



**WOMAN OF STATURE™
AWARDS**
SOUTH AFRICA



2025 YEAR BOOK



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MAUA
BioMagazine




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AWARDS**
SOUTH AFRICA

**CHARLOTTE
DU PLESSIS**

CEO'S

O V E R V I E W





Woman of Stature seeks to celebrate diversity in all its forms, it also seeks to bridge cultural and social differences that can so easily sabotage the gift of collectivism and the building of an inspired, empowered collective psyche of South African Women who will settle for nothing less than their rightful place in every space: personal and professional. I believe that as we empower ourselves and assume every bit of responsibility to do so, we are empowering and building a new nation of women and men.

The only time that abusive and limiting practices are repeated and re-cycled is when they are permitted to be! Woman of Stature inspires Women to become nothing less than the grandest, most authentic versions of their economic, social, spiritual and psychological selves in a non-competitive, non-comparative and non-critical way. As a leader of this organisation, I will not rest until I have sufficiently promoted empowered women to change the socio-political-economic landscape of our beautiful, highly humanly-resourced country in which Women are still under-represented in the work force, marginalised socially and domestically abused. It is my vision that Woman of Stature channel this message and provide a voice for the de-voiced and voiceless!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Hazel Bango-Moyo Financial Director

Hazel is a Chartered Accountant with 19+ years of local and international executive experience. She is the founder of Primorial, a professional services firm supporting businesses that drive positive change. Passionate about small business development, she mentors women in the workplace. Hazel was named Entrepreneur of the Year 2023 at the Woman of Stature Awards.

Angelique Smith Events Director

Angelique Smith is a dynamic entrepreneur, leadership coach, and award-winning event specialist. As the owner of Event Synthesis, she leads a top-tier events, conference, and travel management company. A certified events safety officer, professional dancer, and motivational speaker, she serves on multiple industry boards. Angelique has won numerous accolades, including the 2022 Winner Woman of Stature Global Awards in the Tourism Category, and is dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs.

Tandi Potgieter Communications Director

Tandi Potgieter is the CEO of Icarus Media (Pty) Ltd, named Most Innovative Social Media and PR Company 2023 South Africa in the African Excellence Awards. Co-Director of Mrs Soweto and a Woman of Stature Woman in Media 2023 Finalist, she is passionate about women's empowerment, tourism, and business growth. A former Harrods Buyer, she also led My Print Bar to award-winning success.

Thandi J Mabena Programme Director

Thandi J Mabena is an innovative business and human capital strategist who empowers leaders, teams, and entrepreneurs to achieve their goals. Holding an MBA (Bond University, Australia) and credentials from GIBS, she is a certified Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Gallup Strengths Coach, and ICF member. A thought leader in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Leadership, she also serves on multiple boards, mentors SMEs, and lectures at Stellenbosch Business School.

2013-2024



WOMAN OF STATURE OVERALL WINNERS



KIM EVERITT

2013 OVERALL WINNER



MARTHE-MARIE KOHNE

2014 OVERALL WINNER



KOO GOVENDER

2015 OVERALL WINNER



SHAFIKA ISAACS

2017 OVERALL WINNER



KAT NCALA

2018 OVERALL WINNER



RELEBOHILE MABOTJA

2020 OVERALL WINNER



REHAMA ISA

2022 OVERALL WINNER



PROF CORNE BUITENDAG

2023 OVERALL WINNER



ANNEMARIE MOSTERT

2024 OVERALL WINNER

A WALK

DOWN MEMORY LANE

What began as a seemingly small step not so long ago has become a powerful movement. This year, we proudly mark our 10th anniversary, a decade of recognising and celebrating women who have boldly embraced their power and left an indelible mark in their industry.

Before we unveil and applaud the remarkable winners of 2025, we pause to honour the extraordinary women who paved the way. Let's journey back through the years and pay tribute to our overall winners and alumni from 2013 to 2024, whose stories continue to inspire us.

A NIGHT

TO REMEMBER

Johannesburg, South Africa, 12 April 2025
The 10th Annual Woman of Stature Awards South Africa dazzled guests at a glittering gala held at the Indaba Hotel, Spa & Conference Centre, where remarkable women were celebrated for their leadership, excellence, and community impact across 14 industry categories.



