



ANAHID BRAKKE
San Diego Hunger Coalition



SHANNON BROWN
CENTRIC



CHERYL CHASE-BERKSON
Chase Pacific Property Management & Real Estate Services



HEIDI CHOKEUR, PH.D.
Evoke Canale



SUSAN COUCH
Bank of America



Gael P.K. COURTNEY
Flocke and Avoyer Commercial Real Estate



MERRIANNE DEAN
Bellator Law Group, APC



DENISE "DEEDEE" DEMAN
Bench International



MONIQUE DUMAIS-CHRISOPE
Encore Capital Group



CHARLOTTE FAN
Meals on Wheels San Diego County



Laurie FISHER
LMA Marketing & Advertising



KIM FOLSOM
Founders First Capital Partners



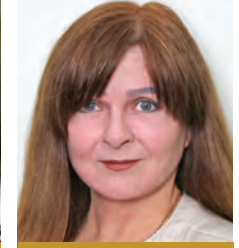
DELINDA FORSYTHE
Innovative Commercial Environments



BRE'AN FOX
FS Design Group



CHRIS FRAHM
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck



AMANDA GOIS
St. Paul's Senior Services



LISA GORDON
Lisa Inspires



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OLIVIA GRAEVE
UC San Diego, Jacobs School of Engineering



SABINE HADIDA, PH.D.
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated



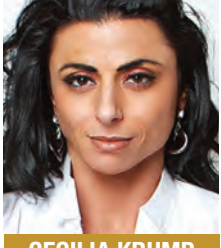
PATRICIA P. HOLLENBECK
Duane Morris



CLAUDIA IBARRA
DermTech



GAIL KING
Torrey Pines Bank



CECILIA KRUMP
McFarlane Architects

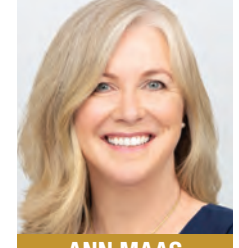


JULIE LOWEN
Children's Paradise Preschool & Infant Center

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL
WOMEN
of INFLUENCE in
50 OVER 50
TOP 50
2023
HONOREES



JENNIFER LUCE
LUCE et studio



ANN MAAS
Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3)



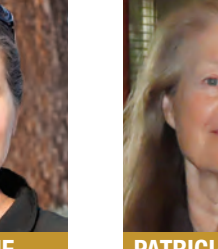
PATRICIA MÁRQUEZ, PHD
University of San Diego



SABRINA MARTUCCI JOHNSON
Daré Bioscience



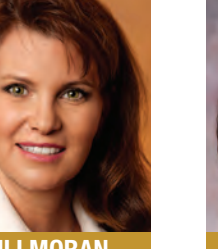
SANDRINE MILLER-MONTGOMERY
Micronoma



PATRICIA MOONEY
Crystal Pyramid Productions



JULI MORAN
Deloitte



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EdnaSpeaks.com



KELLY NICHOLLS
Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate Services, Inc. NSDC



NOELLE NORTON, PHD
University of San Diego



KRISTI PARNELL
Neighborhood Healthcare



JENNIFER PAROLY
Tri-City Hospital Foundation



STACIE PEREZ
Episcopal Community Services



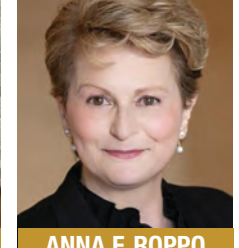
N. JOSEPHINE POLICH
Cearna Inc



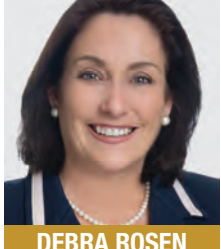
KAREN POSSEMATO
Seer



DEBRA REILLY
Reilly Workplace Investigations



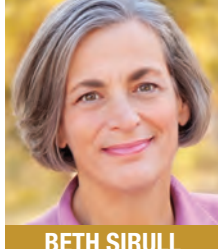
ANNA F. ROPPO
Duckor Metzger & Wynne, APLC



DEBRA ROSEN
North San Diego Business Chamber



DR. MARIE ANN RUSSELL, MD, MPH
TrueCare



BETH SIRULL
Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego



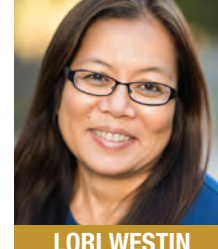
TRACY TING
Encore Capital Group



TAMMY WAHL
Denim Is The New Black



DIANE WAVRIK
YMCA of San Diego County - Rancho Family YMCA



LORI WESTIN
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati



DR. KIMBERLY A. WHITE-SMITH
University of San Diego



ANAHID BRAKKE
President & CEO
 San Diego Hunger Coalition

Anahid Brakke is President and CEO of the San Diego Hunger Coalition, which leads the region's hunger-relief sector through research, advocacy and other resources. Under her leadership, the San Diego Hunger Coalition tripled its budget and doubled its staff size, launched innovative programs like Hunger Free San Diego, and continues to provide detailed data on nutrition insecurity in the county, down to the ZIP code level. Hundreds of thousands of San Diegans rely on the leadership of people like Brakke to ensure they have healthy and nutritious food to help them and their families thrive at a time of increased hardship caused by the pandemic and runaway inflation. Brakke is active in her community and was appointed by County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher to the County's Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) in 2019. She served on this board for four years and was its Chair for the last two years.



SHANNON BROWN
President/CEO (and founder)
 CENTRIC

Shannon Brown, President/CEO of CENTRIC, has more than 30 years in advertising, creative strategy, focus group facilitation, data compilation, communications, media/outreach plans, video production, social media/digital strategy, and event marketing/production. She engages with general and multicultural markets through traditional and nontraditional marketing tactics using advertising, public relations, promotion, community relations/outreach, social media, strategic partnerships, and event marketing to create behavioral change. Brown manages multiple client media campaigns up to \$3 million annually. CENTRIC has 20 team members; the business recently rebranded as it celebrated 15 years serving hundreds of clients. Brown is active with the Point Loma Association (Board of Directors), Pinnacle Global Network and Ocean Beach Main Street Association. She can be reached at shannon@centricmarketing.com or 619-546-5390, ext. 701.



