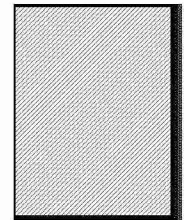


THE PHILADELPHIA

INFLUENCERS COLLECTION



**PHILADELPHIA
BUSINESS JOURNAL**



**PHILADELPHIA
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

WOMEN *of* **DISTINCTION**

Meet the women in
leading roles across
Greater Philadelphia.



PHOTOS BY JEFF FUSCO UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED



DENI CARISE

Chief scientific officer
 Recovery Centers of America

As a leader with a health care company that has opened six treatment/recovery campuses in three years, Deni Carise has consulted on substance-use disorders in 20 countries and has testified at the White House. Carise herself entered recovery at age 24 and "returned to the only school that would take a chance on me, the Community College of Philadelphia." She pushed toward a Ph.D. "It was nine years of living very frugally, supporting myself and taking out loans for school, but I am so grateful that I stuck it out and completed my education."

JOAN F. CHRESTAY

Executive director
 Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at
 Community College of Philadelphia

Joan F. Chrestay is comfortable with one foot in the C-suite and the other in the halls of higher education. Balanced in between is where she's long been making her mark. Today, Chrestay heads Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses at Community College of Philadelphia, helping small-business owners drive growth. Chrestay spent time in management consulting and was previously a senior staff member at Saint Joseph's University and an associate dean at Villanova University.



VALARIE COFIELD

President and CEO
 Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council

Valarie Cofield embraces the notion that when minority businesses succeed, communities prosper and the region grows. Under her leadership, the number of Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council's certified minority business enterprises grew in the past year to more than 600 from 495.

JULIE COKER GRAHAM

President and CEO
 Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Julie Coker Graham sells Philadelphia. And people are buying. Last year alone, under her leadership, conventions and meetings secured by the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau brought in about 1.3 million visitors and \$500 million in economic impact to the region. Graham is stepping down in March to become CEO of the San Diego Tourism Authority.

MARTIN REGISTERS, LEAPING LION PHOTOGRAPHY | COURTESY EMSDC



SYBILLE DAMAS

Chief operations officer
Congreso de Latinos Unidos Inc.

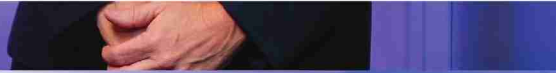
Sybille Damas' career was shaped by a visit to her parents' native Haiti where she saw the disparity between the haves and have nots and wanted to combat that at home. Her path wound through geriatric care, child welfare and juvenile justice advocacy. In 2003 she joined Congreso de Latinos Unidos, and rose through the nonprofit's ranks to chief operating officer, directing cost-saving and technology initiatives and overseeing dramatic campus growth.



SUSAN DAVIES

Principal accounting officer
Willis Towers Watson

As part of her growing role, Susan Davies is leading the transformation of Willis Towers Watson's global real estate, with a focus on reducing the company's carbon footprint and adding engaging spaces. She's also executive sponsor of an upcoming Philadelphia real estate move. That's because WTW leaders have embraced the vision Davies has shown as she moved up through the accounting side.



AMANDA DICHELLO

Partner
Cozen O'Connor

Amanda DiChello's resume would be insanely intimidating if not for her knack of relating to anyone. Asked about education, the private client services attorney mentions her grandmother – forced in eighth grade to trade school for a factory job – and her elementary school teacher/principal mother who taught her to love learning. Dichello adores dogs. She trains therapy animals. She was also one of the youngest equity partners in the history of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr before joining Cozen O'Conner as partner last year.



LIZETTE EPPS

Director, Impact and Engagement, Pennsylvania region
Visions Federal Credit Union

Lizette Epps "strives to help individuals turn points of struggle into real success," per her bio page for Breadth of Hope. That's the motivational speaking, writing and career navigation consulting firm she founded. At Visions Federal Credit Union, Epps focuses on community engagement. Epps' charitable contributions are many with examples including free seminars for Latina women working on writing resumes, preparing for interviews and finding mentors.



STEPHANIE FENDRICK

Senior vice president, chief strategy officer
Virtua Health

When Virtua Health acquired Lourdes Health System this year, Stephanie Fendrick was right there in a leadership role – one that’s moved to guiding the integration of two organizations into a unified workforce. It’s all in a day’s work for a woman already charged with handling relationships with other providers that support Virtua’s mission and providing executive oversight for service lines including women’s and children’s, oncology, orthopedics, neurosciences, cardiovascular and surgery.