“

I am deeply honoured to receive the Honorary Lifetime Achievement. Thank you for seeing me, acknowledging my journey and for affirming that our stories, rooted in courage, purpose and faith matter.

Nonkululeko Gobodo

Our

**OVERALL
WINNER**

TABRA

PENNY

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*“What an honour this is ,
being the Overall Winner
of the 2025 Woman of
Stature Awards”*

**OVERALL
WINNER 2025**





Our

CATEGORY

WINNERS &
FINALISTS





JOANI JACOBS



ABOUT

Joani Jacobs, a prominent South African entrepreneur, has been the CEO of Mrs. South Africa Pty Ltd since 2011. Under her leadership, the company has grown into a renowned platform and respected brand, empowering married women to pursue their ambitions. Joani's visionary approach and dedication have earned her recognition as an award-winning entrepreneur and influential figure in the business and pageant industries. At the heart of Mrs. South Africa's success is Joani's "Dream Team," a group of professionals she has cultivated to uphold the organisation's values and vision. Together, they have transformed the brand into a beacon of empowerment and excellence. Joani's academic background in Communications and over 20 years of experience in modelling, pageants, and media have provided her with the expertise to lead and inspire. In addition to her role with Mrs. South Africa, she is the founder and CEO of Ace Models International, a modelling and self-development agency operating across multiple countries. Through Ace Models, she nurtures young talent, builds confidence, and prepares the next generation of models and leaders. Joani's innovative approach, passion for mentorship, and commitment to excellence make her a respected leader and role model for women entrepreneurs in South Africa and beyond.

CHRISTINE YOUNG



ABOUT

Christine Young transitioned from a high-powered career in marketing to pursue a more personal and fulfilling venture. She previously led a team of 12 account executives at Ogilvy & Mather RSTM, managing iconic South African brands such as KFC and South African Tourism. Christine's final marketing role was with Bombela, where she contributed to the Gautrain's successful launch during the 2010 World Cup. Christine opened her preschool to pursue a career that allowed her more time with her children. Over the past 15 years, this venture has grown from a small facility with 45 children to two thriving pre-schools serving over 100 learners. Christine takes pride in her team of 33 dedicated staff members, 90% of whom have been with her for more than a decade. Their commitment and passion have been central to creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for the children. Owning and running a pre-school has brought Christine immense joy and personal growth. She values the opportunity to positively impact young lives while providing employment for her team. For Christine, the rewards of this journey are long-lasting, making it one of the most rewarding chapters of her professional life.

KAMOGELO MAUBANE



ABOUT

Kamogelo Maubane is a visionary leader, mentor, and entrepreneur making waves in the forex, crypto, and financial literacy sectors. As the CEO and Founder of Sidehustle Favorbankmotions, she has cultivated a global network of traders and learners, offering in-depth education on financial markets, trading strategies, and market analysis. A staunch advocate for women's empowerment, Kamogelo launched Women in Leadership 2024, an initiative aimed at uplifting women in the financial industry by promoting financial literacy and entrepreneurial success. Known as The Queen of Web3, Kamogelo also excels as an AI developer, integrating blockchain and AI technologies to revolutionise trading and business strategies. Her patient and thorough teaching approach has made her a sought-after Crypto & Forex Coach, helping countless individuals navigate the complexities of financial markets. Kamogelo's influence extends to public speaking and thought leadership, with appearances at international expos, podcasts, and industry events where she shares expertise on financial independence and the future of decentralised technologies. Through her Women Forex Podcast, Kamogelo engages and inspires women globally to take control of their financial destinies. Her impact has been recognised by the Traders Awards, naming her South Africa's top advisory figure in financial trading. Kamogelo's work is not just about building a business but creating a legacy of financial empowerment, particularly for women. Her dedication to innovation and leadership continues to shape the future of forex, crypto, and financial education in South Africa and beyond.