CHERYL CHASE-BERKSON
Broker/Owner
 Chase Pacific Property Management & Real Estate Services

Cheryl Chase-Berkson, broker/owner of Chase Pacific Property Management, has been a real estate and property management professional for 47 years. She opened her own firm in 1993 in Scripps Ranch. She has received numerous accolades and in 2022 was named as one of the San Diego Business Journal's Top 50 Influential Women in Commercial Real Estate. A summa cum laude graduate of Fresno State University, she earned a bachelor's degree in geography, home economics, dance and secondary education. Chase-Berkson is active in church growth group leadership programs, ministries, and outreaches and serves on the San Diego Association of Realtors Professional Standards and Risk Management committees. She is a member of the Orange County Board of Realtors and serves in a variety of positions on property management organizations. She also has created internship opportunities for high schoolers and others interested in the industry, investing and starting their own businesses.



HEIDI CHOKEIR, PH.D.
Managing Director, Head of Strategy
 Evoke Canale

Heidi Chokeir, Ph.D., is Managing Director and Head of Strategy at Evoke Canale. Chokeir plays a key role in the development of each client's corporate positioning, creating company narratives that resonate with diverse audiences. She is also Evoke Canale's unofficial chief scientific officer, always ready to dive deep into the science that makes each client unique. Her work includes overhauling the corporate storytelling platform and messaging for one of the biggest brands in biotech, BiONTEch. She took over and led agency brand workshops to develop corporate positioning and brand persona for top companies in the industry, including Invivyd, Phil Inc., Zevra Therapeutics and Hummingbird Bioscience. She has played a critical role in Evoke Canale's growth from \$12.4 million in revenues in 2021 to \$14.7 million in 2022. She can be reached at heidi.chokeir@evokegroup.com or 619-849-5377.



SUSAN COUCH
Consultant
 Bank of America

Susan Couch, SVP, Relationship Manager of Business Banking, Bank of America, leads a team serving the aerospace, defense, government-contracting, manufacturing and engineering sectors. An award-winning banker with more than 30 years at Bank of America, she supports companies with annual revenues between \$5 million and \$50 million. Couch consistently ranks among the top 10% of all business bankers within Bank of America. She is BofA's San Diego Co-Chair of its Military Support Affinity Group and Treasurer of its LEAD Women-employee group. Graduating from University of Washington Pacific Coast Banking School, Phoenix Community College and LEAD SD, she serves on National Defense Industrial Association, San Diego Military Advisory Council and San Diego Aerospace & Defense Forum boards. She can be reached at susan.couch@bofa.com or 858-336-1617.



GAEL P.K. COURTNEY
Executive Vice President
 Flocke and Avoyer Commercial Real Estate

Gael P.K. Courtney is executive vice president of Flocke & Avoyer Commercial Real Estate, a position she's held for 28 years. Courtney is admired as a female leader and mentor in a field dominated by men. As such, she is a strong advocate for women across all businesses and an advocate for children's causes. She is accomplished in the sale of retail projects and single-tenant lease transactions. Before joining Flocke & Avoyer, Courtney was assistant vice president of Kingway Development Corp. and CEO/co-founder of National Real Estate Fraud, a firm that provided investigative services to private mortgage insurance companies. She is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and a member of the Rolex Club at Flocke & Avoyer. A graduate of San Francisco State University, Courtney earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and general management.



MERRIANNE DEAN
Principal Attorney and CEO
 Bellator Law Group, APC

Merrienne E. Dean, Esq. of Bellator Law Group, APC is a California State Bar Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law with over 25 years' experience litigating probate and trust disputes, financial elder abuse matters, conservatorships and business disputes. She is a pillar of the San Diego probate community and committed to mentoring students and attorneys, both in formal programs like SDCBA, Lawyers Club, Tom Homann Bar Association and Probate Attorneys of San Diego (PASD), but also in law student mock trial competitions. Dean is known for her creative problem skillset in the area of probate as well as for her thorough and committed client advocacy. Her focus is to help her clients understand the legal process, discover their options, gain control and reach a resolution as quickly and efficiently as possible. She is a co-founder of PASD and a member since 2013.



DENISE "DEEDEE" DEMAN
Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
 Bench International

Denise (DeeDee) DeMan is the founder, chairman and CEO of Bench International, a San Diego based life science and healthcare executive recruiting firm with global reach. DeMan built the business from a single-person firm into a global recruiting and advisory firm for boards and leadership teams. In 2009, DeMan was the first executive recruiter in life science sector history to be named one of the Top 100 Most Inspiring Leaders by PharmaVOICE Magazine. She is an inductee of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Hall of Fame. DeMan is an Independent Director on the Mammogen, Inc. board. She is also the founder of The Bank of Women, comprising over 1,000 women who are ready now for independent director and C-suite roles in the life science and healthcare sector. She is on the Board of Governors of BIOCOM California. She can be reached at denise@benchinternational.com or 310-749-8810.



MONIQUE DUMAIS-CHRISOPE
Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer
 Encore Capital Group

Monique Dumais-Chrisope is the Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer for Encore Capital Group and Midland Credit Management. She is responsible for enabling the business to achieve its goals by delivering strategic technology solutions through a robust infrastructure, secure framework, stable applications and business intelligence. Throughout the pandemic, Dumais-Chrisope led a global IT organization that enabled the company to operate through technology, allowing colleagues to continue extending support to consumers while staying connected to each other. Thanks to her leadership, the IT organization supported a migration of 4,000 employees to a remote work environment with zero impacts to the business, followed by a successful return-to-office while ensuring company assets were secured and current without business interruption. Post pandemic, Dumais-Chrisope has shifted her focus from business continuity mode to enabling innovation that is positioning Encore Capital Group and its subsidiaries for success.



