host mentoring forums for high school girls across the U.S. and Canada, connecting young women mostly from under-served communities with women entrepreneurs from their local community for a two-hour program that includes a panel discussion and small group mentoring to educate and inspire these young women to set high goals for themselves and give them practical guidance to help them achieve their goals.

Monica serves on the Board of Directors for the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women (IEEW) and has been a mentor in the Peace Through Business program working with Rwandan and Afghan women entrepreneurs for the past ten years. An award-winning journalist, Smiley has more than 40 years of magazine publishing experience and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2017 National NAWBO Gillian Rudd Business Leadership Award, the first Adrienne Hall Award presented in 2009 by the Women Presidents' Organization in recognition of her work to build bridges and alliances within the women's business community, and the President's Award and Innovator of the Year Award from Women Impacting Public Policy. She received the 2013 Gold Stevie Award for "Women Helping Women" and The International Alliance for Women's "World of Difference 100 Award" in recognition of her work to economically empower women around the globe. Folio magazine named Monica to its 2015 list of "Top Women in Media and the "FOLIO 100: Top Leaders in Magazine Media" for 2018."

Monica serves on the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) National Advisory Council and is Board Chair for the Raleigh, North Carolina-based Institute of Consumer Money Management which invests in research on financial literacy. She has been a speaker and a delegate at the Global Summit of Women in Morocco, Germany, China, Chile, Turkey, Greece, France and Switzerland. She is a founding partner in the Women Business Collaborative and serves as chair of the WBC Entrepreneurship Committee.

OUR MENTORS

Linda Shields, Moderator



A Speech-Language Pathologist, specializing in voice, Linda Shields recognized the need for women in all professions to learn the secrets of speaking with authority, confidence and credibility. In response, she created her company, "Speaking With Authority," helping countless women in corporations, customer service positions, educators and entrepreneurs to reach a next level of communication and confidence. She joined the faculty of Meredith College, a private women's institution in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2017. Her passion has been to teach our next generation of women to find their voice and speak with authority, confidence and credibility.

OUR MENTORS



Dr. Alecia B. Anderton-Georgie, Panelist

Doctor of Management (DM), Alecia is a computing and information systems professional with over 30 years of computing experience. Dr. Anderton-Georgie has been working in higher education for the past 10 years. Dr. Anderton-Georgie's experience includes the networking and computing department at Wake Technical Community College (WTCC) where she teaches networking, security, and service support courses, etc. WTCC is one of the largest community colleges in the country with an annual enrollment of over 75,000 students. Also, she teaches at Shaw University and Saint Augustine's University.



Dr. Christian Harris, Panelist

Dr. Christian Harris received her B.S in Biology with a minor in Physics from the Lincoln University of PA in 2017. Upon graduation, she entered the Biomedical Research Ph.D. program at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University.

In April 2022, Dr. Christian graduated with her PhD in Biomedical Research with a focus in Neuroscience and Neuroanatomy. She is currently a Master of Public Health student at Central Michigan University. She joined the Saint Augustine's University faculty in May 2022.



Lorna Miller-Jones, Mentor

Lorna has over 25 years of HR leadership expertise in diverse and global companies, such as IBM Corporation and Fidelity Investments. As a former Center Director of Sylvan Learning Center, Job Corps HR Manager, and active community volunteer, Lorna continues to fulfill her passion for mentoring and advocating for youth to foster their professional development. She also mentors professionals pursuing HR careers. Lorna holds a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification and is an active member of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and Triangle Society for Human Resources Management (TSHRM).



Dr. Maria Vega, Panelist

Dr. Maria Vega is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Saint Augustine's University, Raleigh NC. Dr. Vega grew up in Southern California where she completed her bachelor's degree at California State University, Fullerton. She then moved to Baton Rouge, LA where she completed her master's degree as well as her Doctorate at Louisiana State University. Dr. Vega was an NSF Postdoctoral Researcher at North Carolina State University for 3 years. After her postdoc, Dr. Vega was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. Dr. Vega's research interests are in Representation Theory with an emphasis on Hopf and Quantum Groups. She has multiple publications including topics in Hopf Algebra as well as in Number Theory. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

OUR MENTORS



Nimasheena Burns, Panelist

Nimasheena Burns was born in Durham and hails from Tar Heel, North Carolina. She was elected a Durham County Commissioner in 2020 for a four term of which she is currently serving. As a board member, Commissioner Burns is known for championing maternal and infant health, economic development investments, job training and job creation, affordable housing investments, agricultural development as well as wrap-around support services for the county's most vulnerable students and seniors. Statewide she serves on the North Carolina Community College Foundation Board as the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the NC Association of Black County Commissioners Executive Board where she Chairs the Technology and Housing Committee and on the board for the NC Museum of Life and Science.