PROF. KGOROANE MARTHA MOLOPE



ABOUT

Prof Martha Molope is South African Philanthropist, community activist and Humanitarian, born and raised in Seletenf GaMphahlele, Limpopo. She is founder and CEO of the Mercy and Restoration Centre and the Ramanthle Molope Foundation. Her humble beginnings were shaped by the wisdom and kindness of her grandmother who instilled in her the profound believe that true success is found in serving others and alleviating their struggles. So began her journey of uplifting the lives of those in need with the motto, "PHELA O PHEDISHE". With a background in Education, prof Martha's path was paved with a commitment to maturing minds and empowering future generations. From her roles aa a teacher to a tenure as lecturer and Curriculum advisor, she mentors and leads individuals to living their full potential. As CEO of her organizations, she drives community empowerment and believes that each and every individual can make a difference. Her organization is a beacon of Hope for the impoverished and marginalized.

LISA VIOLA



ABOUT

Lisa Viola is the dynamic CEO of Metrix Media, a leading marketing agency specialising in digital and print media solutions tailored to diverse industries. With over two decades of experience, Lisa has built a reputation for delivering client-focused, results-oriented strategies that drive business growth. Her leadership has propelled Metrix Media to prominence, establishing it as a powerhouse in the marketing space. Lisa's marketing philosophy is rooted in strategy and innovation. She prioritises creating impactful content that forges genuine connections with audiences, while customising campaigns to meet each client's unique goals. Her thoughtful, hands-on approach ensures measurable success and enduring partnerships. In addition to her business achievements, Lisa is a passionate advocate for social impact. She founded The Healing Africa Foundation, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to uplifting African communities. Through this initiative, Lisa leverages her business expertise to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Lisa's journey exemplifies resilience, dedication, and visionary leadership. Her ability to merge professional success with meaningful community contribution has not only shaped Metrix Media as an industry leader but also inspired others to pursue a balance of business excellence and social responsibility.

SHARON VAN DEN HEEVER



ABOUT

Sharon Van Den Heever's career journey is a testament to resilience, determination, and a passion for learning and development. Raised by a single mother who couldn't afford to send her or her sisters to university, Sharon took it upon herself to achieve her aspirations. Her unwavering dedication led to a successful career spanning over 30 years in various fields, including general management, training and development, human resources, industrial relations, customer service, finance, and operations. In 2012, Sharon made the bold decision to leave a secure executive role to establish her own training company. Eleven years later, she reflects on this gamble with pride, knowing it was the right choice. She has since become a passionate champion for skills development, small business growth, and entrepreneurial success. Her industry experience includes FMCG, hospitality, and consulting services, all of which have shaped her expertise in training and empowering others. Sharon believes in the importance of sharing knowledge, supporting peers, and fostering an environment where everyone can succeed. A firm believer in hard work and integrity, Sharon practices the principle of "paying it forward," ensuring she gives back to her community and industry with excellence and conviction. Her dedication to training and development continues to make a lasting impact on individuals and businesses alike, embodying her belief that there's always room for one more to succeed.

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CHANTAL DA SILVA



ABOUT

Chantal Da Silva has enjoyed a remarkable 28-year career in Sales and Marketing, with 15 years dedicated to building her own business and shaping the pharmaceutical industry. Passionate about launching pharmaceutical brands and developing talent, she founded Jasper Agency in 2009 to bridge the gap in specialised pharmaceutical sales and outsourced brand management. As Director of Jasper Agency, Mrs Da Silva has cultivated a high-performing team through recruitment, training, and mentorship, fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement. Her expertise spans brand identification, marketing strategy, customer service, and sales management, resulting in numerous successful brand launches and the creation of meaningful employment opportunities. Recognising the importance of innovation, she consistently adapts to market changes, explores new channels, and leverages evolving CRM systems to meet and exceed sales targets. Mrs Da Silva's commitment to inclusivity and staff development has positively impacted her community, creating a workplace that thrives on diversity and collaboration. Her ability to navigate the complexities of start-ups and corporate environments showcases her adaptability and deep understanding of business dynamics. Beyond professional success, Mrs Da Silva's visionary leadership and dedication to uplifting others highlight her as a trailblazer in her field. Through her efforts to drive supplier-agency synergy and empower her team, Mrs Da Silva exemplifies the qualities of an inspirational leader, continually shaping the pharmaceutical sales and marketing landscape while leaving a lasting legacy in her community.