CHARLOTTE FAN
North County Service Center Director
 Meals on Wheels San Diego County

Charlotte Fan is North County Service Center Director for Meals on Wheels San Diego County. She joined the organization in 1999 as a Counselor and was promoted to her current position in 2004. She holds master's degrees in community psychology and in education, which inspired her to pursue a career in social services. She creates a positive work environment, inspiring her team to perform their best while working with 600 homebound seniors and veterans, and over 1,000 community volunteers nearly every day of the year. Fan devoted her personal time last year to her family, including her two grandchildren who were born during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also dedicates her time to supporting her 97-year-old mother when she comes to visit San Diego. Fan's mother lived with her for six months during the pandemic and did 100 pushups and 100 sit-ups every day. "She is my role model," said Fan.





LAURIE FISHER
CEO & Founder
LMA Marketing & Advertising

As Founder and Chief Executive of LMA Marketing & Advertising, Laurie Fisher has helped her partners promote business across the country for almost 20 years. LMA's client roster ranges from home improvement companies to financial and legal companies, real estate, mortgage brokers as well as retailers ranging from automotive to health, wellness and beauty. In 2022 and year to date 2023, LMA had 100% employee retention with no layoffs and added two new employees. For the past 11 years, Fisher has dedicated much of her time to several nonprofit organizations throughout San Diego. Utilizing pro-bono marketing, she has helped Shabbat San Diego, Second Chance, the Kindness Initiative, Mano a Mano Foundation and Humble Designs to assist their community. Prior to founding LMA, Fisher worked in San Diego radio stations: Clear Channel, Gannett, Jacor Broadcasting and KFMB. She can be reached at laurie@lmaworldwide.com.



KIM FOLSOM
Chairperson, CEO and Founder
Founders First Capital Partners

Kim Folsom is the founder and CEO of Founders First Capital Partners, a revenue-based investment and advisory support investment platform. FFCP is the largest private provider of growth funding for service-based businesses and the only Black and women-led, revenue-based venture platform raising \$150 million in committed capital. FFCP is focused on partnering with employer-based, revenue-generating small businesses, to provide them with flexible and non-dilutive funding, expertise and resources to achieve exponential growth in underserved communities. Folsom is also the founder of Founders First CDC, a not-for-profit community development organization and micro-small business accelerator with a mission to help underserved and underrepresented small business owners overcome the challenges they face. As a social entrepreneur. She can be reached at kim.folsom@ffstcp.com or 858-264-4102.



DELINDA FORSYTHE
CEO
Innovative Commercial Environments

Delinda Forsythe has dedicated her time volunteering for CAUSE San Diego since retiring in December 2022 as CEO of Innovative Commercial Environments, the office and hospitality furniture company that she founded in 2006. During the pandemic and its rebound, Forsythe retained all her employees, giving them reliable payment when the nation suffered from record-high unemployment rates. Forsythe is the Amazon bestselling author of "Inspiring Generational Leadership: Your Guide to Design a Conscious Culture." She is a member of the CAUSE San Diego Executive Leadership committee, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, the San Diego Foundation, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, TranscenDANCE Youth Arts Project, Athena - advancement of women in STEM in San Diego, Conscious Capitalism San Diego and Conscious Capitalism Inc.



BRE'AN FOX
Founder
FS Design Group

Bre'an Fox, founder of FS Design Group, has more than 30 years of experience in architecture and design and last year sold the firm to Amy Tobias, a former senior project manager at FS Design Group. Fox also is a founder of San Diego CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women). She is known for creating spaces that reflect brands, support company culture, optimize function and inspire staffs. She maintained her full staff throughout the two years of COVID. Fox remains involved with FS Design Group to provide guidance and support. She has overseen and continues to work on design projects for Palomar Health, California's largest health care district by area. She has led the design for six new PACE projects in Northern and Southern California. PACE stands for Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. Fox is dedicated to helping women advance their careers.



CHRIS FRAHM
Shareholder
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Chris Frahm is a shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. Frahm has navigated legal, political and business challenges to assist San Diego County Water Authority in ensuring a reliable, sustainable water supply for San Diego County. Formerly seen as the "end of the pipeline," San Diego today has one of the most resilient water supplies in California. Formerly representing the city of San Diego on the Water Authority Board of Directors and the San Diego region on the Metropolitan Water District Board, she returned to private practice to focus exclusively on California water law and policy. She was honored by the city and county of San Diego in 1998 for her work on the Water Authority's long-term water conservation agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District. Current and past community contributions include Director Emeritus of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation and Board Member of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. She can be reached at cfrahm@bhfs.com of 619-702-6917.



Congratulations to Encore Capital Group's



Tracy Ting
Senior Vice President,
Chief Human Resources Officer



Monique Dumais-Chrisope
Senior Vice President,
Chief Information Officer

On being selected as one of SDBJ's 2023 Women of Influence, Top 50 over 50



A NEW HORIZON

CELEBRATING USD'S TOP WOMEN
of INFLUENCE



Patricia Márquez, PhD
DEAN, JOAN B. KROC
SCHOOL OF PEACE STUDIES



Noelle Norton, PhD
DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES



Kimberly White-Smith, EdD
DEAN, SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP
AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

The University of San Diego is proud to recognize its outstanding women leaders and their contributions to our San Diego community.

Dedicated to opening doors, expanding horizons, aiming higher,
pursuing a greater good and serving a higher purpose.



AMANDA GOIS
Chief Marketing Director
St. Paul's Senior Services

Amanda Gois has served as the Chief Marketing Director at St. Paul's Senior Services for nearly 16 years. She brings more than 35 years of sales, advertising and marketing experience to the organization. Gois' previous roles include Vice President of Brand Development and Director of Account Services at several local advertising agencies. At St. Paul's, Gois leads a department of marketing experts responsible for advertising, public relations, social media awareness, internal communications, and community outreach and education for all SPSS residential communities and programs. A member of the San Diego County Council on Aging, she served as the Second Vice President for five years, showing commitment to the field of senior care and improving the lives of San Diego seniors. She is often invited as a guest speaker and educator on a local and national level, including UCSD and the National PACE Association. She can be reached at marketing@stpaulseniors.org



