

Women

Nashville Young Enterprising Women Mentoring Forum connects businesswomen, teen girls

NASHVILLE, TN — 100 young women from five Nashville area high schools had an opportunity to meet and learn from more than 20 women business leaders at the 5th annual Nashville Young Enterprising Women Mentoring Forum hosted last week at the headquarters of AllianceBernstein in downtown Nashville.

The event was presented by the Enterprising Women Foundation and the Institute for Consumer Money Management and hosted by Sharon W. Reynolds, President and CEO of DevMar Products. Through the forum, female students from Cane Ridge, Glencliff, Maplewood, Pearl-Cohn and Whites Creek high schools participated in an interactive session on managing their finances, heard from a panel of Nashville women business leaders, and engaged in mentorship discussions.

Monica Smiley, president and founder of Enterprising Women Foundation and editor and publisher of Enterprising Women magazine welcomed the girls and introduced the program. Nashville was one of 17 cities selected to participate in this national program to encourage more young women to consider a career in a STEM field and plant the seeds of entrepreneurship.

Five years ago, when Reynolds created the Nashville Y.E.W. Forum, the event served 20 girls from one school. It has grown each year, and this year's group of 100 girls from 5 schools, is the largest in the forum's history.

"These young women are our future, and if we as their local leaders don't invest in them, who will?" said Reynolds. "Hosting this event is by far one of my favorite days of the year, and many of the mentors and mentees from the event have made connections that they will mutually benefit from well past today."

While connection opportunities will continue for all of the young women in attendance, two girls from each school are recipients of scholarships that will allow them to attend the 22nd Annual Enterprising Women of the Year Awards Celebration & Conference that will be held in Orlando, Florida, April 7-9.

Corporate sponsors for the event included AllianceBernstein, CareerThrivors, Citizens Bank, DevMar Products, Entrée Savvy, Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce, Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation, Pinnacle Financial Partners, Skanska, Telecom Transport, Televergence, Tennessee Titans, Tennessee Tribune, Tiffany Searcy Wright, Virsys12 and Wealthy AchieveHer.

In-kind sponsors included AllianceBernstein, Career Thrivers, Crayons & Marketers, J.P. Morgan Chase, Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation, Skanska and Wealthy AchieveHer.



Ten Nashville Y.E.W. scholars representing Cane Ridge, Hunters Lane, Maplewood, Pearl-Cohn and Whites Creek high schools



High school girls attending the Nashville Y.E.W. Forum.



Sharon W. Reynolds, event chair, 4th from left, and Lanedria Marshall, Maplewood High School Academy Coach, center, with student attendees of the Nashville Y.E.W. Forum



AllianceBernstein employees including panel moderator Brynn Plummer and keynote speaker Janessa Cox-Irvin with Sharon W. Reynolds, event host, center.



Sharon W. Reynolds, left, event chair and host with Jacqueline Hayes, event co-chair



Sharon W. Reynolds, left, and Brittany Cole, forum's moderator



Monica Smiley, Enterprising Women Foundation founder/president speaking to attendees during the forum.




Patricia Glaser Shea, left, and Sharon W. Reynolds

Speakers, panelists and mentors at forum


- Alisha Wix**, Skanska, Supplier Diversity Manager
- Brittany Cole**, CareerThrivors, CEO
- Brynn Plummer**, AllianceBernstein, Director, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Connie McGee**, Dell EMC, Global Alliance Director
- Deborah Ward**, Televergence Solutions, Inc., CEO
- Dimeta Smith-Knight**, Dimeta Smith CPAs, CEO
- Dr. Emerald Mitchell**, Moves & Grooves, Inc., Founder/Executive Director
- Heather Derr**, J.P. Morgan Chase, VP/Commercial Banker
- Hon. Chancellor I'Ashea Myles**, Tennessee's 20th Judicial District, Chancellor
- Jacky Akbari**, Worthington Advisory, CEO & Managing Principal
- Jacqueline Hayes**, Crayons & Marketers, CEO
- Janessa Cox-Irvin**, Keynote Speaker, AllianceBernstein, Global Head – Diversity and Inclusion

- Janet Rachel**, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Metropolitan Nashville Chapter President
- Joan Fleming**, Citizens Bank & Trust, Senior VP
- Johari Matthews**, Tennessee Titans Foundation, VP and Executive Director
- Dr. Jennifer Berry**, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Director of STEAM
- Dr. June Michaux**, The Tennessee Tribune and Chaux Consulting, Entrepreneur, Journalist, Speech Language Pathology Aide
- Dr. Lakisha Simmons**, Brave Consulting LLC, CEO
- Dr. Maya Bugg**, Bugg Consulting Group, LLC, CEO
- Nicole Dunigan**, Pinnacle Financial Partners, VP/Financial Advisor
- Patricia Glaser Shea**, Shea Advisory Services, Partner
- Patricia Malone-Smith**, Nashville Urban League, Director of Corporate Relations
- Tiffany Searcy-Wright**, First Horizon Bank, VP



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