H. Pat Douglas, Mentor

Pat is a skilled professional trainer and has "C" suite executive leadership experience in diverse industries including Healthcare and Information Technology. Pat is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Program at Duke University and completed the Strategies for the Evolving Healthcare Marketplace at Harvard University. She was selected as a U.S. Congressional Legislative Fellow and in 2008 was Who's Who among Executives and Professionals.



Dr. Paula Smith, Panelist

Dr. Paula Smith was born in Erwin, North Carolina. She is the daughter of the late Paul and Jean Smith of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Paula was educated in the public schools of Harnett and Cumberland Counties here in North Carolina. After graduation from E. E. Smith Senior High School in 1975, she attended North Carolina State University (NCSU) where she majored in Zoology, with a concentration in Pre-Med. Upon graduating from NCSU in 1979, she went on to obtain the Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983, becoming the first black graduate of N. C. State to go on to become a physician. In 1986, she completed her residency in Family Practice and has been a practicing physician for over 30 years. Prior to her retirement in December, 2017, she focused on administrative medicine. For 19 years, she was employed by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (formerly the North Carolina Department of Correction) and served as the Chief of Health Services/Medical Director for the state's prison system.



Dr. Rebecca Rayburn-Reeves, Mentor

Dr. Rebecca received her Masters in Psychology from UNCW in 2007, her PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Kentucky in 2011, and completed a 2-yr post-doc fellowship at Tufts University in 2016. Most of Dr. Rebecca's research has involved working with various non-human animals, including pigeons, rats, dogs, and monkeys, as well as with humans, studying comparative cognition and social psychological research questions. These questions have focused on basic research paradigms investigating the limits of, and changes in, short and long-term memory, behavioral flexibility, number and time discrimination, social influence, and decision-making under uncertainty.

OUR MENTORS



Dr. Sharonda LeBlanc, Panelist

Dr. LeBlanc earned her PhD in Nanoscale Science from UNC Charlotte in 2012 where she explored the effects of proximal electric fields on single quantum dot fluorescence using time-resolved confocal microscopy. She moved on to a Postdoc at UNC Chapel Hill (2014 – 2020) where she used single molecule Förster/fluorescence resonance energy transfer (smFRET) to study protein – nucleic acid interactions involved in DNA repair. As a postdoc, she spent half of her time working at NC State with Professor Weninger. Dr. LeBlanc joined the NC State Physics faculty as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2020.



Shyrl Wood, Panelist

Shyrl started her career in finance on the advice of her college professor, it set off a light bulb moment for Shyrl to combine her love of mentoring and her passion for helping others into a Retail Banking career that spanned over 30 years. During that time she held several leadership and management roles and developed an award-winning track record of team engagement and operational excellence with a few names you may know; M&T Bank, HSBC, Wachovia, SunTrust, and for the last 6 years with Pinnacle Bank. Today in Sheryl's role as the Regional Office Operations Advisor, she helps mentor Branch Managers and their teams using simple repeatable action steps to achieve and maintain "Outstanding" compliance audit ratings.



Dr. Valerie Johnson, Panelist

Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson is the Dean of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities and Professor of Sociology at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is currently Interim Co-Director (with Dean Gregory Howard) of Shaw University's Center for Racial and Social Justice (CRSJ) a role she served in previously one of the Inaugural Co-Directors of CRSJ. Before coming to Shaw University, Dr. Johnson was the Mott Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies and Director of Africana Women's Studies at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. Johnson began her faculty career at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as an Assistant Professor in African and Afro-American Studies and adjunct Assistant Professor in Anthropology.

Thank you for being a part of today's event, your contribution is an invaluable investment in the future of young leaders tomorrow; the young women of North Carolina.

*Iris Phillips
Grace Federal Solutions, LLC
President & CEO*



Did you know?

THE POWER OF FEMALE MENTORS

Mentors provide guidance and support, whether around a specific need or ongoing development. They listen to their mentees' experiences and give constructive, direct, and honest feedback.

In general, women must balance personal and professional responsibilities to a greater extent than men and consequently deal with higher levels of isolation, imposter syndrome, and unconscious biases. Women make up almost half of the U.S workforce.



To learn more about the
Enterprising Women Foundation
visit enterprisingwomen.com

✓ FACT

Women who are mentored:

- Are **better prepared** for promotions and have higher success rates;
- **Stay** with their organizations longer;
- Feel **more satisfied** with their jobs and careers; and,
- **Rate higher** on performance measures

✓ FACT

Mentors can improve their leadership skills while they are giving back by helping the next generation adjust and thrive in their careers and personal lives. One study found that 87 percent of mentors and mentees feel empowered by the relationship and reported greater confidence and career satisfaction. And, it turns out that mentees and mentors are both promoted far more often (5 times and 6 times, respectively) than those employees without mentors.

Forbes Magazine, Andie Kramer, 2021, [Women Need Mentors Now More Than Ever](#). Accessed 4/5/2023



**MENTORS PLAY
A CRITICAL PART IN BOTH
PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT.**

