



View From the E-Suite

Women's Professional Empowerment Symposium

Professional Empowerment Suite

Meet the Coaches

Financial

Melissa Reaktenwalt

Founder and Lead Advisor with EViE Financial



Melissa is the Founder and Lead Advisor with EViE Financial, a full-service financial planning and wealth management firm serving clients with a focus on instilling independence and empowerment. For the past 15 years, she has offered expert and actionable advice to clients on topics from retirement readiness and personal financial management, to entrepreneurship and wealth building. Melissa also has an extensive history of providing sound, thoughtful education on financial and business ownership topics, delivered through wellness courses and workshops presented to individuals working through various stages of life. Her passion for financial wellness marries with her formal education and real-world experience to help clients manage their money in a realistic, efficient way.

Amber Butler

Senior Director of Executive Compensation and Benefits, Flex



Amber is a leader of Executive Compensation and Benefits with 15+ years of experience that includes designing, developing, and implementing executive and outside director compensation and benefit programs for multi-billion dollar global corporations and a global human resource consulting/outsourcing firm. She spent 11 years of her career at Aon Hewitt, a HR outsourcing/consulting firm, in Atlanta, GA where she consulted various clients across multiple industries on health and wellness benefits, retirement benefits, and compensation issues. She also managed executive compensation and benefit programs for DirecTV, a television provider, in Los Angeles, CA, and was responsible for working with the Compensation Committee of the Board and overseeing base pay, short- and long-term incentive plans, executive benefit programs and perquisites for executives and outside directors. Amber currently manages global executive compensation, equity and benefits for Flex, a sketch-to-scale manufacturing company, in San Jose, CA.

Amber is originally from Miami, FL and received her bachelor's degree in business management and MBA in finance at Florida A&M University.



Career

Leah Wallace

Founder & CEO, L-Evate Executive Coaching



Leah Wallace is the CEO and Founder of L-Evate Executive Coaching. She focuses on elevating her clients' lives personally, and professionally through ontological, and action-oriented career and executive coaching. Leah graduated from Accomplishment Coaching, where she successfully completed her Coach Certification Training Program.

She enjoys being a guide to others and seeing individuals fulfill their goals, be enriched, and live out their full potential. She coaches her clients on navigating their lives, and careers as new hires, new or existing managers, those transitioning career paths, or those who may be stuck and need clarity around what's next. Other services include speaking engagements on professional development topics. Leah's clients have expressed benefits of having her as their Coach, including increased self-confidence and motivation; clarity of action on steps to achieve their professional goals; heightened self-awareness; an elevated shift in mindset/context around their career progression possibilities; and improved leadership abilities. Overall, her clients experience an enriched professional and personal life.

Leah has over 14 years of experience in corporate America at one of the top Consulting firms. She has a natural affinity for working with people and guiding them around their careers and goals. When Leah is not working, you can find her running, or planning her next travel adventure. She was born and raised in the Caribbean island of Dominica. She currently resides in Maryland and can be contacted at levatecoaching@gmail.com.

Dena Bilbrew

Principal Consultant, DB Professional Concepts, LLC



Dena Bilbrew is a Career & Workforce Consultant who collaborates with mid- to senior level professionals to overcome their pain points regarding career transition. She has assisted 6000+ clients nationwide with developing their personal brand and communicating their unique value through consultations, professional documents, and social media. Ultimately, she helps clients connect the dots from where they are in their career to where they want to be.

Dena's diverse background has spanned 20+ years including information technology, retail management, career services, and workforce development. She currently partners with senior leadership to identify workforce development needs via gap analysis and advises on best practices for enhancing employee performance. DB Professional Concepts (dbprofessionalconcepts.com) was designed to give professionals the tools needed to get to the next step in their career.



Dr. Johnette Ruffner-Ceaser
Founder & CEO of Liberated Expressions, LLC



Dr. Johnette Ruffner-Ceaser is the Founder & CEO of Liberated Expressions, LLC. Liberated Expressions is a professional development firm that helps individuals to leverage their gifts, expertise, and voice to obtain professional freedom.

Before becoming an entrepreneur, Dr. Ceaser was a progressive non-profit executive with over 16 years of leadership experience managing local and nationally recognized education programs. Most recently, she served as the Managing Director of Programs for College Summit, Inc. (now PeerForward), Program Director for College Bound, Inc., the Development and Marketing Manager at the Schott Foundation for Public Education and the National Director of Policy Training at the NAACP National.

Dr. Ruffner-Ceaser is the author of the children's book *When the Bow Breaks*. She is also a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, where she earned a Doctor of Education degree in Education Policy and Leadership Studies, specializing in Organizational Leadership. To learn more about Dr. Ceaser, visit www.liberated-expressions.com