

# NASHVILLE JUNIOR CHAMBER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

21—23  
MARCH  
2024

## 21 MARCH

### 4:30 PM | REGISTRATION

Stop by until 5:30 to check in

### 5:00 PM | COCKTAIL HOUR

Grab a drink with attendees &  
political leaders

### 6:00 PM | PITCH

Pitch presentations on affordable  
housing and dinner

## 23 MARCH

### VARIOUS START TIMES

Volunteer opportunities with Book'em,  
The Branch of Nashville, Empowering  
Neighborhood Partnerships,  
Communities in Schools, PENCIL, and  
Second Harvest

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE  
YOU AT THE NJC  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
NJC@NASHVILLEJUNIOR  
CHAMBER.ORG

## 22 MARCH

### 7:30 AM | REGISTRATION

Breakfast is served at 7:45

### 8:45 AM | WELCOME

Keynote with Missy Franklin and Dawn  
Davenport begins at 9:00 a.m.

### 10:15 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION #1

Cristi Williams, Tyler Cauble, Jimmy &  
Megan Feeman, or Rosa Castano

### 11:30 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION #2

Rick Byrd, Sam Perkins, Erika Burnett, or  
Rick Whetsel

### 12:30 PM | LUNCH & FIRESIDE CHAT

NJC Leadership moderated by Jill  
Robinson

### 2:15 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION #3

James Crumlin, Rob Salome, Elle  
Benson, or Founding in Nashville Panel

### 3:30 PM | CLOSING SESSION

Ronnie Andrews

### EVENING

After Hours Experiences

# Pitch

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Join us for our reimagined Pitch Nashville event from 5:30–8 p.m. on Thursday, March 21 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The evening will begin with a networking cocktail hour with young professionals dedicated to making Nashville the best it can be, followed by a seated dinner and presentations from our Pitch presenters, which include — Metro Council Member Burkley Allen, Alisha Haddock from the Housing Fund, Housing NOW Nashville, and more. Attendees will leave the event with a more well-rounded understanding of why affordable housing is essential for our city to address and how they can get involved as young professionals and future community leaders.



## *Burkley Allen*

### **Metro Council Member At Large**

Burkley Allen moved to Nashville in 1982. She's been active in local matters since receiving her first neighborhood newsletter, and after four decades here she has a deep knowledge and understanding of the city she now represents as Metro Councilmember At-Large.

## *Hannah Davis*

### **Metro Planning**

Hannah Davis leads Nashville's housing innovation and policy work at the Housing Division of Metro Planning. Davis led the creation of the Housing Catalyst Fund, the Mixed-Income Housing PILOT and the Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program.



## *Alisha Haddock*

### **The Housing Fund**

Alisha S. Haddock is Senior VicePresident and Director of Community and Economic Development at The Housing Fund. Her overall work focuses on providing resources and creative leadership to help individuals and communities create and maintain affordable and healthy places in which low-to-moderate income people live.

## *Neil Kornutick*

### **Yes In My Backyard**

Neil Kornutick is one of the leads for the local YIMBY Action chapter, Housing Now Nashville. He has a background in engineering and process improvement. He is passionate about seeing change with our land use and transportation network in order to build a more sustainable and inclusive future.



# Conference

## *Speaker Features*



*Missy Franklin*

OPENING KEYNOTE,  
BALLROOM E

### **A Journey of Growing: Olympics, Family, Passions, and More — What Really Matters**

Missy Franklin is a five-time Olympic gold medalist and multiple world record-holder in the sport of swimming. Franklin became a household name during the 2012 Olympic Games in London when she won four gold medals and one bronze medal, becoming one of the most decorated athletes

of the Games. She followed her Olympic success by winning six gold medals at the 2013 FINA World Championships in Barcelona, becoming the most-decorated female swimmer in history at a single World Championships. Most recently, she started the Unfiltered Waters Podcast with olympic champion, Katie Hoff.

KEYNOTE MODERATOR,  
BALLROOM E

*Dawn Davenport*

### **A Journey of Growing: Olympics, Family, Passions, and More — What Really Matters**

Dawn Davenport joined ESPN at the start of the 2013 college football season as a reporter on ESPNU, and currently serves as a sideline reporter for ESPN and SEC Network. In addition to her sideline duties, Davenport is Nashville's first full-time female sports radio personality on 104.5 The Zone. She previously worked as a morning show anchor for WKRN-ABC in Nashville, Tenn. for nearly ten years. Prior to joining the three-hour morning news show, Davenport was an award-winning weekend sports anchor and reporter for the station.



