THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL EVENT
Nov 12, 13, & 16, 2020

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONS WHERE EVERYONE CAN BELONG, CONTRIBUTE AND SUCCEED

www.conferenceboard.org/diversity
DAY ONE
Thursday, November 12, 2020

10:30 – 10:45 am  General Session A:
Welcome & Opening Remarks and Opening Spoken Word
This opening session will introduce the conference, its themes and sessions and will also feature a live recitation by RashadThaPoet, a spoken word artist that speaks to our current time and the need for greater equity and inclusion.

10:45 – 11:30 am  General Session B:
PANEL: The Time is Now – Responding To The Current Moment and Advancing The Cause of Equity and Justice Among North American Employers
2020 has not unfolded as expected. Beginning with a strong economy experiencing continued robust growth, record low unemployment across the US and with talent shortages across the economy all that changed overnight
COVID19 hit and it seemed like it was 1929 all over again with a significant drop in the stock market followed by an unprecedented rise in unemployment with large parts of the economy shut down, hospitals overwhelmed with COVID19 cases and a rapidly rising death toll.
Then came the tragic killing of George Floyd that sparked global demonstrations and a national conversation about race and racism and the ugly legacy of slavery in the US.
This put the issues of racial justice and equity at the top of the corporate agenda at a time when organizations were already dealing with unprecedented change. Despite this it seems now as if the conversation fueled by the advocacy of Black Lives Matter and others has momentum.
This panel, featuring DEI leaders, will examine the impact this has had on employers and most importantly what actions we can take to ensure progress is made and justice done in all our organizations.
Moderator:
Camille Dundas, Founder, ByBlacks.com
Panelists:
Corie Pauling, Senior Vice President, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, TIAA
Tiffany Benjamin, Senior Director, Corporate Responsibility and Global Health Programs, Eli Lilly

11:30 – 11:40 am  Break

11:40 am – 12:20 pm  General Session C:
OPENING KEYNOTE: Culture, Belonging, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
In recent years Claude Silver has become a prominent advocate and practitioner of an alternative kind of leadership that puts people at the heart of organizations, focuses on creating a positive, psychologically safe workplace built on a sense of community and belonging.
In this opening session Claude will share her leadership philosophy and how this approach supports D&I in organizations.
Claude Silver, Chief Heart Officer, Vayner Media

12:20 – 1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00– 1:40 pm  Breakout Session D1:
Organizations for Everyone Session 1: Religion at Work
This panel discussion focuses on a new area for many organizations - religion in the workplace. This can be a difficult issue to navigate but as religion plays such an important role in many people's identity it is an issue that organizations have to engage.
In this session you will have the opportunity to discuss your organization's approach to faith and explore ways of addressing it in the workplace.
Moderator:
Leslie Funk, Workplace Program Associate, Tanenbaum
Panelists:
Janessa Cox-Irvin, Senior Vice President, Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion, AllianceBernstein
Nadine Augusta, Americas Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Goldman Sachs
Brad Wagner, Director of External Partnerships & ERGs, Target

Breakout Session D2:
Addressing Unconscious Bias – What Really Works and What Doesn’t
Many organizations either begin their D&I initiatives by instituting mandatory unconscious bias training or initiate an anti-bias initiative in response to a crisis. Yet research shows that these interventions have at best mixed results.
So what is the best way to approach this issue which many agree is fundamental to successful inclusion? Is there a single approach that delivers results?
In this session D&I leaders will address this question as they discuss what they have found works for them and their organization – and where they may be devoted resources without yielding anticipated results.
1:40 – 1:50 pm  Break

150 – 2:30 pm  Breakout Session E1:
Overcoming Imposter Syndrome – What it Means to Belong
Ruth is an award-winning CEO, who is committed to creating inclusion for all.
Ruth will share her personal and professional journey through the lens of someone with a visible disability, and what it is like to live without limits or labels. Ruth will touch on the subject of visible and invisible disabilities, covering hidden differences & otherness, and belonging and impostor syndrome. Her story will speak to how we rise above life's challenges to gain the freedom of letting go of shame, the power of living

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authentically, and the recognition that our differences are our greatest gift.

**Ruth Rathblott**, President and CEO, Harlem Educational Activities Fund

**Breakout Session E2:**

**Five Behaviors Leaders Need to Create an Inclusive Workplace**

Relying on a small group of like-minded individuals in a market driven by ideas and innovations creates an enormous commercial risk. Not only is this a big risk but allowing talented individuals to stay hidden in the shadows leads to frustration and disengagement, which may result in lower performance and retention issues.

In this session, learn the five essential behaviors every leader needs to operate with an inclusive mindset. These are behaviors that can be learned and applied consistently to change the organizational culture and are critical to meeting diversity goals.

