



## 2023 Presenter and Panelist Biographies

**Dr. Rhonda Alexander** is a global entrepreneur, speaker, coach, and author. She is the founder of IUVO Consulting, LLC, an international regulatory-compliance consulting firm, and E-Squared Entrepreneur & Executive Coaching, LLC, a firm dedicated to facilitating the growth and development of entrepreneurs and leaders. In addition to authoring three books: *EntrHERpreneur*, *Your Life's Calling*, and *Side-Hustle or Sustainable*, Dr. Rhonda has worked with organizations and professionals around the world. As a result, she has garnered more than 25 years of unique experiences that make her a creative organizational strategist, as well as an inspired, compassionate, and driven speaker and coach.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/thedrrhonda](https://www.linkedin.com/in/thedrrhonda)

**Dr. Thomas E. Anderson, II** is the founder of Teaiiano Leadership Solutions. As a coach, consultant, and workshop facilitator, Thomas helps founders, leaders, and managers to navigate the multi-loop (...and often elusive) process of vision development and realization. In fact, he measures results by how much he helps clients to transform their vision into reality. Thomas is a recurring presenter at Regent University's Annual Research Roundtables and has published academic articles on coaching. He also has over 20 years of experience leading high-performance music ministry teams. Above all, Thomas enjoys being a devoted husband to his wife, Jamie, and a dedicated father to his daughters, Arianna and Azalia.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/thomasandersonii](https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomasandersonii)

**Annette Bechtold, ACC**, inspires leaders to confidently achieve greater personal satisfaction, meaningful performance outcomes, and success by becoming the leader they are meant to be. Together, she helps individuals and leaders learn, cultivate, and leverage their talents to align with aspirations and calling. Annette's 38-year career as a business leader and decades of work in volunteer and association organizations provides real life understanding of the challenges leaders face. Following the call to help leaders effectively lead in this dynamic workplace, she began Forte Consulting Atlanta to aid individuals, businesses, and teams to plan, build, grow, and prosper. Annette has coached hundreds of individuals and teams, in various industries for greater performance, productivity, and profitability. Annette is a Gallup Certified

Strengths Coach. Her goal: is to see leaders succeed and their followers develop and thrive.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/annette-bechtold-7373b5a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/annette-bechtold-7373b5a)

**Jonathan Bender, MS, MFA** is the founder of WholeSpeak, LLC. He has been coaching public speaking and leadership presence for over 26 years. Jonathan has helped thousands of executives, startup founders and entrepreneurs to become confident, dynamic speakers who inspire teams, investors, customers and audiences. Specialties include confidence, crafting compelling presentations, connection, leadership presence, and becoming a dynamic speaker. Jonathan holds a Master of Fine Art in Theatre: Contemporary Performance as well as a Master of Science in Speech Communication and Performance Studies. More details:

<http://www.WholeSpeak.com>.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/wholespeak](https://www.linkedin.com/in/wholespeak)

**Lourens Delport** is a senior member of the CCI Professional team – a consulting house that specializes in Industry 4 enabled human capital investment strategies. Additional to this role, he is also a co-founder and current MD of The Foundry – an entrepreneurial incubator. With a core passion for cultivating organizations with exponential potential, Lourens pursued and received a structured and research-based Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Regent University in the USA. His expertise include mastery of leadership, organization design, multicultural engagement optimization, business / entrepreneurial coaching and various other worldview and spiritual intelligence fields. Lourens is licensed with Xpand international – a Northern European consultancy house, a qualified neuro-leadership practitioner, a certified Persolog (Germany) DISC coach. Furthermore, he is licensed in AI meta-tools such as the NXTmove business analysis system and Shadowmatch.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/lourensdelpoort](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lourensdelpoort)

**Dr. Jeff Doolittle** has helped business owners and executive leaders of small businesses to global Fortune 50 companies, and his work is taught in university classrooms. He is the founder of Organizational Talent Consulting, a premier executive coaching and business consulting firm for leaders and organizations interested in achieving success and significance. Jeff has helped hundreds of people on the road to recovery from life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups through a non-profit community ministry he started in his hometown. Jeff received his Doctorate in Strategic Leadership from Regent University and is a certified International Coaching Federation executive coach.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/jefferysdoolittle](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jefferysdoolittle)

