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SHE SOARS

WOMEN IN AVIATION SUMMIT
OCTOBER 1-2, 2024 | ATLANTA, GA



PROGRAM GUIDE

amac-org.com/wias

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	41ST ANNUAL AMAC AIRPORT BUSINESS DIVERSITY CONFERENCE	
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Congratulations!



Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) extends congratulations to the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC) on its inaugural *She Soars Women in Aviation Summit*. ATL's enduring commitment to advancing diversity, inclusion, and leadership within the aviation industry is more than a platitude.

With women holding eight of our 21 senior leadership positions, ATL is tangibly breaking barriers for women in aviation.

Congratulations, again, and thank you for your continued leadership in shaping the future of aviation.



JAN LENNON
General Manager, Aviation,
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
International Airport

WELCOME TO ATL!



Greetings:

On behalf of the 61st Mayor of Atlanta, the honorable Andre Dickens, and the entire leadership team at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), we are pleased to co-host the inaugural *She SOARS – Women in Aviation Summit* with the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC).

This event symbolizes more than just a gathering; it represents a movement to uplift women across all facets of the aviation and aerospace industries. ATL's core values resonate strongly with the summit's goal of promoting diversity and inclusion within the aviation industry.

Without a doubt, airports are ever-evolving, often challenging, and—I believe to their detriment—lack the representation of women in leadership. This conference aims to help prepare women for senior leadership positions in a myriad of ways. From professional development to the importance of self-awareness and self-care to mastering soft skills, your time is well invested in this summit. We will also discuss creating talent pipelines in our dynamic industry for a prosperous future.

As a woman with over 25 years of leadership experience, I understand firsthand the challenges and triumphs of navigating a field that is often male-dominated. My journey from public safety to leading the world's busiest and most efficient airport proves what women can achieve with resilience, determination, and support from communities like ours.

During this summit, you will hear from trailblazers who continue to break ceilings and redefine success in aviation. It is a privilege to gather here in Atlanta, a city that epitomizes progress, and at Hartsfield-Jackson, where we aim to set the standard not only for operational excellence but also for fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As we embark on these discussions, I encourage you to engage fully — with your peers, mentors, and the opportunities ahead. This summit will equip you with the tools and confidence to soar higher.

Thank you for being part of *She SOARS*. I look forward to what we will accomplish together.



ALICIA M. IVEY
President, AMAC Atlanta Chapter
CEO, Goldbergs Concessions Corporation

ATL CHAPTER WELCOME

Dear Summit Participants,

Welcome to the She SOARS — Women in Aviation Summit, a historic gathering that marks a significant milestone for women in our industry. As founding President of the newly established AMAC Atlanta Chapter, it is an honor and privilege to welcome you to this inaugural event, a powerful response to Congress' Women in Aviation Advisory Board's call for action.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Women in Aviation Advisory Board has been instrumental in addressing the gender disparity in our industry. Today, we proudly stand alongside inspiring women leaders such as AMAC National President & CEO Eboni Wimbush, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Interim General Manager Jan Lennon and City of Atlanta Chief Operating Officer LaChandra Burks. Their achievements and influence are a testament to the power of women in leadership roles.

We can't celebrate women leaders today without recognizing a trailblazer in ATL's history. Angela Gittens, who has achieved many "firsts," was the first woman to serve as General Manager of the world's busiest airport. Currently, the President of Schiphol USA, Ms. Gittens, was enshrined in the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2023.

All these remarkable women are shaping the future of aviation and our city, demonstrating the power of women's leadership at every level.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens for his unwavering support of women leaders and his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. His appointments of LaChandra Burks and Jan Lennon to their respective positions, as well as his steadfast support of this summit, are powerful affirmations of his dedication to these values in Atlanta and beyond.

Congratulations to AMAC National and Hartsfield-Jackson for hosting this transformative summit. Your dedication to creating opportunities for women in aviation is paving the way for future generations. I encourage all our attendees to fully engage with the dynamic speakers and thought-provoking sessions. Absorb the insights, build connections, and leave inspired to transform the aviation industry with impactful leadership.

AMAC Atlanta is honored to be part of this groundbreaking event. Together, we are not just imagining a more inclusive aviation industry—we are building it.