**Julie Yoon**, Consultant, DDI

2:30 – 2:40 pm Break

2:40 – 4:00 pm **General Session F:**

**Addressing Power, Privilege and Equity in Your Organization**

Organizations are making inclusive leadership a business priority to create a culture of belonging. This often requires leaders to engage in difficult conversations around power, privilege and equity.

In this unique and dynamic session, the IBIS Consulting Group and their troupe of professional actors will perform workplace scenarios that will serve as starting points for discussion on inclusive leadership and allies in the workplace. The real-life scenarios will illustrate role of leaders on mitigating bias and addressing systemic disparities. Audience members will also hear from companies that have successfully engaged leaders in conversations around their role as DEI advocates.

**Shilpa Pherwani**, Principal/CEO, IBIS Consulting Group

4:00 – 4:10 pm Break

4:10 – 5:10 pm **DEI OVERTIME I**

**Racism and Anti-Racism**

At the conclusion of the day’s formal sessions you will be invited to join an interactive Zoom based Town Hall with Breakouts – **DEI Overtime**.

The first of these will focus on the issue of race, picking up on the discussions that opened the day. Topics for discussion will include defining and encouraging anti-racism, microaggressions, standing up to racism when you see it, and how to turn productive conversations about race into concrete actions.

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**DAY TWO**

**Friday, November 13, 2020**

10:30 – 10:45 am **General Session G:**

**Welcome & Opening Remarks and Opening Spoken Word**

Day two will begin with a brief recap of some of the main issues discussed on the first day, a preview of the discussions to come and a second live recitation by spoken word artist, **Tucker Bryant** that speaks to our current time and the need for greater empathy we all need to have for the struggles of those we love, know and work with.

10:45 – 11:30 am **General Session H:**

**Creating An Equitable Workplace for African Americans – Case Study of “Polaris” at Freddie Mac**

Named after the North Star that guided enslaved Americans to Freedom, Polaris was designed to connect, educate, and empower associates with the knowledge and skills needed to manage and excel their careers at Freddie Mac. Specifically, it was built to help the African American population at the below management level that felt that their career progression had stalled.

Research has shown that representation of African Americans as well as other diverse groups tend to be concentrated within individual contributor and first line leader roles and continue to significantly thin in senior leadership levels roles. Many at the below manager level feel stuck without proper guidance on ways to progress their career.

Polaris was built to help advance personal development, further embed inclusion and improve representation. The program has 6 foundational objectives:

1. Build a structured framework for professional development
2. Focus on connecting people to opportunities thereby deepening Freddie Mac’s brand and influence
3. Develop strong, prepared and capable professionals
4. Design engaging, interactive and practical programming to strengthen professional development
5. Drive mentoring, coaching and accountability partnerships
6. Leverage multi-modal learning environments, tools and technologies to drive professional development results.

**Daniella Akua A. Kyei**, Risk Analytics, Sr, Single Family Division, Freddie Mac

11:30 – 11:40 am Break

11:40 am – 12:20 pm **General Session I:**

**Let’s Talk about Age: Including Age as Part of Diversity and Inclusion Strategy**

As people are living longer, many are working longer. Today, it is possible to see five generations working side-by-side in the workplace. Surprisingly, few companies include age as part of...
their diversity and inclusion strategy. But there are companies that recognize the opportunity that a multigenerational workforce provides.

This session will take an in-depth look at how age is viewed in America, promising practices to leverage the value of the multigenerational workforce, and resources for employers that want to address age in their benefits programs. Let’s discuss how we can disrupt aging in the workplace.

12:20 – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 – 1:40 pm Concurrent Session J1:

Workplace Culture, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Harnessing the Power of Analytics and D&I to Transform the Future Workplace

Two of the defining characteristics of the future workplace will be the greater diversity of the workforce and increased use of analytics to make more evidence based human capital decisions.

This session will explore one organization’s diversity journey and how analytics has supported and informed D&I so as to identify areas for action, facilitate decision making and enhance the employee experience.

Namrata Yadav, Senior Vice President, Global Head of Inclusion Strategy, Bank of America

Concurrent Session J2:

PANEL SESSION: Getting Started with DEI – Lessons from Organizations Early in the Journey

This session, featuring three employers in the early stages of developing and executing a D&I strategy, will allow you to hear firsthand about some of the challenges faced in making progress at this critical juncture. If you are in the first three years of a D&I implementation you will want to join the discussion and share your own experiences.

This discussion is particularly relevant as current events have led many employers to either start or significantly expand DEI initiatives in their organizations.

Panelists:

Natasha Miller Williams, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, Ferrara Candy Company

Adrianne Smith, Global Director of Inclusion and Diversity, WPP

Adetoro Adegbola, Diversity and Inclusion, Etsy

1:40 – 1:50 pm Break

1:50 – 2:30 pm Concurrent Session K1:

Organizations for Everyone Session 2 – Ex Offenders and Women Prisoners

This session will look at the successful employment of two often overlooked groups – those currently incarcerated and ex-offenders.