CINDY BRITS



ABOUT

Cindy Brits co-founded the Dazzle Foundation in 2012, contributing to community development and opening the Samaritan House Pre-Primary School in 2013. Under her leadership, RE/MAX Dazzle was recognised as the #1 Single Office in South Africa from 2012 to 2019 and globally from 2015 to 2016 and in 2019. The office has received over 20 international awards, multiple South African real estate accolades, and notable distinctions from Betterbond and Standard Bank for transaction volumes in 2023. Cindy's entrepreneurial vision extends to growing the business with her husband and business partners by doubling operations and opening two additional offices in Benoni and Boksburg, making their group the largest in South Africa. A SETA-accredited facilitator and assessor, Cindy is also a certified mentor/coach for the 100 Days to Greatness, Peak Producers, and Momentum Training programmes. Additionally, she founded the Diva Network, a platform where women from various industries connect and discuss business matters in a supportive environment. Her influence in real estate is widely recognised, earning her a spot among the Top 50 International Real Estate Leaders.

DANELLE DREYER



ABOUT

Danelle Dreyer, an entrepreneur, proud wife, and mother of four boys, hails from Meyerton in Midvaal. She is the owner and founder of MPILO Occupational Health Services and KR Health & Safety. She is deeply committed to leaving a legacy of change and empowerment. Driven by her love for personal challenges and growth, Danelle joined the reality program Ster-Status in 2020, which aired on VIA147. There, she gained insights into the industry, herself, and community work, earning the titles of Debutant, Charity Winner, and Co-Presenter for season 3. This experience empowered her to start helping others. In addition to her career, Danelle has organised multiple fundraising events and founded the Pamper and Empower platform for girls in the local township of Sicelo. She believes that giving time to the community is one of the greatest blessings. In 2023, Danelle entered the Mrs Grand competition and was crowned First Princess, further motivating her to start the Idube Foundation. The name "Idube" means zebra in Zulu, symbolising unity, integrity, determination, and empowerment. She also serves as a member of the School Governing Body (SGB) for Destinata School for LSD and LSEN learners and as the Vice Chairperson of the Midvaal Business Chamber of Commerce.

LARISSA CORNELIUS



ABOUT

Larissa Cornelius is a dynamic leader and the co-founder of nFold, a women-owned consultancy focused on helping businesses achieve success and sustainable growth. With a shared vision, and together with her business partner have transformed nFold from an ambitious startup into a flourishing company that now employs 17 staff members and has a network of 15+ consultants. Their reputation is built on trust, with 95% of their business coming from client referrals—a strong endorsement of the value they deliver. nFold collaborates with prominent organizations such as the University of Johannesburg School of Entrepreneurs, Grow Impact, and Clinic to enhance the value of businesses, regardless of size. By offering strategic insights, Larissa together with her partner empowers small and medium enterprises (SMMEs), providing them with the tools and guidance needed to thrive. As National Small Business Chamber partners, they actively share practical advice that strengthens small businesses and have earned the Business Excellence Award for their significant impact. Through her work, Larissa not only grows nFold but also elevates their clients, continually setting new standards of excellence in the industry.

NOSIPHO ARMSTRONG



ABOUT

Nosipho Armstrong is a pioneering force in the construction and coaching industries, co-founding and serving as the Managing Director of Armstronic Pty Ltd, a 100% Black female-owned business that operates in the Building, Engineering, and Mining sectors across South Africa and parts of West Africa. With over 15 years of experience, Mrs Armstrong has established herself as a key player in a traditionally male-dominated industry, using her expertise to drive transformative change in areas of equity representation, skills development, and female participation. Her business, Armstronic, holds a prestigious CIDB grade 8GB/CE rating, cementing its reputation for high-quality delivery. In addition to her work in construction, Mrs Armstrong is an internationally accredited MBIT master coach and NLP practitioner, bringing a unique blend of skills that drive both personal and professional growth. Passionate about community development, she works closely with TVET colleges across South Africa, mentoring young artisans and female entrepreneurs, particularly in the construction field. Mrs Armstrong's influence extends beyond mentorship, as she actively contributes to initiatives that promote artisan skills in rural townships. She is also an influential speaker, recognised for her thought-provoking presentations on construction development. A true innovator, she has demonstrated how coaching techniques, such as NLP methodologies, can be applied in technical environments to foster cohesion and overcome challenges. Through her work, Mrs Armstrong is reshaping the construction industry and empowering women to thrive in sectors traditionally dominated by men.