Wishing you soaring success!

SHE SOARS
WOMEN IN AVIATION SUMMIT



RICKY SMITH
Chair, AMAC Board of Directors
CEO, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

AMAC WELCOME

Dear Summit Participants:

On behalf of the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC), we welcome you to Atlanta for the inaugural She SOARS—Women in Aviation Summit with great excitement and anticipation. AMAC is thrilled to host this inspiring summit in collaboration with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which will celebrate and advance talented women from across the aviation industry.

This first-ever She SOARS—Women in Aviation Summit brings together a diverse group of innovators and advocates shaping the future of aviation. The summit's goal is to offer a unique platform where we can share knowledge and experience, create meaningful connections and explore new opportunities for growth. This event will showcase the leadership and vision that women are bringing to aviation, providing an exciting opportunity for all of us to learn and grow.

During this summit, you will hear from trailblazing speakers, participate in interactive seminars and engage in thought-provoking discussions and networking sessions. We believe that She SOARS – Women in Aviation Summit will be a groundbreaking conference that will not only highlight the achievements of women in aviation but also pave the way for future leaders, inspiring us all to contribute to the future of aviation.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in this critical, valuable summit. We are confident you will leave She SOARS with fresh knowledge, new professional connections and a restored sense of purpose as we advance to new heights together.



EBONI WIMBUSH
President & CEO, AMAC

7:30 AM – 12:00 PM REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

7:30 am–8:30 am RISE N’ SHINE BREAKFAST

Sponsored by  Delaware North.

8:30 am–8:50 am OPENING REMARKS

Speakers

Ricky Smith, Chair, AMAC Board of Directors; CEO, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

Eboni Wimbush, President & CEO, AMAC

Jan Lennon, General Manager, Aviation, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

LaChandra Burks, Chief Operating Officer, City of Atlanta

8:55 am–9:15 am OPENING SESSION: CHARTING THE FUTURE OF AVIATION

The aviation industry is poised for significant growth but faces a critical challenge—the underrepresentation of women. This session examines aviation’s future landscape, highlighting the projected industry growth and essential talent requirements. By comparing growth trends across various fields, we will emphasize the intense competition for top talent and the aviation industry’s imperative to foster an inclusive environment that attracts and retains women to ensure its continued expansion and innovation.

Speaker:

Angelia G. Neal, Assistant Administrator, Human Resource Management, Federal Aviation Administration

9:15 am–9:20 am GUIDED WELLNESS BREAK: BREATHWORK WITH OLLE FIT



9:20 am–10:00 am KNOW THYSELF: MASTERING SELF AWARENESS

In this engaging session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of their strengths and developmental areas in self-awareness to inform how they can thrive in their current roles and strategically position themselves for future career advancement. The session will provide actionable insights into self-awareness, enabling participants to navigate their professional journeys confidently, including in the evolving hybrid work environment. By better understanding themselves, attendees will learn how to enhance their authentic leadership and build and lead strong, cohesive teams that excel in remote and in-person settings.

Speaker:

Natasha Durkins, Executive Director, Office of Aviation Policy & Plans, Federal Aviation Administration

10:15 am–10:35 am GUIDED WELLNESS BREAK: SEATED YOGA WITH 911 SANE JANE

Sane Jane

10:35 am–11:35 am WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT WOMEN?

Recognizing and valuing the unique contributions of women is essential for fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace. This engaging and informative session will explore the diverse advantages women bring to professional settings, uncover the barriers hindering diversity and inclusion and offer practical solutions to foster a more inclusive environment. Participants will gain insights into the challenges women face and learn effective strategies to address them, empowering them to cultivate a workplace where women can excel and significantly contribute to their organizations’ success.