LISA GORDON
CEO
Lisa Inspires

Lisa Gordon is an award-winning communications executive with more than 25 years of experience in business, community, government and international relations. Gordon is currently the CEO of Lisa Inspires, a training, facilitation and consulting firm launched in 2016 and based in San Diego. Gordon went back to school at the age of 50 to pursue a master's degree in Organizational Leadership and was a catalyst for launching Lisa Inspires. As a speaker, trainer, facilitator and consultant, Gordon has successfully worked with and inspired a wide range of San Diego-based corporate, government and nonprofit clients including Accessity (formerly ACCION San Diego), I Love a Clean San Diego, La Jolla Institute for Immunology, Northrop Grumman, Pfizer, Port of San Diego, SANDAG, San Diego Community Power, The Centre for Organization Effectiveness and UCSD Extended Studies. She is currently an advisor for the Burnham Center for Community Advancement. She can be reached at lisa@lisainspires.com



PAULINE GOURDIE
CEO
CSL Staffing

Pauline Gourdie is CEO of CSL Staffing, which provides staffing solutions. Gourdie has been with CSL Staffing for seven years. Her mission is to provide excellent customer service and a pathway for prospective employees to find purpose and value in employment opportunities. Gourdie has given her time to many nonprofits over the years and serves on the Board of Directors of Palomar Health Foundation, the executive and nominating committees. She also serves as CEO of Brothers Forever Foundation, a nonprofit that supports veterans with PTSD and drug-related dependency issues in memory of her late brothers. She has served with the Escondido Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation, Sunrise Rotary, California Center for the Arts, YMCA, Feeding San Diego and San Diego Rescue Mission. Gourdie is a member of California Staffing Professionals, The American Staffing Association, National Association of Women Business Owners, SHRM and CalChamber. She has a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University



OLIVIA GRAEVE
Faculty Scholar and Professor
UC San Diego, Jacobs School of Engineering

Dr. Olivia Graeve is a faculty scholar and professor at UC San Diego. Graeve is involved in many activities related to recruiting and retaining women and underrepresented minority students in science and engineering. Graeve believes "collaborations at a young age bring down walls that enhance human compassion and connections, thus changing the world for the better." She promotes STEM to women and underrepresented minority students through the ENLACE program, encouraging the participation of high school students, university students, and researchers in science and engineering while promoting cross-border friendships between Latin America and the United States. Over 10 years, ENLACE has served more than 700 students. Graeve was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2020. She can be reached at ograeve@eng.ucsd.edu



SABINE HADIDA, PH.D.
Senior Vice President and Site Head, San Diego Research
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated

Sabine Hadida, Ph.D., is senior vice president and site head, San Diego Research, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, leading all activities at Vertex's San Diego research facility. Hadida is part of the team that discovered all of Vertex's now-approved medicines for cystic fibrosis as well as multiple investigational medicines in development. Dr. Hadida has published more than 30 peer-reviewed papers and is an inventor on more than 60 U.S. patents. Last year, she received the Medicinal & Bioorganic Chemistry Drug Hunter Award for the discovery of CFTR modulators for the treatment of CF. An ally for people of all backgrounds, genders, races and identities, she is also passionate about creating opportunities for young people to become scientists — both through Vertex's STEAM education programs and by being a scientist and role model herself. Vertex provides paid summer internships for high school students to learn about the science of drug development and the business of biotechnology.



CONGRATULATIONS

to our very own

Kelly Nicholls, SIOR

Principal with Lee & Associates-North San Diego County,

for being recognized as one of San Diego's
Top 50 Women Over 50

by the San Diego Business Journal! With over 25 years of experience in commercial real estate, Kelly's expertise and dedication have made her a valuable asset to her clients and colleagues. We're proud to have her on our team!

Lee & Associates - North San Diego County



Kelly Nicholls



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PATRICIA P. HOLLENBECK
Partner
 Duane Morris

Patty Hollenbeck is a partner in the San Diego office of Duane Morris. She practices in the area of commercial and business litigation, handling individual and class action cases in state and federal courts. She also has extensive experience in arbitration and mediation. She has served for years on the Duane Morris Women's Impact Network for Success Steering Committee, establishing programs, events and initiatives to foster the development of the firm's women attorneys. An instructor for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, she is a past president of Lawyers Club of San Diego. She also served on the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association Foundation, Downtown San Diego Partnership and Association of Business Trial Lawyers, San Diego. She has served on the California Lawyers Association Business Litigation and Franchise Law committees. She can be reached at PHollenbeck@duanemorris.com or 619-744-2250.



CLAUDIA IBARRA
Chief Operating Officer
 DermTech

Claudia Ibarra, Chief Operating Officer at DermTech, has more than 25 years of experience in clinical laboratory operations, in oncology, immunology and molecular biology. Before joining DermTech, she served as SVP, Laboratory Operations at Exagen and Director of the molecular oncology laboratory at Genoptix, Inc. She holds a Biochemistry degree with specialization in clinical laboratory science from the University of Buenos Aires and a California License as Clinical Laboratory Scientist. Ibarra has significantly contributed to the company's status as a precision dermatology leader, helping scale the organization during a time of growth. She has overseen the expansion of DermTech's laboratory, increasing its capacity more than threefold since joining in 2019. DermTech plans to open a new, 20,000-square-foot lab space this year. Ibarra grew her operations team by 50% from 2020 to 2021 and an additional 30% from 2021 to 2022. Prior to Ibarra joining, the lab team was comprised of less than 10 members; today, there are more than 35.



GAIL KING
Senior Vice President
 Torrey Pines Bank

Gail King is senior vice president of commercial banking for Torrey Pines Bank. While King's portfolio is diverse, she specializes in serving professional service firms, law firms, contractors, CPAs and more. She holds particular expertise in working with contractors and law firms, who have specialized account services and lending needs, as well as financing business expansion and commercial real estate. Clients look to her for working capital, equipment financing, and SBA 7A and SBA 504 loans. King joined Torrey Pines Bank in 2003 and has 35 years of banking industry experience. Based in Carmel Valley, she finances businesses throughout Southern California. King is a board member for the Copley Price YMCA and a member of the Century Club, which organizes an annual Professional Golf Association tournament. She is also an active volunteer with the American Heart Association, serving on its gala committee. She previously participated as a board member for the Downtown San Diego Partnership.