**Dr. Cynthia Gavin** is a Strategic Leader that uses foresight and leadership coaching to bring about a fresh perspective focused on client needs. Having a diverse background in healthcare, chemical/biological/radiological military response planning, and scientific advisement. As Dr. Gavin transitioned from various technical and subject matter roles to project management, to senior leader advisement, the need for more effective leadership became evident. She noticed the best and the brightest experts were often placed in pivotal leadership positions without having a foundation for how to develop a vision, bring out the best in their teammates, or recognize systematic implications when

promoting change. Dr. Gavin focuses on developing a partnership with their clients so that as they work along-side each other both can become their best self.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/dr-cynthia-gavin-8266446b](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-cynthia-gavin-8266446b)

**Dr. Janice McLaughlin George** is the CEO and Founder of Leadership Passport, a consultancy that empowers a standard of excellence in leadership and organizational culture to yield the desired outcomes. Janice has extensive experience in corporate America with a unique, multidisciplinary skill set, including product management, software engineering, operations management, and people management (direct staff, matrix management, and contractors). She has adapted her skills and experiences to succeed in notable organizations of all sizes in multiple industries, including telecommunications, cybersecurity, device insurance, adult IT training, and nonprofits. Janice is the author of two books, THRIVE(2): Living and Leading a Win Win-Win Organizational Culture, and Confident Love. She lives in northern VA with her husband, Tom.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/jdmgeorge](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jdmgeorge)

**Dr. Beth Graves** is the second-generation President of manufacturing and design firm Prime Controls, located in Dayton, Ohio. She is also the founder of White Stone Leadership, a management consulting firm. She holds a doctorate in Strategic Leadership from Regent University, as well as an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Management from Wright State University. She is currently working to release a leadership development program that is geared toward socially conscious leaders.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/begraves](https://www.linkedin.com/in/begraves)

**Matthew Henry.** Matt stepped away as President/CEO of Fehr & Peers (engineering consulting firm) in 2020 after serving in that role for over 15 years and 28 total with the firm. During his tenure, Fehr & Peers expanded nationally to include 15 offices, 36 shareholders, and a staff size of 320. Matt now serves as Strategic Advisor for several organizations and executive leaders across the country. He works with many CEOs and other senior executives on the full range of organizational issues including leadership development and succession, ownership transition, strategic planning, operational excellence, and growth initiatives. He also attained his ACC credential for Professional Coaching through ICF and serves as Executive Coach for several leaders of for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/matthenry1](https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthenry1)

**Dr. Anthony Perdue** is a leadership coach, trainer, and consultant with over 25 years of experience working with mid to senior leaders from companies like Lyft, Verizon, IBM, GM, KIPP DC, and Maya Angelou Schools. He has a passion for purposeful leadership with a focus on helping mid to senior level leaders grow in their capabilities to motivate, inspire, and grow engaged employees and workplaces. He is the author of the book, Purpose to Power: Your Journey to a Life of Meaning, Fulfillment, and Impact. Dr. Perdue is also an adjunct professor, a GALLUP® Certified Strengths Coach, Certified Emotional Intelligence Coach, Certified Professional Coach and a Certified CDR Assessment Coach. He is a graduate of Regent University with a Doctor

of Strategic Leadership and Duke University, with an MBA.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/dranthonyperdue](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dranthonyperdue)

**Dr. Virginia Richardson**, as the Founder and CEO of the Foresight Center, has devoted the past two decades exploring the future trends that shape our world to help leaders prepare for and design a preferred future. Leveraging her skills as a business and healthcare futurist, graduate foresight educator, leadership expert, and board certified business coach, she equips organizations with the strategic business acumen necessary to build a brighter future. Examples of work include designing and launching AMA/AOA CME-accredited physician leadership academies; designing MBA, Masters, and Doctoral programs, concentrations, and courses in healthcare, foresight, coaching, and leadership; co-creating organizational coaching and in-house coach training programs; designing CCE-approved coach training and certification programs; and substantial consulting work involving organizational transformations. She earned Doctorate, MBA, and Psychology degrees.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/virginiarichardson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/virginiarichardson)