SHIREEN ONIA



ABOUT

Shireen Onia is a seasoned business and growth coach, as well as a keynote speaker, with over 20 years of experience in leadership, customer service, mindset, and property management. She thrives in developing individuals and leading entrepreneurship programs across the African continent. In her career, Shireen has had the privilege of collaborating with skilled coaches and expert mentors, contributing to impactful projects that elevate women to new heights in their businesses, careers, and personal growth. Currently working with the Graca Machel Trust and previously with organizations like Trade Forward Southern Africa and Future Females Empowerment Initiatives, Shireen's mission is clear: to guide entrepreneurs from ideation to scaling, helping them reach their highest potential. Her philosophy, inspired by the words of Erin Hanson, reflects her approach: "What if I fall? Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?"

ZARA MUHAMMED



ABOUT

Zara Muhammed is an accomplished entrepreneur and CEO of Delta Tank Engineering, a global leader as the first women-owned tank fabrication repair and refurbishment enterprise. With a diverse career spanning across industries, Zara has had the opportunity to engage in business ventures and freelance consulting internationally, with trade experience in China, Pakistan, India, Lesotho, and several neighbouring South African countries. In addition to owning a restaurant and a furniture design and manufacturing company, Zara is passionate about growing Delta Tank Engineering from a startup into a rapidly expanding enterprise with footprints across multiple countries. As the major shareholder, she is committed to advancing the company while supporting the communities within her reach. Known for her strength and determination, Zara's global exposure to various cultures, languages, and business practices has helped her build strong relationships with clients across borders. She embodies a growth-driven mindset, constantly seeking new opportunities for development and advocating for women to earn their place in the lucrative industry based on merit and capabilities alone. Zara's unwavering "can-do" attitude serves as a beacon of inspiration for all striving for success.





YAMKELA TYWAKADI



W O M A N I N A R T S
A N D C U L T U R E
C A T E G O R Y

WINNER



ABOUT

Yamkela Tywakadi is a distinguished businesswoman and founder of Blank Page Books, a trailblazing publishing house producing a diverse range of acclaimed works. As the author and publisher of over 15 books spanning children's literature, fiction, non-fiction, and biographies, she has cemented her place as a significant contributor to South Africa's arts and cultural landscape. Yamkela holds three degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand: a BA in Media Studies and African Languages, and BA Honours degrees in African Languages and Publishing Studies. Her academic achievements underpin her expertise in publishing and her passion for promoting African literature and languages. Her debut novel and subsequent works have been adopted into the national school curriculum, approved by the Department of Education for use in various grades. Writing in English, isiXhosa, and isiZulu, Yamkela's work celebrates South Africa's cultural heritage while preserving indigenous languages and folklore. Her contributions have earned her notable recognition, including being named one of Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans. She was also the sole South African representative at the University of Iowa's International Writing Program in 2019. Her Sanda Series has been widely praised for introducing children to financial literacy, and her co-authored work, *Rising from the Township*, continues to inspire and uplift readers. Through her extensive body of work, Yamkela remains a passionate advocate for the advancement of arts, culture, and education in South Africa.

CHULE GOBODO



ABOUT

Chule Gobodo, known as Chule The Love Activist, brings over 14 years of experience in the creative industry and business. As the co-founder of Brainbow Conscious Creatives, an inclusion storytelling agency, she combines the neuroscience of storytelling with the African philosophy of Ubuntu to cultivate courageous business cultures and forge genuine connections with customers. This approach transforms brands and their communities into love activists. A mother, wife, certified birth doula, conceptual artist, and filmmaker, Chule's career spans creative directing, documentary filmmaking, and conceptual video art, culminating in major marketing campaigns. She uses love as a tool for activism, empowering marginalised voices and fostering interconnectedness through African cosmology and the philosophy of Ubuntu. As a certified Ubuntu practitioner and inclusion professional, Chule's work emphasises compassion and the shared bond between humanity and nature. Among her notable achievements is co-creating the 2024 Ubuntu Summit, a global event featuring TED Talk speakers exploring Ubuntu's influence in their professional and entrepreneurial journeys. Chule's dedication to storytelling and inclusion continues to inspire meaningful change, leaving a profound impact on both businesses and communities.

