25TH ANNUAL Diversity, Equity and Inclusion CONFERENCE
Delivering on the Potential of Diversity
VIRTUAL EVENT
May 24 – 26, 2021
www.conferenceboard.org/diversity
**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**John Brewer**, Program Director, DEI Conference, The Conference Board

10:15 – 11:00 am

**General Session A**

**Panel Discussion: Where Are You From – Exploring Intersectionality and Identity**

Many conversations begin with the conventional inquiry, “where are you from?” Seen by many as a polite icebreaker, even this simple traditional question is not devoid of bias and even prejudice. Many feel that this question challenges their legitimacy and their status as an equal member of a community.

This opening conversation will reclaim this simple question and use it as a starting point for exploring identity. Our panelists will discuss their origins and their experience of identity, and what this means to them. This discussion will also reveal the shortcomings of many categories in D&I – presenting a more complex notion of the point where we all begin our D&I journey.

**Moderator:**

**Katie Juran,** Senior Director, Diversity & Inclusion and Experience Communications, Adobe

**Panelists:**

- **Peter McBride**, Director, The Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies, Keene State College
- **Sofia Bonnet**, Chief Director, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, GitHub
- **U-Meleni Mhlaba-Adebo,** Creative Entrepreneur Fellow 2021, Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston

11:00 – 11:10 am **Break**

**Inclusive Leadership for Building Equitable Organizations**

During the last year, leaders in many organizations became more aware of racial inequities within their own organization. Now, increasing numbers of employees are asking leaders to harness this awareness and move towards action. What does it mean to embrace inclusive leadership? How are leaders learning behavior changes that align with an inclusive leadership strategy for the entire organization?

11:10 am – 12:30 pm

**Concurrent Session B**

**Panel Discussion: Getting Started with DEI – Lessons from Organizations Early in the Journey**

This session features employers in the early stages of developing and executing a D&I strategy. Hear firsthand some of the early challenges in making progress at this critical juncture.

**Panelists:**

- **Ruth White**, Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Carbon Five
- **Angela Cheng Cimini**, VP HR & People Operations, Clear Motion
- **Pamela Zapata**, Director - Global Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, PTC Therapeutics, Inc.

12:30 – 12:45 pm **Break**

12:45 – 1:25 pm

**Concurrent Session C1**

**Panel Discussion: Passion Is Not Enough – Discussion on the Skills You Need to Successfully Lead DEI**

Most people enter the DEI field because it is their passion, recognizing the moral and business imperative for change and drawing on their own experiences to make a difference for greater equity and inclusion within their organization.

But passion is a necessary but insufficient quality for success and thinking that passion and commitment are enough will lead to frustration and lack of progress. Leader Rohini Anand will lead a conversation with three CDO’s sharing lessons learned during their careers and what it takes to succeed as DEI becomes a top priority for employers.

**Moderator:**

**Rohini Anand**, Senior Fellow, The Conference Board

**Panelists:**

- **Shari Slate**, Chief Inclusion and Collaboration Officer, VP Inclusive Future and Strategy, Cisco
- **Ben-Saba Hasan**, Chief Culture Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer, Walmart

1:25 – 2:05 pm

**Concurrent Session C2**

**Panel Discussion:**

This unique and dynamic session, the IBIS Consulting Group and their troupe of professional actors help participants find answers to these questions through the portrayal of workplace scenarios that regularly occur within your organization. The scenarios serve as starting points for interactive discussion on inclusive leadership and how to be an ally in the workplace. The real-life scenarios illustrate the responsibility of leaders to mitigate bias and address systemic disparities.

**Shilpa Pherwani,** Principal/CEO, IBIS Consulting Group

1:25 – 2:05 pm

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1:25 – 1:35 pm Break

1:35 – 2:20 pm  
Concurrent Session D1

Who’s Really In with the In-Crowd? Understanding and Addressing Privilege

The subject of privilege has become increasingly central to DEI and issues such as equity, the practice of allyship, and the creation of psychological safety.

Sofia Bonnet will examine privilege through her biography and career progression. She will share how associating with others' privilege helped her advance the challenge of being an immigrant and adjusting to the norms and expectations of the dominant culture and the need for those who succeed and help others.

