



WOMEN CHANGING THE CITY



Donna Marie De Carolis, Ph.D.
Founding Dean, Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship and the Silverman Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Leadership
Drexel University



Hillary Do
Founder and Executive Director
PhillyBOLT



Wendy-Anne Roberts-Johnson
President and CEO
Philadelphia Youth Network



Tiffany Spraggins, MBA
Director, Power Up Your Business Program
Community College of Philadelphia



Carol MacKenzie
Morning News Anchor
KYW Newsradio

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#WomenChangingTheCity



Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Convene

Commerce Square, 2001 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia



Donna Marie De Carolis, Ph.D.

Founding Dean, Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship and the Silverman Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Leadership
Drexel University

215-895-1795
decarodm@drexel.edu
drdecarolis.com

Donna Marie De Carolis, Ph.D., is the founding Dean of the Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship and the Silverman Family Professor of Entrepreneurial Leadership at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Her career itself is entrepreneurial – one of reinvention from high school history teacher to consultant to professor and university dean. She characterizes her strong motivation in both her personal and professional life as “small acts of entrepreneurship” – those decisions that require a leap of faith onto a new path.

As founding Dean of the Close School, the nation’s first stand-alone, degree-granting school of entrepreneurship at a university, De Carolis initiated a pioneering approach to entrepreneurship education. Her vision is to empower all university students with the mindset that they can be entrepreneurs – by broadly defining entrepreneurship as an attitude that incorporates innovative thinking and doing in all facets of life, career and profession.

De Carolis has been a champion of entrepreneurship education in her various roles as Associate Dean and Management Department head at Drexel’s LeBow College of Business, and as Associate Vice-Provost for Entrepreneurship Education at Drexel University.

De Carolis’ research has appeared in journals such as the *Strategic Management Journal*, the *Journal of Management*, and *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*. She is the recipient of the prestigious *Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching* and the Distinguished Teaching Excellence Award from Executive MBAs. She frequently speaks to companies about leadership and innovation. She has also spoken on such topics as “*Entrepreneurial Thinking: The Key to Sustainable Competitive Advantage*”; “*Meeting of the Minds: Creating a Culture of Innovation - Moving Beyond the Risk*” and “*Ready Set Fail: Meet your Inner Entrepreneur.*”

As an executive faculty member for Drexel University’s Corporate and Executive Education program, she has taught courses on Leading with Innovation and Change, Managing Technological Innovation, and New Venture Performance and Survival.

Well-known throughout the Philadelphia region as a lecturer and media personality, De Carolis has contributed weekly commentaries to *KYW Newsradio*. In addition, her commentaries have appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, and *Forbes On-line*.

De Carolis was the 2015 recipient of the *Distinguished Iris Newman Award* from the Alliance for Women Entrepreneurs, given each year to a woman business leader who has demonstrated a strong commitment to helping advance women entrepreneurs. De Carolis is a current member of Drexel University’s Biomedical Engineering Community Advisory Board of the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, advising on translational research, medical device development and entrepreneurship.

De Carolis is a board member of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Exchange (EIX), which provides entrepreneurship resources to colleges and universities. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the AIM Academy. She is a previous member of the Boards of the Barra Foundation and the Faith In the Future Foundation, making a highly positive impact on local communities.

Prior to coming to Drexel, De Carolis served as a strategy consultant and lobbyist. She earned her doctoral degree in strategic management from Temple University and holds an MBA from Villanova University.

She is the mother of two wonderful sons, and one amazing daughter.



Hillary Do

Founder & Executive Director
PhillyBOLT

hdo@phillybolt.org
phillybolt.org
PhillyBOLT's instagram
[linkedin.com/in/hillarydo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hillarydo)

Hillary Do is the Founder & Executive Director of PhillyBOLT, working to empower grassroots leaders in the city. She is a Philadelphia native and a Central High School alumna (class of 272!) who graduated from Harvard in 2017 with a degree in Social Studies and Computer Science. She holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where she was a Leadership for Society Scholar. She has a background in civic technology, local government, community organizing, and business strategy. She dreams of a Philadelphia where every neighborhood thrives, led by the people living in them.