*Ronnie Andrews*

CLOSING KEYNOTE,  
BALLROOM E

### **Aha Moments From an Unlikely CEO: Theories on Servant Leadership**

Ronnie Andrews has roughly 40 years of experience in the Global Clinical and Molecular Diagnostics industry. Ronnie is currently the President and CEO of TwinStrand Biosciences which is based out of Seattle, WA. However, he resides here in Middle TN. Ronnie has served in several senior executive, C-Suite, and Founder roles

such as CEO of Oncocyte, Founder of the Bethesda Group, President of the Genetic Sciences Division at Thermo Fisher Scientific following a merger with Life Technologies, where he served as President of the Medical Sciences Venture, and many more. As a leader, Ronnie leans into the principles of servant-leadership to build high-functioning teams with clear focus.

**Speaker  
Features**

**SESSION LEADER,  
GOLDEN EAGLE A**

*Cristi Williams*



**Growing Pains: How Emotional Intelligence Helps You Navigate Life**

Cristi Williams-Gilbert left her career in public education in 2005 to be involved in the entertainment industry with her daughter, Hayley - lead singer of Paramore. "This adventure opened my eyes firsthand to what artists/entertainers experience and taught me how important it is to have a balanced life as well as a solid support system." Cristi obtained her certification as a Neuro-Linguistics Programming Master Practitioner & Emotional Intelligence in 2008 and founded a mental wellness coaching firm for artists & entertainers called Shading the Limelight.



*Tyler Cauble*

**SESSION LEADER,  
GOLDEN EAGLE B**

**The Impact of a Brand: How to Generate a Following that is Lasting**

Tyler Cauble is Founding Principal and President of The Cauble Group. He's a native Nashvillian that has not only been a witness to the city's tremendous growth, but is also involved in it through his developments, renovation projects, and volunteer work. As President of The Cauble Group, Tyler helps bring together buyers, sellers, landlords, and tenants in retail, office, industrial, and multi-family real estate. Cauble is also the best-selling author of *Open For Business: The Insider's Guide to Leasing Commercial Real Estate*.

**SESSION LEADER,  
LIONEL**

*Rosa Castano*



**Burnout Prevention: A Blueprint for Workplace Wellbeing**

Over the course of her 15+ yrs corporate career, Rosa has worked in all types of settings from small businesses, freshly minted startups, and large, diverse non-profit corporations. Post COVID-19, Rosa transitioned into the wellness industry. Her unique understanding of the stressors and joys of the workplace makes her an ideal expert for working with companies to help implement strategies and lead workshops to help create resilience and emotional well-being in the workplace.



*Rick Byrd*

**SESSION LEADER,  
GOLDEN EAGLE A**

**A Coach's Take: Shifting Mindsets, Pushing Limits, and Supporting People Through the Challenges**

Coach Rick Byrd served as a collegiate head coach for 38 years. In that time he won the 12th-most games in NCAA Division I history. Byrd guided the Bruins from the NAIA level to Division I. In just seven years in the league, Byrd was named OVC Coach of the Year four times. Byrd is also a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the NAIA Hall of Fame, the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame and the Belmont Athletic Hall of Fame.



SESSION LEADERS,  
MILL YARD A

## *Jimmy & Megan Feeman*



### **Leading from Scratch: Growing a Business from the Ground Up**

**Megan:** After graduating from Belmont University in 2015, Megan realized more than ever that entrepreneurship was the path for her. Combining her love of cookie dough and her desire to be an entrepreneur, Megan founded NoBaked Cookie Dough in March of 2017. **Jimmy:** Jimmy Feeman is the co-founder of NoBaked Cookie Dough. Over the past 7 years, he managed operations while the brand pivoted business models, grew e-commerce sales from zero to \$250k monthly, opened 9 scoop shops, and built an in house manufacturing plant that makes pints of cookie dough for major retailers.



## *Sam Perkins*

SESSION LEADER,  
GOLDEN EAGLE B

### **So You F\*cked Up, Now What?: What To Do When You've Made A Mistake**

Sam is 9 steps into his 12 step recovery program from being a lawyer...forgiveness is hard for a lawyer to find. He has been involved in 14 different start up companies with no exit that he can brag about, but with a record that is not unlike most entrepreneurs: 4 exits at a profit, 5 exits that were breakeven, and 4 exits that were, let's say, ugly. Currently, he is CEO/Chairman of the Board of purGenix, the home of pūrHospitals® which you will love because it's like infections can't live there any more and, importantly, it reduces the carbon footprint with 15-25% building energy savings. Oh, he owns an environmental consulting firm, too, where he is Chairman of the Board.

SESSION LEADER,  
LIONEL

## *Rick Whetsel*



### **Striking the Right Chord: Leadership Amplified From Entertainment to Nonprofit**

Rick Whetsel, Senior Vice President of G7 Entertainment Marketing in Nashville, is a seasoned music industry professional committed to creating dynamic and memorable connections between brands and artists. Rick has produced thousands of concerts and events worldwide, with a current focus on sponsor-driven events in collaboration with many Fortune 500 companies. His strategic approach and dedication to delivering exceptional entertainment has garnered the trust of major corporations, like IBM, Cisco, Toyota, and other heavy-hitters across several industries.



## *Erika Burnett*

SESSION LEADER,  
MILL YARD A

### **Giving Back: The Essential Mindset for Success**

Erika R. Burnett, a leader in nonprofit and community engagement, was selected to run The Village, an incubation space for grassroots community organizations, facilitated by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Burnett's versatile career has spanned entrepreneurship, innovation, education, advocacy, and leadership roles. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, Erika is recognized for her strategic approach and passion for tackling issues that affect youth, women, and girls across the state.

**PANELIST,  
BALLROOM E**

## *LeShane Greenhill*

### **Leading From the Start: How the NJC Shaped Your Leadership Style**

A native Nashvillian, LeShane is the Founder of SalesCocktail and President of Eminence Holdings. In 2016, he was selected by Google and Code2040 to serve as an Entrepreneur-In-Residence at Google's Tech Hub. He has served on numerous non-profit boards including Metro Nashville Municipal Auditorium (Commissioner), The Exchange

Club Family Center, Young Leaders Council, Girl Scouts of Middle TN, and more. Currently, he serves as a Trustee for the Sue Peters Foundation and is a member of Board of Ethics for the Belmont University's School of Business.



**PANELIST,  
BALLROOM E**

## *Zach Brickner*

### **Leading From the Start: How the NJC Shaped Your Leadership Style**

Zach Brickner was born and raised in Nashville, TN. Zach has a strong leadership background stemming from being a Young Leaders Council graduate and his tenure with the Nashville Junior Chamber Board of Governors. Since he returned to Nashville after college, he expanded his community involvement, which is evident by being awarded the Volunteer of the Year award by the Cumberland River Compact. In 2020, he moved his real estate license to Parks Realty

where he was promoted to the position of Managing Broker and Partner. In 2022, he authored and published the book Millennials' Guide to Real Estate.



**PANELIST,  
BALLROOM E**

## *Amanda Mazzo*

### **Leading From the Start: How the NJC Shaped Your Leadership Style**

Amanda Mazzo is the Creative Director & COO of Mazzo Media, an award-winning creative studio owned & operated with her husband, Jason. Their creative collective works with people, brands, and organizations to help tell their stories through videography, photography, graphic design, and social content. Amanda is active in the Nashville community as an alumnus of Leadership Nashville and the Young Leaders Council. She former YP Nashville Chair, recipient of a Nashville Emerging Leader Award in Arts, Entertainment & Music Business, 40 Under 40 Nominee, and was recognized by Belmont University as a Top 100 Alumni Entrepreneur in 2023.



**MODERATOR,  
BALLROOM E**

## *Jill Robinson*

### **Leading From the Start: How the NJC Shaped Your Leadership Style**

Jill has an expansive career beginning in 1995 with Tennessee 200, Inc. From there she has worked with Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, Charter Resource Group, a consulting firm specializing in change management and personal coaching for CEOs in the Southeast, which helped to develop her interest in change management, and organizational dynamics, and more.. Jill joined Belmont University's staff in 2005, and she moved to the Dean of the College of Business

Administration's suite in January 2014 to serve as Director of External Relations and Executive Learning Networks, expanding her role in bringing the needs of the community and goals of the College of Business Administration together in support of programming, learning, and outreach.



**Speaker  
Features**



*Rob Salome*

**SESSION LEADER,  
GOLDEN EAGLE B**

**The Leadership Decade: A Playbook for an Extraordinary Era — What Does the Big Generational Shift Mean for Millennials and GenZ**

Rob’s military career and 27 years of leadership experience — almost entirely with Millennials — bring a unique perspective to the Solutions 21 team on what it takes to adapt to the information age. A retired Army colonel, Rob served in leadership positions large and small across the globe. His style of servant leadership suited him

well as he led Airborne Rangers in the United States, Europe, North Africa, Iraq, and Afghanistan under the most arduous conditions. Rob helps executive teams think from new perspectives and has aided dozens of clients on varying strategic issues.

**SESSION LEADER,  
MILL YARD A**

*Elle Benson*



**Cultivating Joy In Your Career: Strategies for Thriving**

Elle Benson is a dynamic and nationally recognized consultant, celebrated for her expertise in guiding organizations towards greater impact and enhanced capacity. As the Founder and CEO of Nonprofit Leadership LLC, Elle has dedicated her career to bolstering the social sector. With a stellar track record in nonprofit leadership, she brings unparalleled proficiency in organizational development, executive transition consultancy, strategic planning, leadership development, and board governance.

*James Crumlin*

**SESSION LEADER,  
GOLDEN EAGLE A**



**Do Hard Things: Where You Can Go When You Tackle The Challenging Things**

James Crumlin is a Partner Attorney at Spencer Fane where he is also the Chair of the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee. James helps clients navigate the corporate legal landscape and avoid costly mistakes, so employers can focus on running successful operations. He concentrates his practice in the areas of labor and employment law, business and corporate law, litigation

and dispute resolution, and entertainment and media law. He is also the Founder of the Capitol Steps workouts to offer a free and accessible wellness opportunity to all that wish to participate and show up for themselves.

**PANELIST,  
LIONEL**

*Caroline Howard*



**Startup Stories from Nashville Entrepreneurs: What It Looks Like to Start Your Own Company**

Caroline Howard is a co-founder at Walker Brothers, a craft kombucha brand based in Nashville and sold nationally. At Walker Brothers, Caroline provides strategic leadership for the business, working hand-in-hand with other members of the management team to establish long-range goals for the company, and coordinating cross-functionally to see those goals accomplished.



PANELIST,  
LIONEL

*Amy Green*



**Startup Stories from Nashville Entrepreneurs: What It Looks Like to Start Your Own Company**

Amy Lynn Green, LCSW, PMH-C, IMH-E, ERYT, is the Founder/CEO of Mamaya Health & Nashville Collaborative Counseling Center. During the past ten years, Amy has served as a clinical social worker, adjunct professor, nonprofit founder, and entrepreneur. Through both personal experiences with pregnancy loss, as well as a deep passion for creating access to care, she founded Nashville Collaborative Counseling Center (NCCC) in 2019 to change the landscape of mental health care available to those navigating pregnancy, postpartum, infertility, and loss. Mamaya Health was founded in 2023 as a subsidiary of NCCC to support the next stage of scale & growth of maternal mental healthcare.



*Aabesh De*

PANELIST,  
LIONEL

**Startup Stories from Nashville Entrepreneurs: What It Looks Like to Start Your Own Company**

Aabesh De is the founder of Flora, the all-in-one platform for consumer plant care. His journey began with the loss of his mother's 4-year old rose bush plant, which he sadly killed in just 10 short days. He set out to find tools that could help his horticultural hopelessness, but couldn't find a reliable go-to platform to monitor, track, and treat his plants. He realized that his problem was not uncommon, and yet there was no common solution. This began the journey of Flora, where he taught himself DIY electronics and Swift programming in order to create the Flora app and Flora Pod - a smart IoT plant sensor. In just 2 years, Flora has grown to over 300,000 users across 190 countries, and supports the care of over a million plants.

*We are so thankful for all of our amazing speakers.*

FOR FULL PANELIST BIOS AND INFORMATION VISIT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.NASHVILLEJUNIORCHAMBER.ORG/LC-SPEAKERS](https://www.nashvillejuniorchamber.org/lc-speakers)





# AFTER HOURS EXPERIENCES

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Join us after the conference to meet, connect, and unwind the Nashville Junior Chamber way.

## OPPORTUNITIES

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### WRITERS ROUND

Join local musicians in the G7 Loft for an intimate listening session.

### TEELINE

Meet up at our local curling bar - learn a new skill while enjoying some refreshments.

### EAST NASHVILLE BAR CRAWL

Hop around the coolest spots in East Nashville with your new conference pals.

### WHISKEY TASTING

Expand your palate with our whiskey expert.

### MARCH MADNESS WATCH PARTY

Join us at Sports & Social to watch the kick-off to March Madness with fellow fans.

### ACME

Can't attend any of the above? Join us at Acme for a catch-all hang!





# VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

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Join us on Saturday morning to give back to the city that has given us so much.

## OPPORTUNITIES

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### BOOK'EM

To create a more literate Nashville and ignite children's passion for reading through book ownership and enthusiastic volunteers.

### THE BRANCH OF NASHVILLE

Striving to build a community where everyone can thrive by nourishing, educating, and equipping our neighbors.

### EMPOWERING NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

To work for justice and equity with our neighbors through building relationships, community action, service, and empowerment.

### COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

### PENCIL

Linking community resources to Metro Nashville Public Schools to help young people achieve academic success and prepare for life.

### SECOND HAND HARVEST

We provide food to people facing hunger and work to advance hunger solutions.





# Thank You to our *Sponsors*

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