Sofia Bonnet, Chief Director, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, GitHub

Concurrent Session D2:

Using Storytelling to Advance Understanding, Appreciation and Inclusion

Throughout the past year, Adobe have strengthened empathy through employee storytelling. They have done this by spotlighting employees and their unique backgrounds at larger D&I events, during cultural moments including Hispanic Heritage Month and Veterans Day and Remembrance Day, and at team all hands meetings.

To help build connections and camaraderie in 2020, they introduced a new weekly Adobe For All Coffee Break series with senior leaders across the company sharing their fascinating life stories. Katie Juran will discuss how guests have shared a wide variety of life experiences, including growing up a racial/ethnic minority; homelessness and socioeconomic challenges; military service; LGBTQ+ identity; and many more.

Katie Juran, Senior Director, Diversity & Inclusion and Experience Communications, Adobe

2:20 – 3:00 pm  
General Session E:  
Panel Discussion: Psychological Safety & Belonging

Employers are recognizing the importance of creating psychologically safe workplaces – where people feel free to express who they are, what they believe, and how they feel. This workplace is a necessary condition for creating a sense of belonging that is at the core of DEI progress.

Moderator:
Dr. Tom C. Hogan, Professor of Practice in Human Resource Management, Penn State University

Panelists:
Natalie Edwards, Chief Diversity Officer, National Grid

Stephanie Redivo, EDI Program Lead, TransLink  
Brad Lande-Shannon, CMO, spring health

3:00 – 3:10 pm

Closing Remarks

3:20 – 4:00 pm

DEI OVERTIME I

In this overtime session we will move to Zoom for an interactive discussion continuing the conversation of the opening panel – “Where are you from?”.

This session will explore both intersectionality and diversity – both the overdetermination of marginalization and privilege and celebrate the infinite diversity of which we are all a part.

DAY TWO

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021

10:00 – 10:15 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks

John Brewer, Program Director, DEI Conference, The Conference Board

10:15 – 11:00 am

General Session F:  
Allyship as Action – The Microsoft Story

Widely recognized as one of the best examples of culture change in recent years, Microsoft recently introduced a global allyship program for all employees.

Microsoft made the course mandatory in response to the pandemic's impact on the workplace, rising violence and hate towards those of Asian heritage, and increasing awareness of racism.

Aligning the idea of allyship with the notion of a growth mindset and working with neuroscientists the aim is to create a culture that allows the free exchange of ideas. Employees learn, grow, make mistakes – and connections between employees deepen.

Lindsay-Rae McIntyre, Chief Diversity Officer, Microsoft

11:00 – 11:10 am Break

11:10 am – 12:15 pm

General Session G:

Approaching DEI Through the Lens of Change Management

For the foreseeable future, DEI will continue to be some of the most dominant and challenging issues society faces.

So how can we nurture and maintain a Change Mindset to help address both?

How can a change management approach help achieve the goal of a workplace that practices equity and belonging?

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During this session, we explore:

- What is a change mindset, and how can it help drive performance amid ambiguity?
- How do we use mindsets to drive inclusion and innovation?
- How can your organization develop change mindsets at scale and drive DEI across the organization?

**Alan Morales**, VP & Head of Transformative Change for the Future of Work, **Prudential Financial**

**Marvin Mendoza**, Global Head of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, **PPG Industries**

12:15 – 12:45 pm  
**Break**

12:45 – 1:25 pm  
**Concurrent Session H1:**

**Addressing Workplace Mental Health as Part of Your DEI Strategy**

While lock-downs due to the pandemic have been stressful and traumatic for many, they have increased awareness among employers of the importance of their people's mental health.

Also, leaders gained a greater appreciation of the differing mental health impact on different communities and ensure that an organization's mental health interventions account for diversity.

In this session, Spring Health will discuss workplace mental health from the perspective of DEI and explore how to combine humanity with technology and data to eliminate the barriers to care that prevent so many from getting the help they need and help employees thrive.

**Concurrent Session H2:**

**Panel Discussion: Building Bridges Not Walls: Restorative Justice, Community Trauma, and The Partisan Divide**

It's hard to escape the message nowadays that America is a country divided – most obviously in the political sphere where partisanship has in many ways replaced any semblance of a marketplace of ideas. The violent storming of the Capitol on January 6th was just the latest and most extreme example of the division that exists.