CECILIA KRUMP
Senior Vice President
 McFarlane Architects

Cecilia Krump, senior vice president of McFarlane Architects, manages multiple projects in varying stages of design and/or construction with project sizes varying from 5,000 square feet to 150,000 square feet and 90% of her projects are with repeat clients, demonstrating that her hard work and attention to detail pays off. She is the project architect for the IQHQ RaDD (Research and Development District) Life Science Tenant Improvement projects in downtown San Diego. In 2022, Krump received the Redevelopment Project of the Year Award from the San Diego Business Journal for the Vividion Therapeutic Campus. She mentors junior staff members and provides shadow days for high school and college students considering architecture as a career. Krump holds a master's degree in business administration from Cameron University and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is a member of the National Council of Architecture Registration Board and the American Institute of Architects.



JULIE LOWEN
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
 Children's Paradise Preschool & Infant Center

Julie Lowen is Founder and CEO of Children's Paradise Preschool & Infant Center, one of the fastest growing preschool chains in San Diego. In the past few years, the company has grown to serve almost 2,500 families, currently operating out of eight locations. Lowen is leading the charge in early childhood development. Her state-of-the-art education centers, combined with her new vision of early learning centers, have helped thousands of families improve their lives. Lowen's centers stand apart by letting children learn and explore through imaginative play experiences that are facilitated by highly educated teachers, along with a belief that each child should be offered equal access to a high-quality early childhood education, regardless of family income. Last year, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Care and Development Division (CCDD) awarded Children's Paradise \$19.4 million to expand early education centers. She can be reached at jlowen@childrensparadise.com or 760-407-8500.



Amanda Gois
Chief Marketing Director, St. Paul's Senior Services



Laurie Fisher
LMA CEO & Founder



LMA Congratulates

Amanda Gois, Chief Marketing Director of St. Paul's Senior Services
 And **Laurie Fisher** CEO and founder of LMA

Your leadership and innovation have inspired us all.



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JENNIFER LUCE
Founding Principal
LUCE et studio

As founding principal of LUCE et studio architects, Jennifer Luce oversaw the \$55 million renovation and expansion of the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park in 2021 and donates professional time and studio resources to the City of San Diego in a variety of ways, most recently as co-chair of the Civic Center Revitalization Citizens Committee. She is a licensed architect practicing in California, New York and Canada. Luce designed the first smart building in the U.S. in 1987 and champions women artists. She earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Carleton University and a Master of Design Studies degree from Harvard University School of Design. Luce is a fellow with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and is a leader in the international architecture industry, co-chairing the AIA Monterey Design Conference for the past two years.



ANN MAAS
Partner
Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3)

Ann Maas is a partner with Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3). One of the original firm members, she was promoted from senior counsel to partner in 2022. Throughout her more than 25-year legal career, Maas has applied her technical, legal and market knowledge in representing both landlords and tenants in millions of square feet of commercial space across all asset types and also has significant expertise in handling purchase and sale transactions. She is known in the commercial real estate sector for her ability to work efficiently and get deals done in a manner that is consistent with her client's needs and business objectives. Prior to joining CGS3, she was a real estate attorney at Mintz Levin. She began her legal career at Allen Matkins and served as in-house senior counsel at Equastone, a real estate investment firm. She can be reached at amaas@ cgs3.com or 858-367-7674.



PATRICIA MÁRQUEZ, PHD
Associate Provost and Dean of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego

Patricia Márquez, PhD, is an Associate Provost and Dean of the Kroc School at the University of San Diego. Under her leadership, the school quadrupled in student body size and increased its diversity, hosted Nobel Prize winners and forged global partnerships with peace-builders. Márquez helped to launch new master's programs in the areas of conflict resolution, mediation, humanitarian affairs and social innovation. As the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Innovation at the university, Márquez led the creation of the USD Academic Plan to provide a future-oriented roadmap of academic priorities and actions to help shape academia at USD as a liberal arts institution for the 21st century during the next decade.

Márquez is an independent director on the board of PriceSmart (NASDAQ: PSMT). She sits on the board of the PriceSmart Foundation and the editorial board of the Journal of Social Entrepreneurship.



SABRINA MARTUCCI JOHNSON
President and Chief Executive Officer
Daré Bioscience

Sabrina Martucci Johnson is President and CEO of Daré Bioscience (NASDAQ: DARE). As the founder, president, CEO and member of the Board of Directors, Martucci Johnson has built Daré as a company dedicated to advancing innovation in women's health. Daré went public in 2017 and has since rapidly assembled a portfolio of clinical and preclinical stage product candidates, received FDA approval for a bacterial vaginosis treatment, and entered into various corporate partnerships. She led Daré to achieve multiple corporate milestones including closing a Global License Agreement with ORGANON to commercialize Daré's first FDA-approved product, XACIATO (clindamycin phosphate vaginal gel, 2%) with a \$10 million upfront payment and potential milestone payments of up to \$182.5 million and double digit tiered royalties.

She is featured in nine articles as a voice advocating for women's sexual and reproductive rights following the Dobbs decision. Serving on several boards, she is Board Chair Elect for Biocom California.



SANDRINE MILLER-MONTGOMERY
CEO, Co-founder, President and Board Member
Micronoma

Sandrine Miller-Montgomery, Pharm.D, Ph.D., is the CEO of Micronoma, the first company using microbiome driven liquid biopsy technology to detect cancer. She excels at pioneering innovative solutions in the marketplace, and with Micronoma, in just three years, she has helped raise \$17.5 million, received FDA Breakthrough Device Designation status, and most importantly, has inspired the oncology field to incorporate microbiome information in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. She utilized the critical input of clinicians and payors to strategically deploy the company's solution first in lung cancer (though the platform can detect many different cancers), resulting in OncobiotaLUNG receiving FDA Breakthrough Device Designation in January. She has assumed leadership positions in several companies in San Diego in her career including Illumina, Abbott and Qiagen. She was CEO of MOBIO, where she orchestrated its successful exit through acquisition by Qiagen. She can be reached at sandrine.miller@micronoma.com or 858-353-7016.



It is our pleasure to congratulate our very own, Charolette Fan, on being one of the **SDBJ 2023 Women of Influence - Top 50 over 50!!**

Thank you for your dedication in supporting seniors and disabled veterans in the San Diego community.



