



CELEBRATING

WOMEN

IN

BUSINESS

Tallahassee, FL / March 24, 2017

A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM SECRETARY

MATILDE MILLER



Matilde Miller

Interim Secretary, DBPR

Hello,

On behalf of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, I would like to welcome you to the 6th Annual Celebrating Women in Business panel discussion. Each year, DBPR hosts this panel discussion to provide a professional development opportunity for the talented female professionals we license and impact on a daily basis. We have some very talented women serving on our panel here today, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for joining us and sharing their valuable insight and expertise.

This event is DBPR's way of highlighting Women's History Month and is intended to provide women business leaders with an opportunity to network and gather tips from their peers. Each of you impacts the business community in Florida, and we are honored to have the opportunity to host you at this exciting networking event.

Throughout today's panel discussion and networking event, you'll interact with some of the most talented women in the Tallahassee area, and I encourage you to collaborate and discuss the leadership topics you find most interesting. As a longtime resident of Tallahassee and a professional woman myself, I take pride in this city's growing business culture and sincerely hope that today's discussion will offer useful professional and personal development information that will help you throughout your career.

Thank you for taking the time to join us today!

Sincerely,

Matilde

ABOUT MATILDE

A proud U.S. citizen originally born in Caracas, Venezuela, to a Cuban family, Matilde Miller has spent more than 16 years at DBPR. Miller began her career at DPBR as a Legislative Specialist in 2000 before ascending the ladder and also serving as Legislative Coordinator, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director, Director of Legislative Affairs and Chief of Staff.

Before joining DBPR, Miller worked in the Florida House of Representatives from 1998-2000 and as a High School English and Spanish teacher. She received her Associates of Arts degree from Brevard Community College and is currently attending Florida State University.



SCHEDULE



MORNING SESSION

LIGHT BREAKFAST 9:00 AM

DBPR SECRETARY'S WELCOME 9:30 AM

PANELIST INTRODUCTIONS - GROUP 1 9:45 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION - CAREER DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION 10:00 AM

AUDIENCE Q&A 11:00 AM

NETWORKING SESSION 11:30 AM

BREAK FOR LUNCH 12:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION

SPEAKER RETURN MESSAGE 1:00 PM

PANELIST INTRODUCTIONS - GROUP 2 1:15 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION - LEADERSHIP & BUSINESS OWNERSHIP 1:30 PM

AUDIENCE Q&A 2:30 PM

NETWORKING SESSION 3:00 PM



Marva Johnson

Regional VP, State Government Affairs
Charter Communications

Marva Johnson is Regional Vice President, State Government Affairs (South) at Charter Communications. Prior to Charter, she was Corporate Vice President, Government and Industry Affairs for Bright House Networks. In this position, Johnson evaluated policy implications associated with the company's technological infrastructure, service delivery, and long term strategy. She also worked to establish and drive regulatory strategies for the company's video, voice and data services. Prior to this role, Johnson served as acting VP for CLEC Operations for Bright House Networks Information Services (BHNIS).

Johnson is a graduate of Georgetown University (BSBA), Emory University - Goizuetta Business School (MBA), and Georgia State University Law School (JD), and a member of the State Bar of Georgia. She serves on the National Board of Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) as the Chair-Elect, the Advisory Board for Rollins College's Crummer Center for Leadership Development, and the African American Women Technology Caucus (AAWTC) for the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL).



Cristina Paredes

Deputy Director, Engagement and Operations
Office of Economic Vitality

Cristina Paredes has more than eleven years of local government experience, with the past five years focused specifically on growing the economy in Tallahassee – Leon County. As Deputy Director for Engagement and Operations in the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV), Cristina utilizes a strong management and operational background to support and advance the mission of OEV. Additionally, she oversees the implementation of the community's first ever long-range economic development strategic plan and the development of partnerships across the private, public, and educational sectors to convey Tallahassee – Leon County's economic vitality to businesses. Cristina earned her Bachelor degree and Master of Public Administration from Florida State University. She is committed to building strong alliances and networks across all sectors of the community while working continuously to leverage ideas, innovations and intellectual capital in coordination with economic development partners.