MIA FIORAVANTI

Director, corporate social responsibility, FS Investments;
executive director, FS Foundation

During the past year alone, Mia Fioravanti facilitated support for more than 175 organizations, spearheaded FS Investments’ sponsorship of the U.S. Open Squash Championship and organized more than 18 volunteer events representing more than 2,186 volunteer hours from the FS team. As leader of the firm’s philanthropic arm, she has established several partnerships and in 2016 launched an event for the American Heart Association – Navy Yard Goes Red.



KAREN FLYNN

Senior vice president, chief commercial officer
West Pharmaceutical Services Inc.

Karen Flynn is a bit of a pharmaceutical force. She’s in charge of a multifunctional team at West Pharmaceutical Services that spans more than a dozen countries and includes marketing, sales, contract, manufacturing services, quality assurance, regulatory affairs, scientific affairs and technical services. Her volunteer commitments are many. She founded and serves as executive sponsor of a women’s resource group at West.



AMY FRAZIER

Managing director; leader, PwC Global Proposal Center of
Excellence, PwC

As managing director and leader of PwC’s Global Proposal Center of Excellence, Amy Frazier oversees proposal development and sales collateral. She worked previously as the marketing and sales leader for PwC’s Philadelphia Metro practice. An active mentor for many women, she’s also served with several community organizations.



KATHY GADDES

Executive vice president, chief compliance officer
 AmerisourceBergen Corp.

Kathy Gaddes has what one might call a high-pressure job. She's charged with ensuring the global pharmaceutical distribution and services corporation she works for is meeting ethical and regulatory standards for patient safety. She previously served there as chief human resources officer. Gaddes is on the governing board of Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region and the board of directors of the Philadelphia Forum of Executive Women.



CRISTINA GREYSMAN

Partner strategist
 Amazon Web Services

Young girls hoping to take on the tech world one day would do well to study the path blazed by Cristina Greysman. She co-founded or served as a principal employee at four tech startups – two of which were acquired. Larger employers have included SunGard, SAP and Amazon Web Services. She now helps AWS partners to establish and execute a cloud business model. She's also known for involvement in Philly Startup Leaders, TechGirLz, Women in Tech Summit and Advancing Women in Technology.



DR. JULIA HALLER

Ophthalmologist-in-chief;
 William Tasman, M.D. Endowed Chair
 Wills Eye Hospital

Dr. Julia Haller, a retina surgeon, compares joining Wills Eye Hospital to being a ballplayer called up to the big leagues. She's ophthalmologist-in-chief and the William Tasman, M.D. Endowed Chair. Haller has published more than 350 scientific articles and book chapters.

JACK SCULLY | COURTESY OF WILLS EYE HOSPITAL



COLLEEN HANYCZ

President
 La Salle University

Colleen Hanycz is the first layperson to serve as La Salle University's president in the school's 152-year history. There she has led a number of significant initiatives such as a strategic program prioritization, a refreshed brand (Explorers are Never Lost), a tuition reset program, a new core curriculum, and a five-year strategic plan called Momentum 2022.



DANIEL BURKE PHOTO & VIDEO PRODUCTIONS | COURTESY OF SPARK THERAPEUTICS

DR. KATHERINE HIGH

Co-founder, president,
head of research and development
Spark Therapeutics

When researchers from around the globe gathered in Barcelona recently for the European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy's annual congress, it was Dr. Katherine High who gave the closing speech. High is co-founder, president and head of research and development at Spark Therapeutics. Spark is the developer of Luxturna, the first approved gene therapy that focuses on a hereditary form of blindness.



DIXIEANNE JAMES

President, chief operating officer
Einstein Healthcare Network Philadelphia

At Einstein Healthcare Network, the responsibility for strategic growth, day-to-day operations and advancement of goals and mission falls to Dixieanne James – a health care professional who rose quickly through Einstein's ranks. Her advice is often sought by other leaders looking to tackle complex problems, and she sits on the boards of the hunger relief organization Philabundance and the American Heart Association of Southeastern Pa.



MELANIE KENNEDY

Senior vice president, human resources
American Water

Melanie Kennedy charted a steady course of advancement at American Water after joining in 2007 as employment and labor counsel. In her current position she helped lead the backing of the companywide Respect and Dignity training, the recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a company holiday and harassment-free workforce training.