DANILE ANNAH MASOMBUKA



ABOUT

Danile Annah Masombuka is a South African filmmaker, scriptwriter, documentarian, and television producer who has been active in the industry since 2005. With over 18 years of experience, her expertise spans writing, script editing, book translation, and production. She has facilitated scriptwriting workshops for the Writer's Guild of South Africa (WGSA) and the National Arts Festival. Currently, she serves as Head of Professional Development on the WGSA Council. In 2020, some of her books were selected by the Gauteng Department of Education for inclusion in school library catalogues across the province. Her dedication to developing local talent began in 2009 when she was selected for a three-year scriptwriting training programme by the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport, and Recreation. As a trainer, Ms Masombuka leads the WGSA Train the Trainer course, supporting emerging writers in Mpumalanga. Her contributions to the region's film industry include initiating key projects like the bioscope in schools programme and the Mpumalanga Film Mart and Festival. She also co-led the Mpumalanga Literature Project, promoting Indigenous siSwati literature through partnerships with DR JS Moroka Municipality and the University of Pretoria. Her accolades include Letter to Nanna, which won Best Documentary at the India International Film Festival and was a finalist at the Cannes International Film Festival in 2021. She also received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the Southern Ndebele language. Ms Masombuka continues to champion storytelling and cultural preservation through her work in film and literature.

HUNTER LEITE



ABOUT

HunTer Leite, a singer, songwriter, radio presenter, and business owner, has established herself as a dynamic force in the South African and international music scene. Born in Kempton Park on 1 March 1982 and raised on a smallholding in Benoni, she discovered her passion for music and public speaking at a young age. As a multi-award-winning Nashville recording artist, HunTer has garnered accolades including multiple FPCM Awards, Sounds of Texas Awards, SA Country Music Awards, and a Josie Music Award. She was nominated for the 2022 SAMA People's Choice Award, Woman of Stature 2025, and 11 categories at the 2024 Holland Music Awards. HunTer's powerful and versatile voice captivates audiences in multiple languages, including English, Afrikaans, Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch. A seasoned songwriter, she plays piano and guitar during her live performances, showcasing her original compositions. Her career as an MC includes high-profile events such as Hayward Diamonds VVIP functions, government and corporate events, and pageants like Miss South Africa and Mrs South Africa. She has graced prominent venues like Emperor's Palace, Atterbury Theatre, and Barnyard Theatre and appeared on TV shows including Fiesta and Musiek Roulette. HunTer is also the owner and presenter of GOFM Radio, with a radio career spanning stations such as Mix FM, East Coast Radio, and HartiesFM. Known for her vibrant personality and commanding stage presence, she continues to captivate audiences worldwide through her music and motivational speaking.

LANIE RISCHMULLER



ABOUT

Lanie Rischmuller is a South African country singer, voice actor, and creative entrepreneur originally from Pretoria. Having travelled extensively during her career as a flight attendant, she later ventured into beauty, graphic design, and art. Lanie now runs her own online store, sharing her passion for handmade creations. In 2024, at the age of 38, she began her music career, gaining recognition for her unique revamping of cover songs. Inspired by her husband, singer and songwriter Pieter Rischmuller, she embraced her love for art and country music, sharing her distinctive voice with the world. Music has become her way of expressing her inner country girl. Her social media videos quickly gained a large following, attracting opportunities from international platforms such as Netflix and Broadway in New York. In 2024, she won the Newcomer of the Year award at the South African Country Awards. From August 2024 to March 2025, her voice will feature in Broadway productions, and her debut album of original country music is set for release in April 2025. Lanie is also an independent author, with the first book in her children's series of eight scheduled for release in December 2024. Dedicated to uplifting women and children in South Africa, she constantly creates projects aimed at fostering growth and empowerment. Lanie's multifaceted talents continue to make an impact both locally and internationally.