Moderator:

Angela Gittens, President, Schiphol USA

Panel:

Rob Lowe, Chief People & Culture Officer, Los Angeles World Airports

Lance Lyttle, Second Vice Chair, AMAC Board of Directors; Managing Director, Aviation Division, Port of Seattle

Gregg Paradies, President & CEO, Paradies Lagardère

Ricky Smith, Chair, AMAC Board of Directors; CEO, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

12:00 pm–1:30 pm NETWORKING LUNCHEON

1:30 pm AMAC HONORS CONGRESSWOMAN NIKEMA WILLIAMS

1:35 pm COUNCILMEMBER BYRON AMOS REMARKS

1:40 pm–1:50 pm FAA 2024 REAUTHORIZATION POLICY UPDATE

Speaker:

Natasha Durkins, Executive Director, Office of Aviation Policy & Plans, Federal Aviation Administration

1:50 pm–2:35 pm EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE: TAKING OWNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the dynamic aviation industry, continuous self-development is essential for career advancement, personal satisfaction and staying ahead of emerging trends. This session welcomes women at all career stages to actively shape their professional journeys and effectively utilize resources to advance their careers and create a lasting impact within their organizations. Speakers will explore a range of professional development opportunities, including enhancing management skills, exploring new and emerging focus areas, and engaging in mentorship, coaching and continuous learning initiatives.

Moderator:

D. Mitchell, Vice Chair, AMAC Aviation Professional Development; Senior Manager, Business Services, United Airlines


Panel:

Amy Calliari, Vice President, Professional Development, American Association of Airport Executives

Alicia M. Ivey, CEO, Goldbergs Concessions Corporation

Keiva Rodriques, Vice Chair, AMAC Aviation Professional Development; Chief Operating Officer, Maryland Aviation Administration

2:35 pm–2:40 pm	GUIDED WELLNESS BREAK: BREATHWORK WITH OLLE FIT	
2:55 pm–3:25 pm	<p>RELATIONSHIP BUILDING IN TODAY'S WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Effective relationship-building is crucial for successful leadership. This session will empower participants to navigate workplace dynamics, connect effectively with their teams and confidently execute organizational visions. It offers essential strategies for personal branding, networking and relationship management. Participants will gain valuable insights into creating and maintaining a powerful personal brand, developing robust professional networks and achieving the balance needed to nurture and sustain professional connections.</p> <p>Moderator: Walter Vinson, Assistant General Manager, Business Diversity Government Affairs, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport</p> <p>Panel: Saundra Henderson, Director, OnBoard Services & Strategy Operations Optimization, Delta Air Lines Alea LaRocque, Divisional Vice President, West Coast, Business Development, WHSmith North America Marci Overstreet, Councilmember, Atlanta City Council District 11</p>	
3:25 pm–3:30 pm	GUIDED WELLNESS BREAK WITH INEZ LAMPLEY	
3:35 pm	AMAC HONORS CONGRESSMAN HANK JOHNSON	
3:45 pm–4:15 pm	<p>MASTERING DIFFICULT DIALOGUES FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Mastering difficult conversations is an essential skill for any effective leader. This session will equip participants with the confidence and techniques to handle challenging discussions adeptly. Participants will learn strategies to overcome the fear of confrontation, approach difficult conversations with composure, articulate clearly and cultivate an atmosphere of open and constructive communication to enhance leadership capabilities and build stronger teams.</p> <p>Moderator: Arrelle Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer, Jacobsen Daniels</p> <p>Panel: Sam Haynes, Deputy Chief Communications & Marketing Officer, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Theresa Schroeder, Vice President, Community & Citizenship, Turner Construction</p>	
4:15 pm–5:15 pm	SPEED MENTORSHIP SESSION	
5:15 pm–6:15 pm	CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE RECEPTION	Sponsored by 