You will hear how Johns Hopkins provides a path for ex-offenders to enter the workforce and seize the opportunity to succeed.

A recent study by Arizona State University identified the many benefits of Televerde’s prison employment program including higher rates of employment post release, lower recidivism as well as many benefits for the families of those incarcerated.

Yariela Kerr-Donovan, Senior Director, Department of Human Resources, Strategic Workforce Development, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Kellie Walenciak, Global Head of Communications, Televerde

Sara Wasserteil, Managing Director of Expansion and Integration, Cara Chicago

Concurrent Session K2:

Removing Bias from Recruitment

As the first step in the employee life cycle, if you want to succeed in D&I you have get this process right. Yet everyone knows too often recruitment is flawed with racialized candidates, women and those with disabilities finding themselves rejected too often despite being qualified for job.

This session will look at ways to remove bias from recruiting so that you can be sure you are hiring the best people for your organization and create the right foundation for a diverse and inclusive organization

2:30 – 2:40 pm Break

2:40 – 3:20 pm General Session L:

Allyship in Action – The Case Of “Men for Inclusion” at Cisco

Increasingly organizations are looking to allyship to further advance inclusive workplaces. To succeed organizations, need to enlist the support of white men. In this session you will hear about an initiative at Cisco, “Men for Inclusion” that runs in six global locations. Starting with simple awareness building Cisco have made significant progress in getting men to actively support inclusion and take concrete action in their workplaces.

Some conversations have been uncomfortable as people have had to face and understand their privilege and work to ensure the organization creates a culture where everyone belongs.

Antonette Ligons, Program Manager, Information Technology, Cisco

3:20 – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 – 4:20 pm DEI Overtime II

For this second Overtime the theme will be Allyship

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Day Three
Monday, November 16, 2020

10:30 – 10:45 am    General Session M:
Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:45 – 11:30 am    General Session N:
Organizations for Everyone Session 2: Disability in the Workplace
Paralympian and disability advocate Jenny Sichel will lead a discussion focused on the work of Link 20 a Ruderman Family Foundation initiative of young people advocating for greater inclusion for people with disabilities. Members of the group will share their personal experiences and discuss what employers can do to create greater inclusion for people with disabilities.

Discussion will include mental health and neurodiversity.

Moderator:
Jenny Sichel, Link 20 Program Coordinator, Ruderman Family Foundation

11:30 am – 11:40 am    Break

11:40 am – 12:20 pm    General Session O:
Neurodiversity in the Workplace
While neurodiversity is not a new concept many organizations have only recently begin to include neurodiversity in their D&I strategy or are looking to do so. The recent announcement of Greta Thunberg as Time’s person of the year and her characterization of her Asperger’s as a “superpower” have raised the appreciation that neurodivers employees have a unique contribution to make and can indeed be a competitive advantage.

Moderator:
Connie Donnelly, Vice President of Neurodiversity & Business Development, Rethink Benefits

Panelists:
Olga Yakimakho, Director, Leadership and Organizational Development, Special Olympics International
Susanne M. Bruyère, Director, Professor of Disability Studies, Cornell University
Jen Emira, PMP, Senior Employee Experiences PM, Accessibility, Co-Chair, disAbility ERG, Microsoft

12:20 – 1:00 pm    General Session P:
Setting Up the Next Generation for Success – Women, Intersectionality and the Future of Work
In a world that increasing needs STEM skills to succeed, much attention has been placed on recruiting and developing women given their low representation in this area. Unfortunately, not as much attention is being paid to the issue of intersectionality meaning not as much progress has been made for women of color or those with disabilities for example.

This session will share ways you can ensure greater equity in your organization when it comes to women and the future of work. Discussion will include the role of ERGs, advancing women to leadership roles and other tangible strategies.

1:00 – 1:30 pm    Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:10 pm    General Session Q:
CLOSING PANEL: What’s Next for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging? How to Build on the Momentum for Equity and Justice
This concluding panel will bring together some of the issues discussed during the conference and reflect on what it takes to create organizations where people belong, contribute and succeed.

A key part of this discussion will be to project what challenges can D&I practitioners expect to face in the coming year and how can D&I professionals have a deep impact on the future of their organizations.

Tariq Malik, Director, Employee Relations / Diversity Analytics, Target

2:10 – 2:30    General Session R:
Closing Remarks and Break

2:30 – 3:30    DEI Overtime III: Belonging
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Online  www.conferenceboard.org/diversity
Email   customer.service@conferenceboard.org
Phone  212.339.0345
       8:30 am – 5:30 pm ET, Monday – Friday

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Location
Virtual Event