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PATRICIA MOONEY
VP
Crystal Pyramid Productions

Patricia Mooney is Vice President of Crystal Pyramid Productions. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Mooney co-produced and starred in award-winning instructional videos “Massage For Relaxation,” “Common Sense Self Defense for Women,” “The Great Mountain Biking Video” and “Steppin’ Out” with Carrie Weiland. In 1994, during the filming of “Full Cycle: A World Odyssey,” she participated in the first Mount Everest Mountain-Bike Rally. In 2008, Mooney offered her producing and editing skills to the award-winning documentary “The Invisible Ones: Homeless Combat Veterans.” Mooney’s experience includes working with corporate and broadcast clients including Inside Edition, IBM, UPS, Ford Motor Company, Entertainment Tonight and more. She can be reached at pattykay-mooney@gmail.com or 619-644-3000.



JULI MORAN
Deloitte San Diego Office Managing Partner
Deloitte

Juli Moran is San Diego Office Managing Partner at Deloitte. She leads the practices of over 975 professionals across consulting, tax, audit, and risk and financial advisory. Moran has more than 34 years of experience in the life sciences industry working with payers, pharmaceutical and biotechnology manufacturers, clinical research organizations and medical device manufacturers. As a lead client service partner, she is responsible for the overall relationship for select life science clients. Under Moran’s leadership, the Deloitte San Diego office experienced unprecedented growth in 2022, adding approximately 260 professionals; and significant revenue growth, outpacing the U.S. firm with year-over-year growth of around 22%. Moran also currently serves as chair of the San Diego AHA Board of Directors, which saw \$1 million year over year growth in research funds raised. She can be reached at julimoran@deloitte.com or 619-237-6795.



EDNA NERONA
President
EdnaSpeaks.com

Edna Nerona is a speaker, comedian and President of EdnaSpeaks.com, a business founded on her passion for public speaking education and sharing her experience with bullying. Nerona has become a sought-after keynote speaker for events such as EXP The Opportunity Engine’s annual GPS Your Future Career Discovery event, where she discussed “The Empowering Skill of Public Speaking.” Nerona has been a guest speaker at various Optimist, Rotary and Toastmasters International Clubs around San Diego, sharing her expertise on topics such as “Rising Above Bullying” and “Applying Vitamin H (Humor) to Your Speeches.” When not speaking, Nerona enjoys entertaining as a standup comedian, emcee and pianist. She has performed standup comedy at the Point Loma Playhouse and National Comedy Theater and has performed at the Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Piano Festival. She can be reached at edna@ednaspeaks.com.



KELLY NICHOLLS
Principal
Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate Services, Inc. -NSDC

As principal of Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate Services, Kelly Nicholls in 2021-2022 completed more than 450,000 square feet of lease and sale transactions and over 45 acres of land sales. She was the top producer in March 2022 and among the top 10 Producers in April, May, September and October of 2022. A graduate of the University of California Berkeley with a bachelor’s degree in the political economies of industrial societies/economics, Nicholls has been working in commercial real estate since the late 1980s. She specializes in site-location advisory services, multi-market tenant portfolio management, build-to-suits and investment sales. Nicholls is passionate about CRE and staying up to date with industry trends to offer the best experience to her clients. She helps support young brokers in the industry and makes herself available to answer questions and share her knowledge. Nicholls is a co-founder of MIT (Military in Transition) Firefighter for a Day.





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Chief Marketing Director, St. Paul's Senior Services

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St. Paul's Senior Services is a mission based San Diego non-profit. Established in 1960.



NOELLE NORTON, PHD
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of San Diego
 University of San Diego

Noelle Norton, Ph.D., is Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of San Diego.

Last year, Norton led the team that brought the Union-Tribune Festival of Books to the USD campus during the summer and developed plans for the festival in future years. She is also currently building a “First@USD” program to introduce students to interdisciplinary thinking in college and to enhance writing, reading and science laboratory skills.

Over the past two years, Norton has opened or is opening space and programming in a new “College Arts District” and “Office of Undergraduate Studies” to create vibrant spaces for students.

Norton is responsible for recruiting and hiring the College of Arts and Sciences’ most diverse pool of faculty ever – 75% of new faculty hires are underrepresented or women in STEM. She is also overseeing the development of five new interdisciplinary programs, including Applied Ethics, Africana Studies and Cognitive Sciences minors.



KRISTI PARNELL
Chief Human Resources Officer
 Neighborhood Healthcare

Kristi Parnell is Chief Human Resources Officer at Neighborhood Healthcare.

Parnell recently successfully executed a recruiting campaign to overcome a major labor shortage with medical assistants, call center representatives, and patient service representatives that increased productivity at the site manager level while stabilizing Neighborhood Healthcare’s workforce and increasing its retention rates.

Utilizing her extensive background in M&A, Parnell also successfully onboarded staff at three new Riverside locations that Neighborhood Healthcare acquired.

She also spearheaded a JEDI certificate program for five executives to create the foundation for Neighborhood Healthcare’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives with a goal to educate, increase awareness and encourage employees to be themselves and be thoughtful and motivational in their approach.



JENNIFER PAROLY
President
 Tri-City Hospital Foundation

Jennifer Paroly is Chief Development Officer and President of the Tri-City Hospital Foundation. She is responsible for leading a comprehensive development program in support of Tri-City Medical Center capital projects and programs, and relationship management with internal and external philanthropic audiences.

Recently, Paroly raised \$5 million for the remodel of the medical center’s emergency room and nearly \$1.5 million for the creation of a 3T MRI suite at the hospital.

Other recent accomplishments include cultivating new and fruitful relationships with leading philanthropic organizations, including the David C. Copley Foundation and the Conrad Prebys Foundation.

Paroly was also responsible for bringing top headliner acts to the annual Tri-City Hospital Foundation Gala, including musical acts Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue in 2022, Seal in 2021 and Michael McDonald in 2019.

She can be reached at jeparoly@tcmc.com or 760-940-3520.



STACIE PEREZ
Vice President of Programs
 Episcopal Community Services

Stacie Perez is Vice President of Programs at Episcopal Community Services. She leads program design and operations for 7,000 adults and children across 22 locations in San Diego.

