

## **THE WOMEN'S CENTER TO HOST 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE VIRTUALLY**

**The Leadership Conference theme *Learn, Pivot, Grow* will examine the workplace challenges presented during 2020 and how we can lead through adverse times.**

In response to the toll the pandemic has taken on our workforce, The Women's Center has announced this year's Leadership Conference will focus on the theme, *Learn, Pivot, Grow*. The annual conference that typically welcomes over 700 professionals at the Hilton McLean will be held virtually this year, welcoming attendees from all over the nation. On Friday, April 9, 2021 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm, The Center will host their 35th Leadership Conference with an impressive line-up of speakers.\* Over the last year, seismic changes have impacted individuals, families, careers, and companies in different ways. This Conference is an opportunity to hear stories of how inspirational leaders have responded to challenges in multiple aspects of their personal and professional life.

From the disconnect of working from home, to balancing a full-time career with full-time parenting, to grappling with systemic racism, the historic events of 2020 inflicted an immense toll on workplace mental health. "We are seeing professionals, particularly women, fighting multiple battles just to meet a simple deadline at work. This isn't just an economic crisis. It's a mental health crisis, too," says Rachna Singal Krishnan, CEO and Executive Director of The Women's Center. "That's why we felt the theme *Learn, Pivot, Grow* was so timely. It gives us an opportunity to explore the issues of the times and forge our best path forward."

With the support from Cisco, The Center's Premier Annual Sponsor, the Conference will feature inspiring speeches from keynote speakers. The day will also include panels on thought-provoking topics and conclude with an opportunity for attendees to network with each other.

This will be The Center's second virtual conference after they had to reschedule and restructure last year's Conference due to the pandemic. An attendee from last year reported, "One of the hallmarks of the conference (I have attended for 12 years) is the deep connection that is forged between the speakers and the audience over a full day of authentic storytelling. I was pleasantly surprised at how well this virtual event worked to create that same connection."

This Conference is also an opportunity to support The Women's Center and its mission to provide affordable and accessible mental healthcare to the greater Washington area. Attendees will be able to participate in an exciting auction and shop luxury vendors where a portion of funds will be donated back to The Center.

Companies who are interested in becoming a sponsor can visit [the event website](#) to learn more about packages. Individual tickets will be available for purchase on March 9, 2021.

**\*Speakers that have been announced as of Feb. 23 (in alphabetical order):**

- **Rosie Allen-Herring**, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the National Capital Area.
- **Marin Alsop**, Music Director, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Chief Conductor, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra.
- **Ritu Bhasin**, Inclusion and Empowerment Speaker, Author, Consultant; President, Bhasin Consulting Inc.
- **Ted Davies**, CEO, Altamira Technologies Corporation; Chair of the Industry Advisory Council
- **Julie Donaldson**, Senior Vice President of Media, Washington Football Team.
- **Jummy Olabanji**, Anchor, Reporter, NBC4.
- **Nasreen Sheikh**, Founder, Empowerment Collective.
- **Jacki Zehner**, President, Jacquelyn and Gregory Zehner Foundation; Co-Founder, Women Moving Millions

[Click here to see our full list of Conference Sponsors.](#)

**About The Women's Center:**

For almost 50 years, The Women's Center has provided mental health counseling, support, and education to the metropolitan area to help people live healthy, stable, and productive lives.

Since The Women's Center was founded in 1974, we have grown to include service to women, men, families, young adults, and children. We now serve 5,000 people annually at our two locations in Virginia and Washington, DC. Functioning as a teaching institution for mental health professionals, we provide one of the largest and most prestigious and competitive training programs in the region.

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, The Women's Center relies on philanthropic support to offer subsidized and free care and support to people in need in the community. EIN: 23-742396

Visit [TheWomensCenter.org](http://TheWomensCenter.org) to learn more.

**Contact:** Rebecca Ballinger, Communications Specialist, The Women's Center, (240) 731-9364, [rballinger@thewomenscenter.org](mailto:rballinger@thewomenscenter.org)

