



**2023**

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE  
CONFERENCE**

*EmPOWERing People, Igniting Possibilities*



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Mays Business School

# WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Mays Business School Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) was created as a vehicle to boost the number of women in leadership positions and demonstrate our commitment to developing women as transformational leaders. WLI leverages the knowledge of our world class leadership faculty, the power of the Aggie Network, and our corporate partners. We offer a gateway to seats at board tables and development activities for those aspiring to expand the scope of their leadership opportunities.

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# AGENDA

- 8:30A**      **Registration and Optional Breakfast**
- 9:00A**      **Welcome**  
Megan Ryan  
*Former US Energy, Utilities and Mining Sector Practice Director  
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP*
- 9:10A**      **Opening Remarks**  
Shannon Deer, Ph.D., CPA  
*Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, Mays Business School*
- 9:20A**      **Empower Leads to Me-Power**  
Christie Brown  
*General Manager of Asset Development, Gulf of Mexico, Chevron*
- 10:10A**      **Break**
- 10:30A**      **Home Court Advantage - Promoting Pro-Level Inclusion**  
Nzinga Shaw  
*Adjunct Professor at Fisk University*
- 11:20A**      **Texas A&M Foundation**  
Tyson Voelkel  
*President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas A&M Foundation*
- 11:30A**      **Networking Luncheon**
- 12:30P**      **Networking Exercise**  
Claire Raabe  
*Director of Business Honors, Mays Business School*
- 1:50P**      **Break**
- 2:10P**      **How to Think, Work, and Lead in Our Fast-Isn't-Fast Enough World**  
Sara Canaday  
*Leadership Strategist, Speaker, and Award-winning Author*
- 3:00P**      **Closing Remarks**



## CHRISTIE **BROWN**

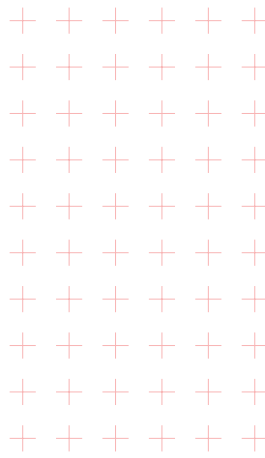
*General Manager of Asset Development, Gulf of Mexico, Chevron*

Christie Brown is currently Chevron's General Manager of Asset Development for Gulf of Mexico Business Unit, a position she assumed in March 2023 following the role as the GM of Performance and Potential. In her role, she has responsibility for Chevrans assets in the Gulf of Mexico with her organization delivering optimized subsurface development and asset performance to achieve a competitive GoM portfolio. Christie joined Chevron in 2002 as a mechanical engineer in Houston and has since held a variety of engineering, project management, operations leadership, commercial, environmental management and strategy positions of increasing responsibility in Angola, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Korea, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Since joining the company, she has been a member of the Chevron Women's Network and Black Employee Network and served in leadership roles in both. During her tenure, she has supported Chevron's college recruiting efforts; won several industry awards; and often gives presentations on career development, business acumen and engineering education

Christie holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University.

Christie loves traveling, cooking, any water activity, and especially great combinations of the previous with her wonderful family.



# NZINGASHAW

*Adjunct Professor at Fisk University*

Nzinga "Zing" Shaw is an Adjunct Professor at Fisk University and concurrently serves the Board of Trustees. She created curriculum for the University's DEI Center of Excellence, the John R. Lewis Social Justice Institute.

Zing is an experienced C-suite executive with extensive hands-on experience and knowledge spanning DEI, human capital management, change and crisis management, employee relations, talent acquisition, organizational and strategic planning, branding, community engagement. She is known for her pioneering DEI work with the NBA's Atlanta Hawks, launching the MOSAIC symposium (Model of Shaping Atlanta through Inclusive Conversations) and making the Hawks the first professional sports team to celebrate the LGBTQ community.

Notably, Zing was the first Chief DEI Officer at blue chip organizations including Edelman, Starbucks, and the National Basketball Association, representing the Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena franchise. She has been recognized with numerous "40 Under 40" awards from the likes of Sports Business Journal, Atlanta Business Chronicle, The Network Journal, and PR Week. Zing is currently on the Board of Directors of ColorComm, the Board of Advisors of Arctos Sports Partners, the Board of Directors of the National Black MBA Association, the Board of Directors of Veritas School of Social Sciences, and she was appointed by 39th United States President Jimmy Carter to serve a six-year term on the Board of Councilors of The Carter Center.