Wendy-Anne Roberts-Johnson

President and CEO,
Philadelphia Youth Network

400 Market Street, Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19106
267-502-3800
wroberts-johnson@pyninc.org
www.pyninc.org

An experienced nonprofit leader with a strong record of success, **Roberts-Johnson's** professional life has focused on improving outcomes for youth and adults through education and career development. As President and CEO of Philadelphia Youth Network, Roberts-Johnson ensures that Philadelphia's youth have meaningful career exposure and work experiences. She previously served as Executive Director of Need in Deed, where she led the organization out of a multi-year deficit and cultivated new donors. Roberts-Johnson also served as Executive Director of The Workforce Institute where she brought in-demand occupational training to youth and adults.

Roberts-Johnson holds a Master of Social Work from Temple University.



Tiffany Spraggins, MBA

*Director, Power Up Your Business
Program*
Community College of Philadelphia

215-496-6008
tspraggins@ccp.edu
www.ccp.edu/powerup

Tiffany Spraggins serves as the Director of the Power Up Your Business Program with the Community College of Philadelphia, in the division of Workforce and Economic Innovation (WEI).

Prior to joining the College, she spent over a decade with The Enterprise Center in Philadelphia, including five years leading its U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in the Mid-Atlantic region. In this role, she was responsible for increasing the ability of small and disadvantaged businesses in the transportation industry to compete for and receive local, state, and federal contracts.

Tiffany also previously served as The Enterprise Center's Economic Development and Community Engagement Programs Director. Throughout her tenure with The Enterprise Center, she has championed small businesses throughout the Philadelphia region and beyond.

Tiffany has utilized her strong business acumen to create value and strengthen capacity for diverse, women, and minority entrepreneurs to launch, grow and scale their businesses. She regularly presents and facilitates notable workshops, trainings and development forums.

Tiffany earned a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Strategic Design from The Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce at Thomas Jefferson University, a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast, Telecommunications and Mass Media from Temple University School of Communications & Theater; and her Associate of Arts in Communications and Theater Arts from Community College of Philadelphia.

Tiffany is the proud recipient of the 2023 Philadelphia Business Journal's 40 Under Forty Award. In 2020, she was named the National Emerging Leader of the Year by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), following her 2018 Philadelphia Business Journal's Minority Business Leader Rising Star Award and the Walker's Legacy Philadelphia Power 15 Award.



Carol MacKenzie

Morning News Anchor
KYW Newsradio

kywnewsradio.radio.com
@cmack215

For many Delaware Valley listeners, **Carol MacKenzie's** voice is the first they hear on weekday mornings. MacKenzie joined the KYW Newsradio staff as a morning anchor in 2003.

A native of Lancaster, PA, she has a BA degree in communications from the University of Delaware and an MA from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

She has enjoyed a long career as a reporter and anchor in both radio and television. Carol began her journalism career as a reporter at WLAN Radio In Lancaster. She's also anchored and reported for a number of television stations in the northeast -- including WETM-TV in Elmira, NY; WBRE-TV in Wilkes-Barre, PA; WMUR-TV in Manchester, NH; and New England Cable News in Boston. Her documentary, "Honduras: Mission of Hope" -- about a local group of volunteers who set up free medical and dental clinics -- won awards from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, the RTNDA, and Women in Communication. Although she has enjoyed getting to know the people in different towns and cities, Carol is glad to be back home in Pennsylvania.

Upcoming Events

Happy Hour Breakfast

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
1515 Market Street, 9th Floor
\$20 for Members, \$35 for Guests.

Lunch with the City's Leaders

John Fry
President, Drexel University

Thursday, October 12, 2023
11:45 AM to 1:30 PM
Hyatt Centric Center City, 1620 Chancellor
\$55 for Members, \$75 for Guests

Meet the Developers

Tuesday, October 17, 2023
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

City Winery, 990 Filbert Street
\$30 for Members & Partners, \$60 for Guests

Lunch with the City's Leaders

Leslie Richards
CEO and General Manager, SEPTA

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
11:45 AM to 1:30 PM
\$55 for Members, \$75 for Guests



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