

# AMPLIFY & ACT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2021



## My October Case for Women's Leadership

A Message From the President of VisionForward

With so much to think about every day, even those of us who care deeply about women's leadership aren't focused on it all the time. But on any day, the topic might become top of mind because of a news report, a personal experience or a significant anniversary. In October, I hit the trifecta.

On October 5, news reports of the Facebook whistleblower's testimony on Capitol Hill put the leadership of Frances Haugen on public view. She acknowledged that her former employer does many good things (including donating to VisionForward and other nonprofits). But she felt compelled to come forward because she believes government regulation is the only way to stop Facebook from continuing practices she views as harmful, especially to young people. Regardless of whether you agree with her, Frances demonstrates a characteristic common to women who step forward to lead: They seek to right a wrong they cannot ignore.



On October 9, my daughter called to tell me about her hike up Hawk Mountain and the woman who saved that key resting point along the raptor migration route. Rosalie Hedge was an ardent suffragist and conservationist. When she learned that Pennsylvania was paying a bounty to hunters for shooting raptors during their migration, it was a wrong she could not ignore. To right it, she raised the money to preserve 1,400 acres that in 1934 became Hawk Mountain Sanctuary – the world's first refuge for birds of prey.

October 11 was the 30th anniversary of Anita Hill's 1991 testimony in front of the all-white, all-male Senate Judiciary Committee: a Black woman brave enough to tell the world about her sexual harassment by a Supreme Court nominee. For me, the significance of that anniversary is huge. The ways in which Anita was publicly demeaned and dismissed enraged me. It was a wrong

I could not ignore. After much research, soul-searching and prodding by friends, I entered the U.S. Senate race to challenge the powerful incumbent senator who had been Anita's main interrogator. Although I narrowly lost the general election, the experience reinforced my commitment to working for women's equality and representation in key leadership positions.

The fact that so many women are motivated to lead not by a quest for power but by a cause they believe in is one component of the case for women's leadership. Among the many others are communicating compassionately, working collaboratively and compromising for the common good.

I invite you to email [visionforward@drexel.edu](mailto:visionforward@drexel.edu) with examples of women demonstrating leadership qualities you admire. We will highlight some of them in this newsletter as we work together to make the case that we all benefit when women lead.



Lynn H. Yeakel, Founder and President, VisionForward

## VisionForward News & Events



### Curator Will Train Volunteers to Lead Tours

Some of the teachers planning field trips to VisionForward's Seat at the Table exhibition have asked whether guides are available to lead in-person tours. The exhibition was designed to be self-guided, and the free Educator's Guide can be used to structure a class visit, but VisionForward is responding with a plan to recruit and train local volunteer guides.

The exhibition is open to the public in the lobby of Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts through March 31, 2022. Volunteers will be trained by the exhibition curator, Page Talbott. If you are interested in volunteering, please [email Keyonna Douglas](mailto:Keyonna.Douglas@visionforward.org).

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## VisionForward Is Hiring: Do You Know a Great Candidate for Communications Manager?

VisionForward has an open position for a full-time communications manager. Applications are being accepted until November 6. A successful candidate will have strong writing skills and a marketing background to implement and manage the communications plan of Drexel University's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership and its programs, which include VisionForward. [View the job description and apply now.](#)

### News From Our National Coalition

#### Report Shows Slow Progress for Corporate Women

In its annual benchmarking report on Women in Leadership, VisionForward Allied Organization [The Forum of Executive Women](#) notes slow progress toward gender diversity in the Philadelphia region's top 100 corporate boardrooms and executive suites. Highlights and lowlights:

##### Board Membership

- 212 (23%) of 919 board seats are held by women, up from 21% in 2019.
- The number of companies without female representation on their board has dropped each year since 2014, from 35 companies in 2014 to 5 companies in 2020.

##### Executive Leadership

- Women comprise 16% of total executives, up from 15% in 2019.
- 40% of the top 100 companies do not have any women executives.
- *None* of the CEOs are women.

The report, which is a collaborative effort between the Forum and PwC, also shows a great leap forward for transparency in divulging data about diversity, equity and inclusion. For more information, [read the press release](#) or [read the report](#).

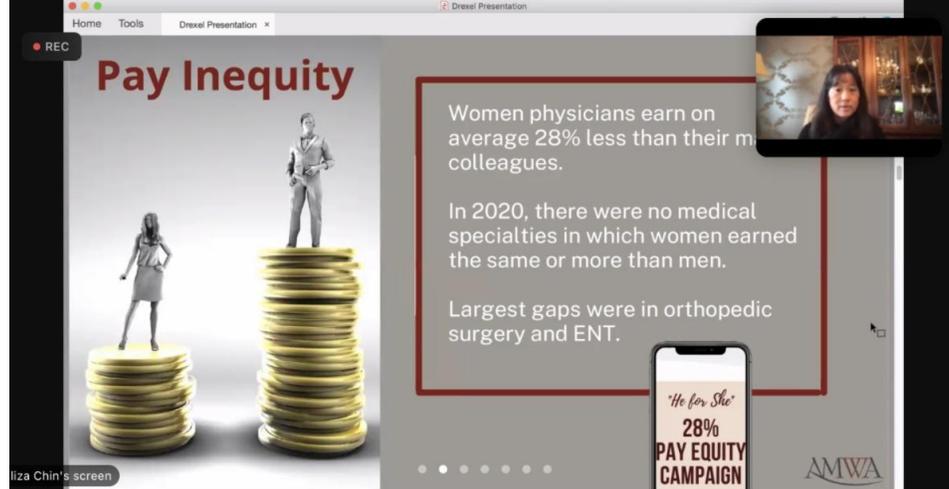
**The Forum  
of Executive  
Women**

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#### CA Delegate Gives Talk on Women in Medicine

The [Women in Medicine & Science Committee](#) at Drexel University College of Medicine (home of VisionForward!) hosted a virtual talk on October 18 with Eliza Lo Chin, MD, executive director of the [American Medical Women's Association](#). Eliza is also a VisionForward [Delegate](#) from California.

Her talk was titled "Women in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities – 2021 and Beyond." She discussed topics of pay equity, underrepresentation of women in certain specialties and the lack of women in healthcare leadership with Drexel students, faculty, staff and participants from around the nation.



## PA Delegate Moderates Panel on Supplier Inclusion



Allen Riddick (left), director of supplier inclusion at Drexel University and VisionForward **Delegate** from Pennsylvania, moderated a panel titled "Past, Present, and Future of Supplier Inclusion" at Philadelphia's 37th annual Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week event October 6.

MED Week highlights minority businesses and the resources that help them grow. Attendees include business owners, procurement professionals, and diversity and inclusion advocates.

## Empowering Photo of the Month



One year ago this month, a motorcade led by woman race car drivers made a historic round-trip from American's Birthplace – Philadelphia – to the Birthplace of Women's Rights – Seneca Falls, NY. The SHE Leads Road Rally, one of Vision 2020's Women 100 events, promoted "women driving change" in the final weeks leading up to the 2020 presidential election. Women can continue driving change by voting in every election.

**Make a plan to vote in the local elections taking place in**

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