Zing received her master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her bachelor's degree from Spelman College. She was a study abroad scholar at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. Zing has also received two Honorary Doctorate degrees in Humane Letters from LeMoyne-Owen College and Morris Brown College, respectively. In her free time, Zing enjoys interior design, international travel, cooking and spending time with her husband Keith and three children, Lacy, Hudson, and Trey.



# SARA CANADAY

*Leadership Strategist, Speaker, and Award-winning Author*

Sara Canaday is a leadership consultant, speaker and author who helps companies maximize the contributions of their leaders and high potentials for bottom-line impact. Drawing on 13 years of corporate experience, Sara has a unique gift for connecting with her clients and ensuring they walk away with actionable strategies for positive change -- strengthening leadership skills, improving business relationships, and enhancing performance.

Sara is a member of the National Speakers Association and a by-invitation only leadership instructor for LinkedIn Learning. She has been featured in a

number of publications, most notably Forbes, Entrepreneur Magazine, and The Wall Street Journal. Sara is the author of three books, *You – According to Them: Uncovering the blind spots that impact your reputation and your career*, the award-winning book, *Leadership Unchained: Defy Conventional Wisdom for Breakthrough Performance*, and her latest book, *Essential Coaching Skills for Managers: The Tools You Need to Ignite Greatness in Each Employee*.



## MEGAN RYAN

*Former US Energy, Utilities and Mining Sector Practice Director  
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP*

Megan Ryan is a native Texan; lover of flowers, plants and gardening; always planning for an upcoming travel adventure.

Megan is a 1998 graduate of Texas A&M University where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analysis and Business Honors. Following graduation from Texas A&M she worked for PwC, a global professional services firm, for more than 21 years.

Now Megan is actively serving her community in various roles. She's a sought-out speaker sharing her experiences as a person living with Common Variable Immune Deficiency, one of more than 400 identified primary immunodeficiency diseases. Through her work with the Immune Deficiency Foundation she helps educate patients and health care providers about primary immunodeficiency diseases and serves as a peer-support coach and support group leader. She is involved in federal advocacy efforts to support her patient community. The Immune Deficiency Foundation recognized Megan in October 2022 with the PI Community Hero Award for her exceptional service to the PI community.

Megan is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston and currently serves as the Community Assistance Committee Sustaining Advisor and a member of the Sustaining Advisory Panel. She previously served as the Financial Vice President – a critical role in leading a League of nearly 5,000 members. In addition, she serves on the Board Vice Chairman of Undies for Everyone, Treasurer of the JA Grifols Lucas Foundation and is a member of the Texas A&M University Mays Business School Dean's Advisory Board. Megan and her husband Jason are parishioners at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston where she is a member of the lector ministry team.



## SHANNON **DEER**

*Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, Mays Business School*

Dr. Shannon Deer, Ph.D., CPA, is the associate dean for undergraduate programs for Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. She leads college-level advising and impactful student experience for prospective students, student success, as well as leadership and career development. She is an award-winning business professor teaching undergraduate, graduate, and executive development courses in accounting, energy finance, and general business. Shannon's research focuses on women's experiences finding work after exiting the sex trade and effective ways social entrepreneurship can aid in women's development. Her work has been published in leading, peer-reviewed journals. Shannon also cowrote *Business Doing Good: Engaging Women and Elevating Communities*, published by Rowman & Littlefield. Her book has been featured in People.com, NBC News, Fox 26 Houston, Business Insider, Recruiter.com, A Plus Media, Publishers Weekly, her TEDxTAMU talk, and more. *Business Doing Good* provides companies with six principles and accompanying stories about how to effectively hire women who have overcome challenging pasts of incarceration, addiction, poverty, and engagement in the sex trade.





## CLAIRE RAABE

*Director of Business Honors, Mays Business School*

Claire Raabe grew up in the small town of Poth, TX, attended Texas A&M University, and graduated with a BBA in Business Honors and Accounting in 2016. After graduation, Claire decided to pursue an MS in Educational Administration with a specialization in Student Affairs at Texas A&M, which she completed in 2018. Currently, Claire serves as the Director of the Business Honors program at Mays Business School where she works to help students form their intellect and character while thinking about the unique contribution they can make in the world. Previously, Claire served as Deputy Director of the Business Fellows program and an advisor to students in the Business Honors program. Additionally, Claire has worked for the Tim Tebow Foundation, Southwest Airlines, the Leadership and Service Center at Texas A&M. On any given day, you can assume Claire is excited about something. Most recently, it's the flight she booked to Paris for her 30th birthday – recommendations encouraged. Most days, it's a book she's reading, a podcast she's listened to, a conversation she had, or simply the nice weather. Claire loves the people she works with, her students, Aggie football, and having the opportunity to be with you all today.

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## TITLE



## BRONZE



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