7:30 am–8:30 am	RISE N' SHINE BREAKFAST	Sponsored by 
8:30 am–9:30 am	<p>LEADERSHIP IS NOT JUST A TITLE</p> <p>This engaging session will delve into the core of leadership beyond just formal titles, highlighting the significant impact of influence within an organization. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of authentic leadership, recognizing that it extends far beyond positional authority. Participants will also discover that leadership is not confined to positional authority but is about the ability to inspire and guide others. Through an interactive discussion, attendees will tap into their inherent leadership abilities and identify and develop other leaders and influencers—cultivating a culture of collaboration and empowerment.</p> <p>Moderator: Bridget Biagas, First Vice Chair, AMAC Board of Directors; Vice President, Business Development, Hudson by Avolta</p> <p>Panel: Balram Bheodari, Senior Vice President-Aviation National Practice, Michael Baker International Lyn Estabrook, Deputy Chief, Planning & Development, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Sheneice Hughes, Assistant Director, Administration & Customer Engagement, Dallas Love Field Airport Farrah Young, Project Manager, San Francisco International Airport</p>	
9:30 am–9:35 am	GUIDED WELLNESS BREAK: BREATHWORK & MOVEMENT WITH INEZ LAMPLEY	
9:35 am–10:35 am	<p>POLITICAL SAVVY & MAINTAINING DECORUM</p> <p>In today's complex organizational landscapes, the ability to navigate social and political dynamics is crucial for professional success. This session will equip women with the skills and strategies needed to effectively communicate, influence decision-makers and maintain decorum in the workplace. Participants will explore the nuances of diplomacy, understand governance structures and learn to balance emotional intelligence with factual accuracy. The session will also delve into the importance of ethical behavior, presence, and networking, providing a comprehensive toolkit for enhancing political savvy and ensuring their voices are heard and valued within their organizations.</p> <p>Moderator: Cynthia Guidry, Director, Long Beach International Airport</p> <p>Panel: Rosa Beckett, CEO, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Jan Lennon, General Manager, Aviation, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Charlene Reynolds, Airport Director, John Wayne Airport Jamie Rhee, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation</p>	
10:35 am–10:40 am	GUIDED WELLNESS BREAK: AFFIRMATIONS AND MEDITATION WITH INEZ LAMPLEY	
10:40 am–11:10 am	NETWORKING BREAK	

11:10 am–11:50 am

MANDATORY SOUL CARE!

In today's fast-paced and demanding professional environment, the myth of needing to be a superwoman with superpowers to achieve success is both pervasive and damaging. This session aims to debunk this myth and offer practical strategies for achieving professional success and personal well-being. Whether you're aiming for a C-Suite position or striving to balance your career with family obligations, this session provides essential insights, tools and tricks for negotiating the complexities of professional and personal life without compromising your health and happiness. Speakers will explore the nuances of work-life harmony, effective time management, and the importance of support systems and wellness practices that can be integrated into daily routines.

Moderator:
Khaliah Guillory, Founder & CEO, Nap Bar Inc.

12:00 pm–1:30 pm

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

1:30 pm–2:30 pm

FUTURE PROOFING YOUR ORGANIZATION - CREATING TALENT PIPELINES

Succession planning is a critical aspect of organizational sustainability and growth. This session will engage executives, mid-management professionals and entrepreneurs in meaningful discussions on identifying and cultivating future leaders within their organizations. Participants will delve into effective succession planning strategies, discover ways to create opportunities for emerging leaders and grasp the significance of a proactive approach to leadership transitions. Through an interactive panel discussion, attendees will acquire the insights and tools necessary to implement succession planning that secures their organizations' long-term success and continuity.

Moderator:
Nikki Harland, At-Large Director, AMAC Board of Directors; Chief Operating Officer, Paradies Lagardère

Panel:
Francesca Garciagodos, Manager, Talent Mobility San Francisco International Airport
Myesha McClendon, Vice President, Programs, AMAC Chicago Chapter; Vice President, Aviation at Milhouse Engineering & Construction, Inc.
Jerome Russell, President, H. J. Russell & Company

2:30 pm–3:30 pm

AMAC ALC FIRESIDE CHAT

The AMAC ALC Fireside Chat series continues to support women in navigating their careers and providing recommendations for elevating their careers to senior-level opportunities within the aviation industry.

Moderator:
Karen Ellis, At-Large Director, AMAC Board of Directors; Chief Customer Experience Officer, San Antonio Airport System

Panel:
Ghizlane Badawi, CEO, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
Jaimi Tapp, Director, Planning & Development (ORAT), Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
Ritu Vig, President, Aviation Division, SP+
Sunshine White, Chair, AMAC Foundation Board of Directors; Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships, Delaware North

3:45 pm

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SPEAKERS



BYRON AMOS
Councilmember, Atlanta City Council
District 3



ARRELLE ANDERSON
Chief Administrative Officer,
Jacobsen|Daniels



GHIZLANE BADAWI
CEO, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport



ROSA BECKETT
CEO, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority



BALRAM BHEODARI
Senior Vice President-Aviation National
Practice, Michael Baker International