JOANN MAGNATTA

Senior vice president of facilities design
and construction/real estate
Main Line Health

JoAnn Magnatta taught English. She worked for a committee in the U.S. Senate. And for the past 25-plus years, she's been serving in senior health-care positions including her current job in which she oversees the design and construction of more than 7 million square feet of real estate, including four acute-care hospitals. During her tenure at Main Line Health, Magnatta has been responsible for more than \$1.5 billion of development.



VANESSA NEDRICK

Senior associate
Remington & Vernick Engineers

Vanessa Nedrick parlayed a lifelong love of problem solving into an engineering career that included seven years at the Philadelphia Water Department and her current job at Remington & Vernick Engineers. She became the first African American female associate in the firm's 118-year history and is now one of two female senior associates there, recently serving as project manager for City Hall apron improvements.

NANCY PETERSON

Senior Vice President/ Deputy General Counsel
and Chief Compliance Officer
Allied Universal

Since Nancy Peterson joined Allied Universal in 2005, the security firm has grown from 45,000 employees to more than 150,000. Peterson has been instrumental during its growth as a lead attorney through two major mergers, several acquisitions and asset sales.



MARY PLATT

Of counsel
Fineman Krekstein & Harris P.C.

Major corporations looking for someone to defend them in court often go looking for Mary Platt. Chemical trade secrets. Antitrust class actions. Insurance disputes. Allegations of software defects. These are just some of the many topics tackled by Platt, who represents companies in federal and state trial and appellate courts. Platt served as chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2018.

LARA PRICE

Chief operating officer, Philadelphia 76ers
Executive vice president, Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment

For the Sixers, there's business and there's basketball. Lara Price is the key liaison between the two worlds. With more than 20 years of NBA experience, she now oversees for the franchise the business operations, corporate and team communications, public relations and community engagement. Price was key in the development of the 76ers training complex in Camden.



LAKSHMI STOCKHAM

Senior vice president, retail product technology
TD Bank

When it comes to consumer preferences and technology, Lakshmi Stockham has her industry's attention. At the Microsoft Envision conference last year, Judson Althoff, executive vice president of Microsoft's Worldwide Commercial Business, invited Stockham to join him onstage for his keynote address. Stockham heads technology strategy and delivery for the front office Retail Consumer Bank at TD Bank.



SUSANNE SVIZENY

President, Greater Philadelphia Region
OceanFirst Bank

Expansion in and around Philadelphia is a strategic priority for OceanFirst Bank. Susanne Svizeny is now leading that charge. She was tapped as OceanFirst's regional president earlier this year after decades of banking experience, including her previous job as executive vice president and division manager for commercial banking for Wells Fargo Bank N.A. for markets in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Western New York and Eastern Canada.



LEA ANNE WELSH

Chief operating officer, Korman Communities
President, AVE brand

Lea Anne Welsh wears two very large hats. She's COO of Korman Communities and president of the AVE brand. She's been a driving force in the success of the latter since its formation in the mid-2000s. She supports many community causes. In 2017 she and her AVE team formalized a partnership with Career Wardrobe, a nonprofit helping unemployed individuals return to work.



**RISING STAR
SHAKEMA APPLETON**

Diversity data analyst
Cozen O'Connor

Soon after Shakema Appleton was hired at Cozen O'Connor to focus on diversity analytics, she discovered a need to support the firm's new LGBTQ+ staff employee resource group and made it her mission to help. The group is now more visible and has collaborated on events with the attorney LGBTQ+ resource group. Appleton serves on the board of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management.



RISING STAR

DEANNA JENKINS

Manager of payer relations and contracting
Temple University Health System

Name an organization in Philadelphia and Deanna Jenkins might just be involved. NEXt Philadelphia? African American Chamber of Commerce Young Professional Advisory Council? Junior League of Philadelphia? Check, check and check. At her day job, she's manager of payer relations and contracting where she develops and maintains Temple University Health System's relationships with third-party payers and other managed-care firms.



RISING STAR

JANICE WONG

Vice president
Gattuso Development Partners

Janice Wong is all about thoughtful urban environments. Before joining Gattuso Development Partners last year, Wong was with Liberty Property Trust where she managed master planning for 21 acres on the Camden Waterfront and was involved in the American Water headquarters. Wong chairs the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia.