WEConnect INTERNATIONAL

Global Supplier Diversity & Inclusion Virtual Symposium

APRIL 7, 2020
Welcome to the fourth annual WEConnect International Global Supplier Diversity and Inclusion Virtual Symposium! Thank you to all who participated in our 24-hour Global Cyber Gala. While we could not have anticipated the full impact of the global pandemic on our community, I’m very impressed with how we have all come together to innovate, connect and support each other and those we serve.

On behalf of WEConnect International’s Board of Directors and Global Team, I want to thank our knowledgeable and passionate speakers, panelists, partner organizations and generous sponsors for coming together once again to make this Symposium a success. We are excited to have you participate and thank you for your flexibility as we harness technology to “meet” with you here today.

Although our event is virtual, we hope that you can connect with your peers, sharing both your challenges and successes with the group. I invite and encourage you to take advantage of the wealth of expertise found in the inspiring professionals that have convened for this world-class event.

As you know, 95 percent of consumers live outside of the United States. Supplier diversity and inclusion is not only the right thing to do, but diversifying value chains is now more critical than ever. Global inclusive sourcing helps build your company’s brand, assists with talent recruitment and retention, and identifies qualified women-owned business suppliers seeking an equal opportunity to win your business.

Wherever you are in your global supplier diversity and inclusion journey, this virtual symposium will help you learn about new practices and innovative trends that are unique to sourcing from diverse suppliers globally. You will receive the tangible tips, tools and resources required to achieve your organizational goals and help propel you to succeed as a world leader in this space.

WEConnect International values your partnership and is here to support you every step of the way. Thank you for your efforts and contributions to this important work.

As we weather this current crisis together, all of us at WEConnect International urge you to stay safe, stay well and stay connected.

Elizabeth A. Vazquez
CEO and Co-Founder,
WEConnect International
Together, Making a World of Difference.

Welcoming Women-Owned Businesses to the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies where:

Our legacy and commitment to our diverse suppliers aligns with our Credo responsibility to the communities in which we live and work. We believe in the power of inclusion to deliver innovative products and services, that support our mission of caring for the world, one person at a time.
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<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
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<td>9:10 - 9:40  am</td>
<td>C-Suite Fireside Chat</td>
<td>Len DeCandia, Chief Procurement Officer, Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Vazquez, CEO, WEConnect International</td>
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<td>9:40 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Global Perspectives</td>
<td>Michelle Bekkering, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment, USAID</td>
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<td>Mark Sweeny, Senior Account Executive, SAP Ariba</td>
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<td>Moderator: Saritha Venumbaka, COO, WEConnect International</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Beginning Global SD&amp;I Efforts</td>
<td>María del Pilar Castaneda, Associate Director, Economic Inclusion and Supplier Diversity Lead for the Latam Region, Merck</td>
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<td>Raúl Suárez-Rodríguez, Associate Director, Global Economic Inclusion and Supplier Diversity Processes, Operations &amp; Strategy, Merck</td>
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<td>11:30 - 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Government Affairs and SD&amp;I Collaboration</td>
<td>Sara Thorn, Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Walmart</td>
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<td>1:00 - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Panel: Mature Global SD&amp;I Efforts and The Future of Supplier Diversity</td>
<td>Nedra Dickson, Managing Director, Global Supplier Inclusion &amp; Sustainability Lead, Accenture</td>
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<td>Nancy Swartout, Global Sustainable Procurement Manager, ExxonMobil</td>
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<td>Megan Stowe, Greater European Region Strategic Sourcing Director and International Supplier Diversity Manager, Intel</td>
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<td>Moderator: Michael Robinson, Program Director, Global Supplier Diversity, IBM</td>
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<td>2:00 - 2:45 pm</td>
<td>Effective Supplier Diversity &amp; Inclusion Leadership</td>
<td>Kimberly Cutchall, President, Development and Consulting, Talent Plus, Inc.</td>
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<td>2:45 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Q&amp;A, Wrap-up and Close</td>
<td>Michael Tobolski, Vice President of Member Development, WEConnect International</td>
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What does Lois have to do with you?

A whole lot more than you think.

As the CEO of Soft Stuff Distributors, Lois Gamerman not only supplies our properties around the country with the catering and specialty food items our guests crave, but as a woman-owned business, she also offers her unique perspective to promote positive outcomes for us all.

By partnering with diverse suppliers like Lois, we bring innovation and new ideas together—and that benefits us all.

Congratulations to WEConnect International on ten years of championing women’s empowerment across the globe!
WE AGREE.

Different perspectives bring different strengths. At Chevron, our diverse workforce and inclusive work environment help us find better options, make better decisions, and reach better solutions in everything we do. Whether it’s our employees or our partners, diversity and inclusion are at the core of who we are and how we do business.

Learn more at chevron.com

ABOUT WECONNECT INTERNATIONAL

The only corporate led initiative of its kind, WEConnect International works with buyers from multinational corporations and multilateral organizations that want to source from women’s business enterprises across the globe.

WEConnect International identifies and certifies growth-oriented women’s business enterprises ready to do business with large corporations and provides global visibility of their work through its multiple media platforms.

Through training and networking opportunities, WEConnect International sparks business relationships, promotes economic growth, raises the profile of qualified women’s business enterprises, and helps strengthen its corporate members’ global supplier diversity and inclusion programs.

WEConnect International operates in countries that together represent over half of the world’s population.

Learn more at WEConnectInternational.org
Michelle Bekkering
Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment, USAID
Michelle Bekkering leads the bureau in developing innovative and sustainable solutions across twelve technical sectors to accelerate USAID’s impact in reaching its development outcomes. She joined USAID in July 2017, and concurrently served as the E3 Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator and as the Agency’s Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. As the Agency’s Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Michelle supported the White House in the development of the first whole-of-government effort to focus on global women’s economic empowerment, the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP). Prior to joining USAID, Bekkering served at the International Republican Institute (IRI) from 2005–2017 and as residential country director for the Institute based in Indonesia. Michelle has also served in numerous positions in the U.S. Government. A native of Iowa, Bekkering graduated from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. As part of her education, she also studied at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

María del Pilar Castaneda
Associate Director, Economic Inclusion and Supplier Diversity Lead for the Latam Region, Merck
Pilar is an Industrial Engineer from University of Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia. She has more than 20 years of experience in the procurement world within the Latin American region. Today she is leading the Travel & Meetings category and is also implementing a global end-to-end solution for LATAM. She is the regional champion of Economic Inclusion and Supplier Diversity at Merck.
Kimberly Cutchall
President, Development and Consulting, Talent Plus, Inc.
After 15 years as an executive in a global Fortune 500 company, Kimberly spent the next 10 years growing her own global human capital strategy firm, reaching businesses from every sector. Her company was acquired by Talent Plus to bring expertise of operationalizing talent and connecting people to performance. Kimberly is a sought-after speaker, presenter, and educator for a comprehensive range of specialties, including: Executive Leadership; Women in Leadership; Strategic Action and Application; Organizational Planning, Change Management; Succession Planning; Talent and Workforce Alignment; Leadership and Development; Coaching in the Workplace; Sales Acceleration; Creative Problem Solving; Generational Team Impact. Kimberly is a PhD candidate in International Business.

Len DeCandia
Chief Procurement Officer, Johnson & Johnson
Leonardo (Len) DeCandia has held the positions of either Chief Supply Officer or Chief Procurement Officer with four different Fortune 200 Companies over the past 25 years. His expertise in engineering, manufacturing, procurement and end-to-end supply chain management has been the foundation for his experience across the pharmaceutical/health care and consumer products industries. Len is currently the Chief Procurement Officer for Johnson & Johnson based in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Len’s previous supply chain leadership roles were at Roche Pharmaceuticals, AmerisourceBergen and the Estée Lauder Companies. He is the Founding Chair of the Rutgers Business School (RBS) Supply Chain Management Center (2002) and is currently a member of the Rutgers Business School Advisory Board. He is also an adjunct professor at RBS and teaches a graduate course in Supply Chain Innovation Management. Len resides with his family in Princeton, NJ.
Nedra Dickson
Managing Director, Global Supplier Inclusion & Sustainability Lead, Accenture
Nedra is responsible for leading and promoting Accenture’s well-established efforts to maximize procurement opportunities with diverse businesses as suppliers and subcontractors within 16 countries. She has grown Accenture’s Diverse Supplier Development Program in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, the UK, and Ireland. She holds several board seats within the Supplier Diversity Community; including: the Georgia Minority Supplier Diversity Council, the Canadian Aboriginal Supplier Development Council, the Supplier Diversity Leadership Council for The Conference Board, and the Women Business Enterprise National Council. Nedra was recognized as one of Atlanta, Georgia’s Top 25 Women in their Female Success Factor Series. She was also honored in WE magazine - Women Enterprise Honors America’s Top 100 Leaders in Corporate Supplier Diversity, and she was recognized as one of the Top 25 Women in Power Impacting Diversity. She grew up in Arkansas and holds an MBA from University of Southern California, a BS degree from Florida State University and BA degree from California State University at Northridge.

Michael K. Robinson
Program Director, Global Supplier Diversity, IBM
Michael is responsible for leading IBM’s supplier diversity initiatives worldwide. In this role Michael, and his team, focus on the utilization, development and mentoring of diverse suppliers who can provide value–add to IBM’s Supply Chain. Michael’s team is also responsible for IBM’s Supplier Connection initiative which provides small businesses access to large corporations. Under Michael’s leadership, IBM has spent in excess of $2Billion, 1st Tier, annually worldwide with diverse enterprises since 2006 and in excess of $1B, 1st Tier, annually with diverse enterprises in the U.S. since 2000. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia; received his BS from Cheyney University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and his MBA from Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.
SPEAKERS

Megan Stowe
Greater European Region (GER)
Procurement Director, Corporate Strategic Procurement and International Supplier Diversity & Inclusion Program Manager, Intel Corporation

Megan has been at Intel for 23 years working in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK. She has predominantly held global positions, setting global procurement and supply chain sustainability strategies, performance metrics, and managing global teams. She has worked and lived in Asia Pacific and EMEA. Currently, she looks across the indirect services/procurement supply chain working with the different verticals (sales & marketing, HR, travel, IT, Logistics, facilities etc.) within the EMEA region, implementing global strategies locally and driving local strategies where needed. In addition to this, she manages the International Supplier Diversity & Inclusion Program, which has a key focus on women and minority-owned business in the supply chain. Megan is Irish/Australian/South African by nationality and grew up in Africa. She graduated from the University of Cape Town, South Africa with a MD Psychiatry/Sports medicine.

Raúl Suárez-Rodríguez
Associate Director, Global Economic Inclusion and Supplier Diversity Processes, Operations & Strategy, Merck

Raul is responsible to drive diverse supplier inclusion, innovation and economic growth through lens of the company mission. Most recently, Raul was Supplier Diversity Manager for CVS Health, where he led CVS Health Supplier Diversity Program to Best In Class by being inducted into the Billion Dollar Roundtable and winning several top awards including National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) Corporation of the Year for Innovation, DiversityInc Top Companies (No.10) for Supplier Diversity, and Americas Top Corporation for Women Business Enterprises. He has also been recognized as the Supply Chain Advocate of the Year by Disability:IN, and Advocate of the Year and Shining Star by the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council. Raul serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Diversity Alliance for Science. Raul holds an MBA with a concentration in Leadership, and a Bachelor’s Degree from Nova Southeastern University.
Nancy Swartout  
Global Sustainable Procurement Manager, ExxonMobil  
Nancy is the Global Sustainable Procurement Manager, ExxonMobil Global Services Company. She manages a group that addresses local content, supplier diversity, environment performance and human rights in the supply chain. Her group advises both Procurement and ExxonMobil business lines. Since joining Exxon Corporation in 1989, Nancy served as a Chemist in research and development and held various commercial roles within Procurement. Nancy earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania and an MBA from Columbus State University in Georgia.

Mark Sweeny  
Senior Account Executive, SAP Ariba  
Mark leads the SAP Intelligent Spend Management Team activities on behalf of SAP North America, helping US Federal Civilian agencies modernize, optimize and fortify their supply chain activities. Mark has 20+ years working customers to develop and deploy innovative enterprise level technology solutions, specifically supporting the US DoD and Federal Civilian agencies since 2004. Mark has experience in full software solution lifecycle, including initial needs identification, solution development (i.e., Design Thinking). Proof of Concept management and large program software deployment. With prior experience in Mergers and Acquisitions, New Market Development and Corporate Competitive Intelligence, Mark brings a diverse and dynamic skill set to meet the challenges of the ever changing and demanding Technology Solutions market.
Sara Thorn
Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Walmart
Sarah is primarily responsible for managing global government relations related to supply chain and trade issues at Walmart. In this capacity, she advocates for Walmart priorities in legislation and trade negotiations that impact the company’s worldwide sourcing, e-commerce and retail distribution rights. She also leads a team that drives global public policy in support of Walmart’s responsible sourcing commitments. Most recently, Sarah has expanded her portfolio to manage Walmart’s UK government relations, focused on BREXIT negotiations. She led the strategy team that developed Walmart’s Global Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative, which is focused on empowering women throughout Walmart’s global supply chain. She holds a Master of Arts degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative area studies and comparative literature cum laude from Duke University.

Michael Tobolski
Vice President of Member Development, WEConnect International
At WEConnect International, Michael focuses in Business Development, Corporate Member Relations, and the support of Strategic Planning, Finance, and Operations. His prior corporate experience includes Marriott International as Sr. Director of Supplier Diversity where he developed Marriott’s formal supplier program and began the global supplier diversity journey. He has served as Chair of the Board of the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council, Chair of the National Minority Supplier Development Council’s Hospitality Industry Group and was an active member of the Procurement Committees for the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Michael currently serves on the board of several non-profit organizations and resides in Maryland with his wife Christine.
SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Vazquez  
CEO and Co-Founder, WEConnect International

Elizabeth is a world leader in women’s economic empowerment and global supplier diversity and inclusion. She is the co-author of the book, “Buying for Impact: How to Buy from Women and Change Our World.” She sits on the Walmart Global Women’s Economic Empowerment Initiative’s International Advisory Council, the Procter & Gamble Supplier Diversity Advisory Council, the Global Citizen and CHIME FOR CHANGE Girls’ and Women’s Committee, and is a Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards Jury Member for North America. She sits on several Boards of Directors, and is a W20 and B20 Representative to advance G20 commitments. Elizabeth was born in Mexico, has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Arizona State University, and was honored by the Barrett Honors College as an Inspiring Alumni for making significant contributions in her career and community. She has a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School and is the recipient of the 2018 Fletcher Women’s Leadership Award for outstanding graduates who are making a meaningful impact in the world.

Saritha Venumbaka  
COO, WEConnect International

Saritha leads the organization in overseeing day-to-day operations while identifying creative services and solutions to enable the expansion of WEConnect International’s global footprint and impact. She brings a wide breadth of operational expertise to the organization including management consulting experience in solving complex problems, reengineering processes, and facilitating organizational effectiveness. Most recently, Saritha served as an advisor to the Corporate Procurement Division at the African Development Bank where she was responsible for the development and implementation of the division’s strategic plan. She also served as the Chief of Corporate Procurement for the Inter-American Development Bank, where she oversaw policy and processes for $175 M procurement spend across the LAC region. She earned her Masters in Science from Johns Hopkins University, holds an MBA in Project Management from Wright State University, a Masters in Commerce from Osmania University, and a Bachelors in Commerce from Osmania University.