Gloria Pugh

CEO, AMWAT Moving Warehousing & Storage

Gloria Pugh is the chief executive officer and president of AMWAT Moving Warehousing Storage headquartered in Tallahassee, Florida. AMWAT started out as “a man with a truck” providing local moving services but has grown to include local, statewide, national and international moving services, concierge relocation services, packing/custom crating, third party supply chain (receiving and distribution) warehousing and logistics planning.

Gloria and AMWAT donate year-round to America’s Second Harvest of the Big Bend. Gloria serves on the advisory board for Move for Hunger and Junior League of Tallahassee. Gloria served on the Community Leadership Council on Gun Violence. Recently, Gloria was appointed Chair of the Florida Consumer Council and is currently working with the Chamber’s business growth, existing industries committee.

In September 2016, Governor Scott recognized AMWAT Moving Warehousing Storage with the Governor’s Florida Business Ambassador Award. In June 2016, Gloria Pugh was honored by Tallahassee Women Who Mean Business as Entrepreneur of the Year. In September 2014, Gloria was honored by Leadership Tallahassee as Leadership PaceSetter.



Lauren Boes

Senior Transportation Engineer, Atkins

Lauren Boes is a Senior Transportation Engineer with Atkins in Tallahassee, FL. She graduated from the University of Florida in 2008 with a degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. She has over eight years of experience on a wide variety of Transportation Engineering projects. Some of her experience includes aviation, drainage, roadway design and Project Development & Environment Studies. Her diverse background gives her a unique perspective for project work and management.

Lauren and her husband have lived in Tallahassee for seven years. They just recently welcomed a son to their family, and are enjoying every sleep-deprived minute of parenthood. Lauren also has a love for horses, and likes horseback riding in her free time.





Alia Faraj-Johnson

Senior Vice President, Hill+Knowlton Strategies

Prior to joining H+K Strategies, Alia served as managing director of a Florida-based public relations and public affairs firm from 2007 to 2013. Before that, she served as Governor Jeb Bush's press secretary and communications director from 2002 to 2007. In her role as chief spokesperson for Governor Bush she also managed communications at 18 state agencies including the Department of Children and Families, Department of Health and Agency for Health Care Administration. Alia also served as the chief crisis communications spokesperson during the unprecedented 2005 and 2006 hurricane seasons in Florida. As a former television news producer and reporter and former Gov. Jeb Bush's longest-serving communications director, Alia has covered the capitol and legislative issues for more than two decades.

She is a multiple Emmy award-winning producer, a 2009 winner of the national PR News Legal PR Award for Media Relations During Litigation or Crisis and winner of the 2009 Bronze Bulldog Award for Best Crisis Communications. She also twice served, from 2008 to 2015, as a gubernatorial appointee on the Florida Elections Commission. Alia holds Bachelor of Science degrees from Florida State University in political science (emphasis on Middle Eastern studies) and psychology. She also is a member of Leadership Florida, Class of XXVI.

PANEL 2 - LEADERSHIP & BUSINESS OWNERSHIP



Ana Melendez

CEO, A&E Wholesale of North Florida

Ana Melendez is the CEO of A&E Wholesale of North Florida, a distributor of over 4,000 convenience store goods and restaurant items with over 1,200 customers including Dollar General, Family Dollar, and Circle K. Prior to joining A&E, Ana was Director of E-Commerce at Essendant, a Fortune 500 distributor of office products, furniture, and cleaning supplies. At Essendant, Ana led the launch of Innovera, a private label brand of technology products available in Walgreens and Costco and grew the brand to \$60M in annual sales. This included traveling to countries such as China and Taiwan with her global sourcing and quality teams. She also managed the \$300M OEM technology accessories business for Essendant that included brands such as Logitech, Kensington, and Sony. Ana co-founded Mobilegear.com in 2012 and won 3 major design awards for the site's innovative take on e-commerce design. She has served on the junior board for Gift of Adoption and was active in Habitat for Humanity. Ana holds a BSBA in Marketing and an MBA from The Ohio State University. Her interests include art, performing on alto saxophone, sports, and traveling.