Perez recently led the expansion of ECS Para Las Familias, increasing mental and behavioral health services to more children in need. The program now serves children aged 0-12, compared to the previous limit of 0-5. The expansion was supported by a \$70,000 grant from San Diego Foundation and the Dr. Seuss Foundation.

She spearheaded the establishment of a Transitional Age Youth Residential SUD Program, which earned ECS a five-year San Diego County contract worth \$1.2 million per year.

Perez also helped expand ECS services with a new 22-bed Community Harm Reduction Team Safe Haven in the Midway District.

She can be reached at sperez@ecscalifornia.org or 619-228-2800.



Congratulations!

Dr. Marie Russell, MD, MPH

TrueCare Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operations Officer

2023 Most Influential Women 50 Over 50 Honoree

We applaud Dr. Russell for her untiring dedication to improving patient healthcare access and health equity for all. Thank you for your commitment, passion and extraordinary contributions to our organization, patients and community.



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truecare.org



N. JOSEPHINE POLICH
Founder and CEO
Cearna Inc

N. Josephine Polich is the founder and CEO of Cearna. Last year, Cearna launched ActivMend — a topical patch that reduces swelling and pain due to sprains and strains — into the U.S. market. The launch included a partnership agreement, which Polich negotiated, with pro tennis player Angela Kulikov to talk about how ActivMend helped her go from a ranking of No. 500 to No. 50 in a year and helped her get in the US Open. She also led Cearna into an agreement with Texas Christian University athletic trainers to partner with ActivMend in exchange for free product only. TCU ended the season ranked No. 2. ActivMend's success follows the 2012 launch of OcuMend — a pad that reduces swelling and bruising — that was later licensed by Allergan. Polich was also recently invited to be a guest lecturer at the University of Chicago MBA program — her alma mater. She can be reached at dr.jo@activmend.com.



KAREN POSSEMATO
Chief Marketing Officer
Seer

Karen Possemato is Chief Marketing Officer at Seer where she oversees communications, marketing, eCommerce and corporate citizenship. She also supports Seer CEO Omid Farokhzad in creating and executing initiatives that enhance operations, business strategy and corporate reputation. Possemato has worked in biotechnology marketing and communications for 30 years, specifically in the life sciences, genomic and proteomic fields. She excels at building developing markets, taking early-stage companies to profitability and growth at-scale, and has a proven track record of establishing robust marketing infrastructure to support successful product launches. Possemato is active in the San Diego community and beyond by supporting the next generation of retained all her employees, giving them. In her former role as Chief of Staff at Illumina, she established the Women's Leadership Network, founded the Illumina Foundation and drove multiple cross-sector programs. She can be reached at kpossemato@seer.bio or 760-809-5255.



DEBRA REILLY
Managing Director and Senior Attorney Workplace Investigator
Reilly Workplace Investigations

Debra Reilly is Managing Director and Senior Attorney Workplace Investigator at Reilly Workplace Investigations. She's conducted more than 1,000 workplace investigations for numerous municipalities, counties, water and sanitation districts, vector control districts, fire departments, police departments, public and private universities, community college districts, public and private school districts, transportation authorities, the United States Postal Service, and many private sector employers, including several Fortune 500 companies. The USD School of Law graduate has testified as an expert witness and published numerous articles and seminars on how to conduct internal investigations. She is a founding Board Member of the Association of Workplace Investigators (AWI) where she served on the Board for six years and she served as the Chair of its publications committee and editor-in-chief of the AWI Journal. She can be reached at debra@wpinvestigations.com or 858-759-4303.



ANNA F. ROPPO
Managing Partner
Duckor Metzger & Wynne, APLC

Anna Roppo is a managing partner at Duckor Metzger & Wynne, APLC. Roppo oversees the firm's operations, including attorney recruitment and initiatives that address firm growth and enhance firm culture and attorney development. Roppo successfully co-represented a large international registered investment advisor in arbitration regarding allegations of financial elder abuse. Before the arbitration last year concluded, the plaintiff's settlement was a fraction of its eight-figure settlement demand. She is a past president of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, having rose through the organization's ranks over the years by serving in several voluntary roles. She has built her professional success while simultaneously undergoing active treatment for lung cancer. Roppo credits the support of her colleagues, clients, and family as well as the great care that she receives from her medical team. She can be reached at roppo@dmwplc.com or 619-209-3059.



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CHRIS FRAHM

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DEBRA ROSEN
President/CEO
North San Diego Business Chamber

Debra Rosen is President and CEO of the North San Diego Business Chamber.

In February, Rosen announced her retirement effective in late June. During her 14-year tenure, she managed NSDBC out of debt and led it to recognition as one of the few Five-Star U.S. Chamber accredited organizations in California. She led the management team and board in identifying critical issues, reduced and streamlined overhead expenses, paid off enormous debt that carried liens against the organization and increased member retention.

Rosen is currently leading succession planning to ensure continuity of leadership and adapting to the changing needs and demands of remaining relevant to future generations in an ever-changing landscape.

Rosen has 18 years of experience working in the nonprofit industry and is credited with the turnaround of two underperforming organizations. She can be reached at drosen@sdbusinesschamber.com or 858-922-1766.



DR. MARIE ANN RUSSELL, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operations Officer
TrueCare

Dr. Marie Ann Russell, MD, MPH, CAPT, USPHS (retired) serves as Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operations Officer at TrueCare, a nonprofit healthcare center. She implemented a new model for TrueCare's workforce, resulting in an impressive 80% provider retention rate in 2022.

Dr. Russell reengineered the provider incentive program, incentivizing and rewarding practitioners, resulting in a 50% increase in participation. She also doubled payout to providers and offered them market adjustments.

She has worked to improve the health of underserved and disadvantaged populations, including the creation of a Quick-Care center in San Marcos and three new mobile healthcare units countywide. She has served on the boards of all 12 health centers in the Indian Health Service. Outside of healthcare, Dr. Russell also served on the board of her children's competitive figure skating club.



BETH SIRULL
President and CEO
Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego

Beth Sirull is President and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego. She has been a leader in promoting local impact investments, helping to finance affordable housing and working on economic development efforts.

