



GSA Women's Leadership Initiative Presents

Lunch *and* Learn

August 2023 | Austin, TX



Event Sponsored By **accenture**

About the Event



THE PURPOSE

The GSA WLI Lunch and Learn series aims to offer a blend of executive and technical topics, featuring women who are leaders in their respective fields. Under the theme "Pathway to Success", these empowering events also provide an excellent opportunity for professionals from different companies in the semiconductor industry to connect, network, and gain valuable insights, which is essential for visibility and professional growth. The second edition of this series took place on August 30, 2023 and was hosted by Accenture at their beautiful office location in Austin, Texas.

Our Speakers



Jolie LeBlanc
Business Strategy
Senior Manager
Accenture



Traci Brandon
Vice President WLI
GSA

Keynote Speaker



Susan Schmitt Winchester
SVP and Chief HR Officer
Applied Materials

Susan is SVP, CHRO for Applied Materials, with 35 + years of HR experience, previously as CHRO for Rockwell Automation and prior to that in multiple leadership roles for the Kellogg Company, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Managing Decisions, Inc. She is a National Academy of HR Fellow, the highest professional honor for HR leaders. She is a Board member for the HR Policy Association, member of the Executive Committee, Peer Roundtable for CHROs, Chair for the Leadership Advisory Board for the Dean of Engineering, University of Michigan & is a Forbes HR Council member.

She is author of the mental wellness book, *Healing at Work: A Guide to Using Career Conflicts to Overcome Your Past and Build the Future You Deserve*, with Martha I. Finney.

Our Panelists



ANGELA DALTON, PANEL MODERATOR

DIRECTOR IN AMD RESEARCH AND ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT | AMD

Dr. Angela Dalton is a Director in AMD's Research and Advanced Development team where she leads a portfolio of efforts on innovative new hardware and software technologies for high performance computing, artificial intelligence, and future computing capabilities. Angela has a B.S. in computer engineering from Virginia Tech as well as an M.S. and a Ph.D. in computer science from Duke University.



SHERRY ALEXANDER

VP AND HEAD OF DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION | NXP

Sherry Alexander is VP and Head of Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion at NXP. She joined the company in 2017, as Quality Director of the AMP business. Over the course of her 25+ year career, Sherry has held global leadership roles in Product Engineering, Program Management, New Product Development, and Quality Assurance with Motorola, Texas Instruments, GE Oil & Gas, and NXP.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Prairie View A&M University, an MBA in Management from Houston Baptist University, and a Diversity & Inclusion certificate from Cornell University.



JYOTIKA ATHAVALE

DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL RAS ARCHITECT | SYNOPSYS

Jyotika Athavale is a Director and Principal Architect at Synopsys, driving architectures for Silicon Lifecycle Management (SLM). Prior to Synopsys, she was Lead Technologist at NVIDIA, driving safety architectures and pathfinding for safety critical systems. Prior to NVIDIA, Jyotika was Principal Engineer (Director) at Intel Corporation.

Jyotika is the 2023 President-Elect of the IEEE Computer Society. She was awarded the IEEE Computer Society Golden Core Award in 2022. Jyotika also chairs the IEEE P2851 Standard on Functional Safety interoperability.



ZEHRA GOZDE FIDAN

DIRECTOR OF RF VALIDATION | SILICON LABS

Gozde Fidan is Director of RF Validation at Silicon Labs, managing a team of RF engineers focused on design validation of IoT products. Gozde joined Silicon Labs in 2006 as an applications engineer. She started engineering management in 2009 and held various roles in Silicon Labs' Automotive, Timing and IoT teams. Gozde began her career in the T&M industry, worked at Agilent Technologies and NI focusing on RF measurement systems. Gozde has a BSEE from METU in Turkey and a MSEE from Penn State.



SHARON HALL

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF SAMSUNG FEDERAL, INC. | SAMSUNG

Sharon Hall is Senior Director of Samsung Federal, Inc., responsible for leading federal operations. She is a distinguished thought leader and expert in high performance computing/AI, semiconductor manufacturing, and supply chain. Sharon is passionate about delivering computing technologies that help solve complex challenges and enable new scientific discoveries. Sharon received her M.B.A from Arizona State University and B.A. in Business Administration from University of Washington.

Event Recap

The event began with a breakfast session, allowing the attendees and speakers an initial opportunity to meet each other and network. Soon after, Jolie Leblanc presented the opening remarks and introduced the Keynote Speaker, Susan Schmitt Winchester. Susan is also the author of, *Healing at Work: A Guide to Using Career Conflicts to Overcome Your Past and Build the Future You Deserve*, a mental wellness book that focuses on Adult Survivors of Damaged Pasts in the workplace. In her “Heal at Work” presentation, Susan spoke to the fragility that comes with past trauma and offered advice on how to recognize connected workspace behaviors. Susan also shed light on the intricate connections between our past experiences and our present work lives, reminding us of the importance of prioritizing personal growth and mental wellness as well as creating safe team environments – which resonated deeply with the attendees.



Event Recap



Next, an engaging panel discussion was moderated by Angela Dalton featuring panelists Sherry Alexander, Zehra Gozde Fidan, Sharon Hall, and Jyotika Athavale who shared their stories and insights on various aspects of success from their career journeys.

The panel discussion touched on several key themes, including the importance of:

- Creating a culture of diversity and inclusion
- Building relationships and networks for sponsorship and visibility
- Stepping into one's power with confidence
- Being a lifelong learner and evolving and strengthening skills
- Adapting leadership styles as roles/responsibilities grow and change
- Expressing gratitude and paying it forward to help others benefit and grow

The panelists' experiences and advice provided valuable guidance to the attendees, inspiring them to embrace their own pathways to success.

Event Recap

After the enlightening panel discussion, the attendees and speakers had the opportunity to further connect and network over a delicious lunch. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy as attendees and speakers came together to share experiences and build meaningful connections.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to Susan Schmitt Winchester for serving as the esteemed keynote speaker at this event. Her ability to share her personal journey with vulnerability and authenticity left a lasting impression on all attendees.

We also thank our amazing speakers – Angela, Sherry, Gozde, Sharon, and Jyotika, for sharing their incredible stories and advice during the panel discussion.

A special thank you to Accenture for hosting this memorable event and providing a supportive environment for the WLI community to connect and grow!