BRIDGET BIAGAS
First Vice Chair, AMAC Board of Directors;
Vice President, Business Development,
Hudson by Avolta



LACHANDRA BURKS
Chief Operating Officer, City of Atlanta



AMY CALLIARI
Vice President, Professional Development,
American Association of Airport Executives



NATASHA DURKINS
Executive Director, Office of Aviation Policy &
Plans, Federal Aviation Administration



KAREN ELLIS
At-Large Director, AMAC Board of Directors;
Chief Customer Experience Officer, San
Antonio Airport System



LYN ESTABROOK
Deputy Chief, Planning & Development,
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport



FRANCESCA GARCIAGODOS
Manager, Talent Mobility, San Francisco
International Airport



ANGELA GITTENS
President, Schiphol USA



CYNTHIA GUIDRY
Director, Long Beach International Airport



KHALIAH GUILLORY
Founder & CEO, Nap Bar Inc.



NIKKI HARLAND
At-Large Director, AMAC Board of Directors;
Chief Operating Officer, Paradies Lagardère



SAMANTHA HAYNES
Deputy Chief Communications & Marketing
Officer, Austin-Bergstrom International
Airport



SAUNDRA HENDERSON
Director, On-Boarding Services Strategy &
Operations Optimization, Delta Air Lines



SHENEICE HUGHES
Assistant Director, Administration &
Customer Engagement, Dallas Love Field
Airport



ALICIA M. IVEY
Chair, AMAC Atlanta Chapter; CEO,
Goldbergs Concessions Corporation



HANK JOHNSON
Representative, Georgia District 4



ALEA LAROCQUE
Divisional Vice President, West Coast,
Business Development, WHSmith North
America



JAN LENNON
General Manager, Aviation, Hartsfield-
Jackson Atlanta International Airport



ROB LOWE
Chief People & Culture Officer, Los Angeles
World Airports

SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS



LANCE LYTTLE

Second Vice Chair, AMAC Board of Directors; Managing Director, Aviation Division, Port of Seattle



MYESHA MCCLEENDON

Vice President, Programs, AMAC Chicago Chapter; Vice President, Aviation at Milhouse Engineering & Construction, Inc.



D. MITCHELL

Vice Chair, AMAC Aviation Professional Development; Senior Manager, Business Services, United Airlines



ANGELIA G. NEAL

Assistant Administrator, Human Resource Management, Federal Aviation Administration



MARCI OVERSTREET

Councilmember, Atlanta City Council District 11



GREGG PARADIES

CEO, Paradies Lagardère



CHARLENE REYNOLDS

Airport Director, John Wayne Airport



JAMIE RHEE

Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation



KEIVA RODRIQUES

Vice Chair, AMAC Aviation Professional Development; Chief Operating Officer, Maryland Aviation Administration



JEROME RUSSELL

President, H. J. Russell & Company



THERESA SCHROEDER

Vice President, Community & Citizenship, Turner Construction



RICKY SMITH

Chair, AMAC Board of Directors; CEO, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

SPEAKERS



JAIMI TAPP

Director, Planning and Development (ORAT), Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport



MYRNA WHITE

Vice President, Public Relations, AMAC Atlanta; Managing Principal, Everest Global Engagement



SUNSHINE WHITE

Chair, AMAC Foundation Board of Directors; Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships, Delaware North



NIKEMA WILLIAMS

Representative, Georgia District 5



EBONI WIMBUSH

President & CEO, AMAC



RITU VIG

President, Aviation Division, SP+



WALTER VINSON

Assistant General Manager, Business Diversity Government Affairs, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport



FARRAH YOUNG

Project Manager, San Francisco International Airport



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Business Development Inquiries: Mori Russell - Mrussell@cintl.com

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EBONI WIMBUSH
President & CEO



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Vice President, Education & Advisory Services



RAMON LO
Director, Membership & Industry Engagement



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Tonya Coakley
Dir. of Airport Operations



Jana Greene
Dir. of Finance



LSherie Dean
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of Seattle



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