**Dr. Carmellia Shivers-Cole** is a keynote speaker, coach, and expert in character and leadership development. She encourages the finest performance from individuals, businesses, organizations, and sports programs. With more than 25 years of coaching expertise, Dr. Shivers-Cole serves as a resource for others' education. Her passion is teaching others how to communicate, inspire, encourage, and be empowered for life and leadership. She also educates about the challenges and opportunities that the rise of Generation Z will bring to the multigenerational workforces of the future. Her insights, ideas, and strategies with leading Generation Z are a catalyst for this global talent that will truly change the world.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/carmelliacole](https://www.linkedin.com/in/carmelliacole)

**Dr. Bruce Smith**, Involved in international ministry, forming and leading multiple ministry organizations, over a period of 38 years impacting 110 countries, and 2,000 language communities. Four organizational turnarounds. Four new organizational formations. Small, medium, and large teambuilding experience including involvement of more than 10,000 volunteers.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brucesmith3/>

**Mary Verstraete, PCC**, with more than 30 years' experience in leadership development, training, and consulting, Mary has consistently seen the critical need for quantifiably competent and influential leaders. She is the President of the Center for Coaching Excellence which provides live virtual International Coach Federation approved coach training. The center's approach to coach training is the result of neuroscience behavior and mind-set research that added science to masterful communication. Mary has taken the research and broken it down into tangible communication processes that leaders can incorporate into their personal and professional lives. She has developed customized communication training used in companies such as ExxonMobil, Rowan University, Columbus University, Kennesaw University, Ben Hudnall Memorial Trust, and Fairview Hospitals of Minnesota. She earned her degree in Organizational Administration from University of Northwestern –St. Paul. Mary is a certified ICF certified PCC coach, Gallup StrengthsFinder Coach,

Myers-Briggs Administrator, Brand Alignment Trainer, Business Agility Coach, Certified ScrumMaster and Scrum Product Owner, and Conversation Intelligence Coach with a concentration in the neuroscience of communication.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/maryverstraete](https://www.linkedin.com/in/maryverstraete)

**David Wildman** born and raised in Austria, David has been designing and developing brands since he was 10 years old. Working with businesses, churches, and non profits of various sizes has allowed him to learn about many industries. He's worked on staff as Creative Director for large organizations and now owns his own Branding and Marketing Agency - Wildman Design Inc. He resides with his wife April and their son Liam in Naples, FL.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/david-wildman-9a0a259](https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-wildman-9a0a259)

**Dr. Kelly Whelan** is a globally recognized executive and team development strategist and Founder of Belem Leaders in Naples, FL. Dr. Whelan specializes in individual, team, and organizational assessment and leader development services. She is certified as a Gallup® Strengths Coach and holds a European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC) Team Coaching Practitioner accreditation. Dr. Whelan is the author of *Leadership Excellence by Design Strategies for Sustainability and Strength*, hosts the *Conversations for Leaders & Teams* podcast, is the new Editor-in-Chief of Christian Coaching Magazine, and an adjunct at Regent University.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/belemleaders](https://www.linkedin.com/in/belemleaders)

**Dr. Diane M. Wiater**, Dr. Diane M. Wiater is a trusted strategic partner, profitable business manager, and effective leader developer. Diane is a Gallup® Certified Strengths Coach and is also certified to administer the MBTI. Dr. Wiater is a coach's coach. She has been training and teaching coaches for more than 25 years. She served on the inaugural board of the Christian Coaches Network International (CCNI). Her passion is seeing leaders grow, thrive, and lead well! Diane earned her PhD in Organizational Leadership from Regent University an academic faith community in which she has served for nearly 30 years. She is the founder of Wiater of Consulting Group, LLC. She enjoys celebrating life with family and friends, boating, water skiing, hiking, traveling, and juggling.

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/diane-m-wiater-phd-759b544](https://www.linkedin.com/in/diane-m-wiater-phd-759b544)