In addressing these issues, we must realize historical wrongs, current fears, and community trauma.

This conversation will explore these issues as the participants ask, "how can we begin to heal?"

Panelists:

**Peter McBride**, Director, The Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies, **Keene State College**

**Deanna Ransom**, Global Head Of Marketing & Marketing Services - (CMO), **Televerde**

1:35 – 2:20 pm  
**Concurrent Session I1:**

**From Intention to Impact: Conference Board Research on Measuring The Impact of Your DEI Initiatives**

Two of the defining characteristics of the future workplace will be a diverse workforce and increased use of analytics to make more evidence-based human capital decisions.

In this session you will hear the latest research from the Board, *The ROI of Inclusion: How to Align Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Business Results* as well as hear about the associated Tool Kit.

**Laura Sabattini**, Principal Researcher, **The Conference Board**

**Concurrent Session I2:**

**Fertility & Maternal Health in the Black Community**

2:20 – 3:10 pm  
**General Session J:**

**Panel Discussion: Where are We Now?**

From origins to identity to intersectionality – we examine the current state of DEI as a function and explore how DEI professionals can work with other functions in the organization to spread their influence wider and create better, longer-lasting results.

Panelists:

**Sonja Wilkerson**, EVP & Chief People Officer, **Bloom Energy**

**Lee Jourdan**, Chief Diversity Officer, **Chevron**

**Natasha Martell Jackson**, Sr. Program Director, Global Diversity Inclusion and Social Impact, **Intel**

3:10 – 3:20 pm  
**Closing Remarks**

3:20 – 4:00 pm  
**DEI OVERTIME II**

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Diversity practitioners understand the business benefits of workplace and marketplace inclusion, but disability is often not included within this diversity dialogue. Times are changing!

Given the demand to recruit and retain diverse talent (from millennials to the aging workforce) and recent compliance revisions for government contractors, individuals with disabilities are coming into the spotlight. Moving beyond the interested-in but the actual "how-to" of creating a disability inclusion strategy is required. This session will provide practical tips and replicable best practices for a disability in the workplace strategy.

**Embedded DEI in Your Culture: From Aspiration to Everyday Practice**

Without a doubt DEI requires that organizations transform themselves fundamentally, both in terms of their system and their culture – and we saw how one organization, Microsoft, is using allyship as a lever for very broad change.

But what about the everyday interactions that most define employee inclusion and belonging?

How can you ensure that everyone, from your newest hire through your C-Suite understands their role in DEI so that it permeates the day-to-day decisions, actions and relationships that form the front line of your culture?

In this session, Maureen Berkner Boyt will take a more granular view of change and program design in order to shift the responsibility of inclusion away from a top-down approach to where it belongs - with individual employees. Learn how to translate your company’s commitment to DEI.

**Native Americans, First Nations, Indigenous Peoples – Integrating Turtle Island’s First Inhabitants Into the Workplace**

**12:15 – 12:50 pm**

**Concurrent Session N1:**

**Embedding DEI in Your Culture: From Aspiration to Everyday Practice**

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**Diverse, Inclusive Strategies in the Workplace**

**12:50 – 1:30 pm**

**General Session O:**

**Celebrating And Leveraging Difference: A Conversation with Ashley Brundage, Author, Empowering Differences**

In this session you will hear from Ashley in a lively conversation with Marsha Jones. While they work together for PNC, Ashley is also a successful author who has drawn on her experiences to help others recognize power their difference gives them.

The conversation will cover this central idea as well as reflect on the DEI work Ashley leads at PNC and how employers can help their people recognize and realize their potential and ensure the workplace is one where they know they belong.

**Ashley Brundage, Vice President. Diversity and Inclusion, PNC**

**Marsha Jones, Chief Diversity Officer, PNC**

**1:30 – 2:15 pm**
General Session P:

Panel Discussion: Where are We Going?
This closing discussion will address what’s next for DEI – specifically how organizations can build on the personal experiences of inclusion and belonging and create lasting systemic change.

Panelists:
Dana M Peterson, Chief Economist, The Conference Board

Closing Remarks
2:30 – 3:30 pm

DEI OVERTIME III

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