



Opening Remarks & Morning Energizer



Strother Gaines

Coach, Trainer & Speaker, But I'm a Unicorn, Dammit!

Strother is a business and personal coach for creative entrepreneurs and those who want to become one. He works with lawyers who just wanna dance, programmers who wish they were potters and undercover Yogi CFO's to integrate their professional life with their authentic creative self. He is a multi-passionate entrepreneur with a background in theatre, public speaking, education, sales, management, leadership and segway-tour-guiding. His private practice is called "But I'm a Unicorn, Dammit!" and he is passionately working to help as many people as possible own up to the fact that they're a unique fu(\$!@& snowflake. He is the artistic director for DC's only immersive theatre company - TBD Immersive which just closed the smash hit "Cabaret Rising: one Nation. Underground" in the Dupont Underground. He served as the event director for the DC Chapter of Network Under 40 and he recently spoke at the TEDx MidAtlantic Festival on the topic of storytelling.

Sesison I: Creating & Sustaining An Organizational Culture that Fosters Inclusivity



Wendy Reid

Chief Operating Officer, The Clearing, Inc.

Wendy Reid is COO at The Clearing, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based management consulting firm. She provides the leadership, management, and vision necessary to ensure that the company has the proper operational controls, administrative and reporting procedures, people, and systems in place to effectively grow the company and to ensure financial strength and operating efficiency. Wendy has more than 20 years of experience in the government contracting space and has a track record of driving growth, enhancing profitability, developing talent, and leading organizations to overcome challenges. Before joining The Clearing, Wendy founded Savoy Consulting Group to help small businesses grow, enhance operations, and achieve business transformation. Prior to Savoy, Wendy was a VP, Operations Manager for Alion Science and Technology, where she managed a business unit that provided acquisition management and systems engineering support to the Military Services. Wendy also was VP, Operations Manager at SAIC, where she optimally aligned and led an organization of 1000+ professionals supporting various Department of Defense organizations, the Department of State, and the Intelligence Community. She entered the aerospace and defense industry after several years as an attorney in Los Angeles, California.



Sesison II: Using Stories and Data to Convince Leaders to Act



Alicia Crain

Diversity & Inclusion Specialist, Peace Corps

Alicia Crain, MURP is the Diversity & Inclusion Specialist for the Peace Corps. She has weaved diversity, inclusion, and intercultural competence into widely varying positions over the course of fifteen years in public service and non-profit management. Alicia provides advice and guidance to the Peace Corps on intercultural competence, diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion topics.



Thomas Lotito

Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager, Department of the Treasury

Thomas Lotito is the Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager at the Department of the Treasury. He has worked in this field for 10 years, designed award-winning LGBTQ inclusion programs, policies and trainings, and regularly coaches senior executives.

Sesison III: Balancing the Professional & Personal: Leadership Skills for Federal Leaders with LGBTQ Family Members



Bill Valdez

President, Senior Executives Association

Bill Valdez was appointed as the President of the Senior Executive Association (SEA) in September 2016. As President, Bill sets SEA's overall strategic direction and is focused on strengthening the Senior Executive Service (SES) through legislative and policy initiatives, building a leadership pipeline for the Executive Branch, and establishing SEA as a thought leader in the Washington, DC policy debates that impact not only the SES, but all civil service employees.

Bill retired from Federal service as a career Senior Executive in July 2014. His career with the Department of Energy spanned over 20 years and he has extensive knowledge in the areas of R&D

Key Executive Pride in Leadership Forum
American University Spring Valley Building
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portfolio analysis and evaluation, energy/environmental technologies and policies, small business development, supply chain analysis, science and engineering workforce development, budget planning and execution, diversity and equal opportunity issues, science policy, human capital processes and policies, procurement processes and policies, corporate and strategic planning, and contract management.

Bill held the positions of Acting Director, DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity; Director of Business Services, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Director of Planning and Analysis, and Director for Workforce Development within DOE's Office of Science. In addition, Mr. Valdez was co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council's Science of Science Policy Interagency Working Group from 2005-2014, and was a senior advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the 1990s.

Bill is an Adjunct Faculty at American University's School of Public Affairs, where he specializes in Federal government evaluation and strategic planning and is a co-editor of "The Handbook of Federal Government Leadership and Administration," which was published in November 2016.

Bill was awarded the Presidential Rank Award (meritorious) in 2007, was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2006 and was elected to Senior Executive Association's Board of Directors in 2005 and served as Chairman from 2011-13.

Prior to working at DOE, Mr. Valdez worked as a Senior Project Manager in private industry where he provided strategic planning services to Asian and European multinational corporations.

Mr. Valdez received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas and his Master of Arts in International Economics and Energy Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.



Jayme Valdez

Chief Executive Officer, Clearview OCD Counseling, LLC

Jayme M. Valdez, LMHC is the owner of Clearview OCD Counseling, LLC, a private psychotherapy practice on the outskirts of Boston, MA. Jayme is a licensed mental health counselor and serves on the Boards of Directors for OCD Massachusetts and OCD Rhode Island. She provides supervision, training, and consultation to treatment facilities, doctors, interns, and other clinicians and is passionate about spreading awareness of OCD recovery. Jayme is particularly interested in providing inclusive treatment for all persons living with OCD, including those with substance use disorders, self-harming behaviors, suicidality, as well as those in the LGBTQ+ and Persons of Color communities. Jayme 'came out of the closet' in 1995 at the age of 15, and attempts to use her personal story to provide hope to others through a combination of clinical therapeutic interventions and pragmatic, down-to-earth realism.