



Key Executive Women in Leadership Forum: Future of Excellence in Leadership & Public Service Session #1 | Women Leadership: A Panel Discussion with Executive Women in Government

Speaker Bios



Lynne Platt

Former Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State

A senior Foreign Service Officer who retired in 2018 with the rank of Minister-Counselor, Lynne Platt's public service career spanned 31 years in three U.S. Government agencies. She began as an auditor in the (then) General Accounting Office (1985-1988), became a policy analyst in the Office of National Drug Control Policy (1989-1990), and worked in the State Department in a Civil Service capacity (1992-1994). Joining the Foreign Service in 1994, Lynne's first assignment was to U.S. Embassy Cairo (1995-1997). Her subsequent overseas postings were to Casablanca (1995-1997), the U.S. NATO Mission (2001-2004), Paris (2004-2008), Baghdad (2008-2009), Port-au-Prince (2009-2011), London (2011-2014), and Vancouver (2014-2017) where she was U.S. Consul General. Domestically, she worked in the State Department's Near East Asia Bureau (1999-2000) and at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Canada Institute, where she was North American Competitiveness Fellow (2017-2018).

Lynne received a BA (Phi Beta Kappa) and MA in Political Science from the University of Washington. She and her husband, a fellow Foreign Service retiree, recently relocated from Washington, DC, to Saint Petersburg, Florida.



Dr. Vivian Chen

Director, National Director of the Emergency Medical Services,
Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Vivian Chen is the National Director of the Emergency Medical Services program in the Forest Service responsible for implementing an interagency national program that will enhance the federal government emergency medical response. For the Forest Service, it will formalize and standardize its ability to address emergency medical services for its employees. In her previous assignment, Dr. Chen served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Public Health Science, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA 2010-18. Dr. Chen was responsible for managing scientists and laboratory functions to ensure that the policies and testing of USDA regulated products met food safety standards. She was responsible for the OPHS reorganization and implementation of genome testing. From 2013-15, she was detailed to serve as the Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary in Departmental Management, Office of the Secretary (DM OSEC) to oversee the Department's White House Initiative for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She had a career serving in the USPHS and was appointed by Surgeon General David Satcher as the Chief



Professional Officer of all Health Service Officers, an Admiral ranked position. The first AAPI to hold the position to date. Dr. Chen also served as the Deputy Health Commissioner and COO of the Milwaukee Health Department. A community leader, Dr. Chen currently serves as the Chair of the Asian American Government Executive Network.

Her career is filled with being the first and breaking the bamboo ceiling as an Asian American and as a woman.

Dr. Chen hold two masters degrees from the University of Michigan (UM), and a Doctor of Science degree in Health Policy and Administration, Epidemiology and Mental Health, from the Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health. A retired Captain (0-6) with the US Public Health Service, Dr. Chen joined the Senior Executive Service in 2010.



Cynthia G. Cavalieri

Executive Director, Baltimore Federal Executive Board

Cynthia G. Cavalieri (née Gallegos) is the Executive Director of the Baltimore Federal Executive Board (FEB), a position she's held since February 2018. As Executive Director, she provides administrative support to the FEB and is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the FEB across the three business lines: Emergency Preparedness, Employee Safety & Security; Workforce Development Support; and Strategic Partnerships. Accordingly, Ms. Cavalieri serves as an Ambassador for the Federal government to the local community. Within the FEB Network, Ms. Cavalieri has served on the Emergency Preparedness Council, and

currently a member of the Performance Improvement Council.

Ms. Cavalieri also serves as the Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC) Chair for the Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) from 2018-2020.

With over 17 years of Federal Government Service in boots and heels– or more often than not, cowgirl boots, Ms. Cavalieri has an extensive background in human capital, including employee relations, engagement, and training; resource management and operations, business analysis, and process improvement; as well as, operations security (OPSEC) and emergency operations. Previously, she worked with the Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) as a Management Operations Support Team Lead (Management Analyst) in Washington DC, contributing to a wide variety of impactful projects within the Offices of Healthcare Inspections (OHI) and Audits and Evaluations (OAE). She also served as OAE's SharePoint Site Collection Administrator (developer and business analyst) and served as an organizational Ombuds VAOIG-wide.

Prior to her work with VAOIG, Cynthia enlisted as a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Collector/French Linguist in the US Army, then returned to the Defense Language Institute-Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, CA, as an Army Civilian.

Cynthia is fluent in Texan, Spanish, and French; and has held certifications as a Human Capital Strategist and Strategic Workforce Planner. She volunteers with a local youth football and cheer program based in Howard County. She resides in Maryland, with her husband; and is an avid life-long fan of the 2017 World Series Champion Houston



Astros, and through marriage the Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins, and 6-time Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers.



Natalie H. Veeneey

Acting Federal Diversity Program Director, Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion Center, U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

Natalie H. Veeneey (she/her/hers) serves the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as the Acting Federal Diversity Program Director in the Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion Center. She is responsible for leading, articulating and managing the coordinated government wide policies and programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). She is committed to public service and embedding strategies that proactively promote DEIA across the Federal government; empowering individuals to lead inclusively and organizations to support and sustain inclusive cultures.

Prior to joining OPM, Natalie led successful cultural transformation and disability initiatives at the US Department of Agriculture and the Defense Intelligence Agency. She is an alumna of Spelman College and currently resides on Maryland's Eastern Shore. She enjoys reading, hiking, and time with her sons - Nathaniel, Joshua, and Silas.