During the six years of her leadership, JCF has granted more than \$600 million into the community, approximately 75% of which have gone to secular nonprofits benefiting the whole community. Under her leadership JCF's assets have more than doubled, revenues are up 65% and expenses are only up 31%, putting the Foundation on solid financial footing and enabling it to weather economic cycles.

Sirull advises numerous nonprofits and social enterprises. She also serves as Director of Tablecloth, Inc., a software and services company that enables private equity fund managers to assess, manage and communicate their ESG impacts quickly, efficiently and affordably.

She can be reached at beth@jcfсандiego.org or 858-279-2740.



TRACY TING
Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer
Encore Capital Group

Tracy Ting is Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at Encore Capital Group. She is an award-winning chief human resources officer (CHRO) with a background in financial audit who enhances shareholder value through strategic business growth and cultural transformation at multi-national companies.

As chair of Encore's Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) Steering Committee, Ting led the development of the company's first global ESG strategic roadmap and plan. She's been named as one of Diversity & Leadership Inc.'s "Top 100 HR Leaders" of 2023. In 2022, she spearheaded the successful move to have Encore's global entities certified as a "great place to work" (GPTW) by the Great Place to Work Institute, Inc.

Ting is current a Board member of Athena, a women's advocacy organization whose mission is to advance one million women leading in STEM by 2030.



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WOMEN of INFLUENCE in 50 OVER 50 TOP 50 2023 HONOREE

Congratulations to our partner
Ann Maas for her recognition
as one of San Diego's Top 50!

Committed to our mission of delivering a best-in-class client experience, Ann is a key member of CGS3's growing legal team and has extensive experience representing both landlords and tenants in office and retail leasing. She is well deserving of this recognition by the San Diego Business Journal.

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TAMMY WAHL
Principal/Founder
Denim Is The New Black

Tammy Wahl is the Principal and Founder of Denim Is The New Black.

Once her children entered high school, Wahl found that many women her age didn't have enough support in 'finding themselves' again. She saw a need and created the fashion photography blog Denim Is The New Black as a way of reaching these women – over 40 – to show them they're beautiful, healthy and amazing. The blog continues to grow with nearly a half million dollars per year in sales revenue.

Wahl sits on the North San Diego Business Chamber Economic Advisory Council and recently served on the 2022 and 2023 San Diego Women's Week strategy team. She is also a skin cancer survivor and uses her experience and her influence to encourage others to do regular skin cancer checks.

She can be reached at 252-626-5882 or tammy@DenimIsTheNewBlack.com.



DIANE WAVRIK
Gymnastics Director
YMCA of San Diego County -
Rancho Family YMCA

Diane Wavrik is the gymnastics director at YMCA of San Diego County - Rancho Family YMCA. She has been serving the San Diego YMCA communities over the last 34 years and currently oversees more than 600 youth in her gymnastics programs and more than 130 kids on the gymnastics teams.

During her career, Wavrik has mentored thousands of gymnastics instructors and coaches. She's a passionate, driven and well-known figure in the gymnastics world -- both in San Diego and across the state. She has led her teams to numerous awards and accomplishments with USA Gymnastics.

Over the last year, Wavrik has served as the collaborative chair for the gymnastics department where she has been working diligently to bring the department back to its pre-COVID operating level.

She can be reached at dwavrik@ymcasd.org.



LORI WESTIN
Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Lori Westin is a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. She turned to patent law after earning a Ph.D. in biology and securing five patents covering her own innovations in molecular biology. Now she secures those patents for others.

Westin is currently representing Impossible Foods in a sprawling patent dispute in federal court and the U.S Patent Trial and Appeal Board, where she routinely ranks as one of the 50 most active women lawyers in the country.

Westin served as co-chair of the Lawyers Club of San Diego's North County division. Currently, she sits on the board of Women of Color in the Law, an organization that was formed in 2002 in response to the lack of diversity in the San Diego legal community.

She can be reached at lwestin@wsgr.com or 858-350-2300.



DR. KIMBERLY A. WHITE-SMITH
Dean of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) at the University of San Diego

Dr. Kimberly A. White-Smith is Dean of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) at the University of San Diego. She endeavors to foster academic justice for Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, Latinx, and neurodivergent students through enhanced learning environments, organizational structures, policies, and teaching practices.

White-Smith led SOLES' \$1.5M partnership with San Diego Foundation to launch the Black InGenius Initiative (BiGI), a college access program for Black students. Formerly, she established the Center for Neurodiversity, Learning, and Wellness as the dean of LaFetra at the University of La Verne.

White-Smith is a commissioner for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). She is also the President-elect for the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges of Teacher Education (AILACTE), and an Executive Board member of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE).



Daré Bioscience

Daré Bioscience (Nasdaq: DARE) is a biopharmaceutical company committed to **addressing the lack of innovation in women's health** with differentiated products that address unmet needs primarily in the areas of **contraception, fertility, and vaginal and sexual health.**

Daré's current portfolio consists of **eleven product candidates, and one FDA-approved product**, employing a variety of delivery methods (vaginal rings, hydrogels, creams, capsules) and different active ingredients. **Daré is committed to improving the lives of women.**



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Stacie Perez

Vice President of Programs





Congratulations to **Lisa Gordon, M.S.** on being recognized as one of San Diego's Top 50 Women of Influence: 50 Over 50.

Lisa is the CEO of Lisa Inspires, a training, facilitation, and consulting firm specializing in keynote presentations, high-impact training, meeting facilitation, and strategic planning for corporate, government, and non-profit entities. Lisa inspires people and inspires change in the workplace and beyond.

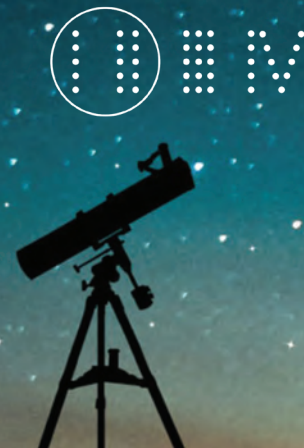


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Sandrine Miller-Montgomery
Pharm.D. and Ph.D.
CEO and Co-founder of Micronoma

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Top 50 Women of Influence Over 50

Congratulations Diane Wavrik!



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