Christy Daly

Secretary, Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Secretary Christina Daly has dedicated the past 20 years to improving the lives of at-risk children. She has played an integral role in the aggressive reform of juvenile justice under Florida Governor Rick Scott since 2011. During this administration, delinquency has dropped to the lowest level in more than 40 years with the implementation of the Roadmap to System Excellence. Ms. Daly has held leadership positions since 2007 at the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice as the deputy secretary, chief of staff, legislative director, and the external affairs director. As deputy secretary, Ms. Daly was responsible for the operational oversight of the entire continuum of service delivery. She has worked nationally with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center and Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, where she is a member of the Juvenile Justice Leadership Network.

Prior to joining DJJ, Ms. Daly worked in various positions at the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, most notably leading the statewide implementation of the renowned Safe Place program. Ms. Daly received an associates of art degree from Tallahassee Community College and a bachelor's degree in social work from Florida State University. She is also a proud graduate of Leadership Tallahassee.



Hettie Spooner

Broker & Owner, Hill Spooner & Elliott Real Estate

Hettie Spooner was born a natural entrepreneur, starting with her first job in commissioned sales at age 16. Real estate became her career in 1995 by accident, but ended up being her destiny. Now she is the successful Broker/Owner of Hill Spooner & Elliott Inc., a boutique real estate firm. With just over 20 agents, she finds herself at a crossroads to grow and expand, or stay small and flourish. Her start was in banking and finance, which now allows her to offer advice to her clients on investments and financial options. Hettie cares about her clients as they go through various stages of life. She applies skill, care, and diligence to every transaction. She wants clients to make sound choices so that they can use her again down the road, and have financial gain when they go onto their future real estate investments.

Hettie is an active member of the Tallahassee Board of REALTORS®, Tallahassee Young Entrepreneur Organization, a founding member of two Tallahassee Top Producer Councils, a Certified Residential Specialist designation (C.R.S), a designation that only 1% of real estate agents receive nationwide, and a past member of The Women's Council of REALTORS®, and Capital City Bank's Community Board. She stays active in the community contributing to different boards or foundations either in a financial capacity or in a supportive manner. She has two sons, Carson, 4, and Kaden 8, that she is very proud of, and are the lights of her life.



Katie Wright

Owner & Stylist, Dream State Salon

Katie Wright founded Dream State Salon in 2002. She has been recognized as a leader in hairstyling in Florida, as a “Golden Ace” award recipient, one of Tallahassee’s “25 Women You Need to Know.” She recently received the Tallahassee Top Salon Lifetime Achievement.



Audra Pittman

Executive Director, COCA

Recognized as one of *Florida Trend Magazine*’s People to Know in Tallahassee and Leon County, also selected as one of the *Tallahassee Democrat*’s 25 Women You Need to Know, Audra Pittman, Ph.D. has served for over 20 years in the arts, education and business communities. Recently she was featured on both the covers of *Tallahassee Magazine* and *Tallahassee Woman Magazine* for her efforts in the arts and as a co-host of the television show *AM Break with Ann & Audra* on Fox 49. The Girl Scouts of the Panhandle presented her with a distinguished award for service in the Arts.

Currently Audra serves as the Executive Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. This umbrella organization serves as a clearinghouse for arts and culture in Tallahassee and the Big Bend region. Previously she served as the Chair for the Department of Professional Education at the Savannah College of Art & Design where she helped accredit and facilitate the university’s first online teacher certification program for Art & Drama concentrations. She currently serves on the boards of directors for; Boys Town North Florida, Thomasville Center for the Arts, United Way of the Big Bend and the Dean’s Advisory Board for the College of Fine Arts at Florida State University. Audra’s entrepreneurial spirit is cultivated in her business “Suite P Creative Studio” where she commissions art pieces and hosts pinterest-style art parties for private groups.



DBPR BUSINESS BRIEF



The *DBPR Business Brief* is a comprehensive guide to starting and running a business as told by Florida industry leaders. This eBook offers a first-person perspective on insightful business topics such as personal and professional growth, leadership, decision-making, overcoming obstacles...and more!

We encourage everyone that is considering starting a business in Florida to read this eBook. We hope that the information provided will help to give your business the best start possible.

You can download the *DBPR Business Brief* for free at www.myfloridalicense.com.

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- ✓ Verify licenses by name or license number
- ✓ Report suspected unlicensed activity



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NOTES

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