



GSA'S WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

MAY 2024

WLI Board-Ready Women's Event



EVENT SPONSORED BY

EgonZehnder Morgan Stanley

About the Event



The 2nd Annual Board-Ready Women's Event took place on May 9th at the Tetra Hotel in Sunnyvale, California. This invitation-only event was designed to bring together accomplished female directors, offering a platform for them to share insights on their career journeys and discuss their contributions to public boards, including tips on how they found the right board for them. By sharing their experiences, we aim to provide women in corporate leadership roles, who are seeking opportunities to further enrich their careers and make a meaningful impact on public boards of directors, with valuable guidance and inspiration.

Thank you to our event sponsors Egon Zehnder and Morgan Stanley!

THE PURPOSE

Women who have achieved great success in their corporate leadership role often look for other ways to expand their careers and experience and finding a great fit on a public board of directors may be one opportunity. However, finding the first public board is often a daunting task. We brought together some of the most successful female directors to learn how they navigated this career path and are contributing to public boards.

Our Speakers



TRACI BRANDON

VICE PRESIDENT
WLI



JON CARTER

EGON ZEHNDER



RACHEL WILLIAMS

EGON ZEHNDER



MARK EDELSTONE

CHAIRMAN OF GLOBAL
SEMICONDUCTOR
INVESTMENT BANKING
MORGAN STANLEY



MELISSA KNOX

MANAGING DIRECTOR, HEAD
OF GLOBAL SOFTWARE
INVESTMENT BANKING
MORGAN STANLEY

Our Panelists



GLEND A DORCHAK, MODERATOR

BOARD MEMBER OF ANSYS,
GLOBALFOUNDRIES, WOLFSPEED &
CEO OF GMD ENTERPRISES



ROBIN ABRAMS

BOARD CHAIR AT FACTSET,
BOARD MEMBER OF LATTICE SEMICONDUCTOR,
HCL TECHNOLOGIES, LTD., AND INTERIM BOARD
TRUSTEES CHAIR AT NATCAST



SYLVIA ACEVEDO

BOARD MEMBER OF QUALCOMM INC.,
CREDO TECHNOLOGIES, AMBRI BATTERY
INC. AND QUARK.AI



ALYSSA HENRY

BOARD MEMBER OF
CONFLUENT.IO, INTEL



PENNY HERSCHER

BOARD CHAIR AT LUMENTUM, BOARD CHAIR
AT SGH - SMART GLOBAL HOLDINGS AND
BOARD MEMBER AT FORVIA, MODERN HEALTH



MAGGIE WILDEROTTER

BOARD CHAIR AT DOCUSIGN AND BOARD
MEMBER OF COSTCO, SANA BIOTECHNOLOGY,
TANIUM, AND SONOMA BIOTHERAPEUTICS

Event Recap

The 2nd annual Board-Ready Women's Event gathered female industry experts interested in serving on a public board. Over 60 attendees gained invaluable insights and practical tips on how to prepare for board service as well as how to choose a board.

The event began with a quick networking session alongside breakfast and welcome remarks from Traci Brandon. This was followed by two engaging keynote presentations. Mark Edelstone and Melissa Knox from Morgan Stanley spoke about the shift in the tech landscape and trends in the semiconductor industry and later Jon Carter and Rachel Williams from Egon Zehnder spoke about the paths to the boardroom. Both presentations provided informative commentaries on the processes of board recruitment, the characteristics and competencies boards look for in candidate, and best practices for writing a compelling board bio. They also shared tips on how to best network, interview and engage as a board seeker as well as a board member.



Event Recap



OTHER TOPICS COVERED IN THE KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

- Trends in Board recruitment and the recruitment process
- The characteristics and competencies that Boards look for in a candidate (Integrity was ranked as the highest)
- How to position key elements of one's candidacy for Board roles.
- How to engage and network as a Board seeker
- What to expect during the first year on a Board
- How to seek and accept feedback when serving on a Board.

Next, an engaging panel discussion was moderated by Glenda Dorchak, featuring panelists Maggie Wilderotter, Penny Herscher, Alyssa Henry, Sylvia Acevedo, and Robin Abrams who shared their firsthand insights about serving on a board. They discussed the triumphs and challenges they faced, offering key advice to board seekers on selecting their first board and balancing board life with other roles and responsibilities.

Event Recap

All the attendees participated in table discussions over lunch, facilitated by board member table leaders. These discussions covered a range of topics from why one wants to be on a board to how to network and build relationships with the right influencers. These more intimate discussions gave the attendees a meaningful environment to get specific questions answered.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- Align your skills with the board's needs but recognize that boards value diverse experiences. Lack of certain skills doesn't necessarily preclude you from joining.
- Leverage your unique set of experiences and professional background.
- Effective listening is crucial for understanding and contributing to board discussions.
- Due diligence is crucial when choosing what company board to join.
- Use your niche experience, such as in semiconductors or oil and gas, to bring valuable insights to other industries. Skills in operations, precision instruments, and industry-specific challenges are often transferable.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, with attendees feeling inspired and motivated. The group of attending women not only heard from industry experts but also made meaningful connections with each other, making it an excellent informational and networking event for all.

Thank you to Egon Zehnder and Morgan Stanley for your partnership in making this event a huge success!



Testimonials

“

Egon Zehnder and Morgan Stanley were great. Glenda did an exceptional job of leading the panel. Kudos to all.

-Sylvia Acevedo

“

I really enjoyed the conference and the opportunity to re-connect with some old friends/colleagues and meet new ones. Thank you for solidifying a fantastic panel of women with excellent and relevant insights.

-Stephanie Hallford

“

Thanks to GSA Women's Leadership Initiative for hosting a day of learning with industry experts on what it takes to be a board member! The event was a great opportunity to gain valuable insights and network!

-Preeti Prascher

“

Amazing event by the Global Semiconductor Alliance and GSA Women's Leadership Initiative on corporate board readiness. I have not been in a room with such a large, accomplished group of women within any STEM-related industries before. The speakers and participating women that the GSA have put together are changing the face of technology and semiconductors.

-Alice Globus