VIRGINIA SEFUME



ABOUT

Virginia Sefume is an accomplished creative visionary whose work has left an indelible mark on the arts and culture landscape. Nominated in the prestigious Arts and Culture category of the Woman of Stature Awards, Virginia's journey is a testament to her passion for storytelling, community empowerment, and cultural preservation. Virginia's career spans multiple disciplines, including visual arts, performance, and cultural curation. Her work celebrates heritage and identity, blending contemporary themes with traditional narratives to foster understanding and unity among diverse communities. Known for her innovative approach, she has been a driving force behind numerous cultural projects, and exhibitions, that amplify underrepresented voices and shed light on social issues. A champion of community work, education, and mentorship, Through workshops, mentorship programs, and community collaborations, she empowers the next generation of creatives to explore their unique artistic expressions while remaining deeply rooted in their cultural identities. Virginia's contributions extend beyond the creative sphere. As a leader and advocate, she actively participates in initiatives aimed at preserving cultural heritage and promoting access to the arts for marginalized communities. Her ability to combine artistry with advocacy has earned her widespread recognition as both an artist and a change-maker. This nomination for the Woman of Stature Awards reflects Virginia Sefume's unwavering commitment to enriching the cultural fabric of society and inspiring positive change through the transformative power of the arts.





WOMAN OF STATURE[®]
AWARDS

WOMAN IN BEAUTY AND FASHION
WINNER
AWARDED TO

Lesley-Rae Coetzer

17th APRIL 2025
DATE OF ISSUE


CHARLOTTE DU PLESSIS
CEO
WOMAN OF STATURE AWARDS
SOUTH AFRICA





LESLEY- RAE COETZER



ABOUT

Lesley-Rae Coetzer is a dynamic businesswoman and the owner of Leading Lady SA, a beauty imports and export company and salon that is celebrating its 10th anniversary. She is also the founder of Caviar Luxury Hair Extensions, a brand she now exports internationally. In 2021, Lesley was crowned Mrs. Johannesburg, winning six prestigious awards, including Businesswoman of the Year, Debutant, Philanthropist of the Year, and Mrs. Personality. She is also a judge for Miss Bachelorette South Africa and was recently named Businesswoman of the Year by the Woman of SA Awards. Lesley is the co-founder of Dethrone Your Demons, a program launched in 2023 to support women facing hardships. The program offers emotional healing, life coaching, and physical makeovers to help restore their confidence. Diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis in 2020, Lesley now uses her platform to advocate for awareness of autoimmune diseases, inspiring and supporting others through her journey.

ALECIA MAUREEN JOUBERT



ABOUT

For nearly two decades, Alecia Joubert has established herself as a distinguished professional makeup artist and hairstylist, transforming not just appearances but also lives. With her innate talent for enhancing beauty, Alecia has dedicated her career to empowering women and helping them embrace their unique selves. Driven by a passion that she considers to be her calling, she has built a successful business that thrives on creativity and connection. Alecia believes that makeup and hairstyling are not merely about looks; they are powerful tools for self-expression and confidence. Her approach goes beyond the surface, as she understands that beauty is deeply intertwined with self-esteem. Each client experience is tailored, ensuring that every woman leaves her chair not just looking beautiful but feeling empowered and cherished. Throughout her career, Alecia has worked with a diverse clientele, from brides on their special day to women seeking a transformative makeover. Her commitment to fostering a positive and uplifting environment has earned her a loyal following. She is always seeking to improve her skills and techniques, continuously evolving her craft to offer the best to her clients. In addition to her artistry, Alecia is an ambitious businesswoman, constantly exploring new opportunities for growth. She is proud to have successfully launched her first makeup product in November 2023. Her mission is clear: to inspire women to love themselves and recognize their inherent beauty. With every brushstroke and hairstyle, Alecia aspires to create not just stunning looks but also lasting confidence that radiates from within.

ANNELIZE LOMBARD



ABOUT

Annelize Lombard, born in Potgietersrus in 1971 and raised in Nylstroom, matriculated in 1988. She is married to Danie for nearly 28 years, and they have four sons. As the eldest of three children, Annelize took on roles as a mother, teacher, and housekeeper, limiting her time for hobbies. She enjoyed reading the MIMS (Pharmaceutical prescribing guide), painting, and collecting semi-precious stones. After matriculating, Annelize explored various careers, including hairdressing, secretarial work, and law, but none resonated with her. A transformative moment came when she attempted to fix a disappointing manicure before a job interview, sparking her interest in nails. She completed a nail technology course and earned an international diploma in 1991, eventually winning Nail Tech of the Year in 1997. Annelize is now the proud owner of Be-a-Lady Beauty Salon in Pretoria East, where she works as a slimming and wellness therapist and a qualified permanent makeup artist. She is also a SETA-accredited facilitator and assessor, currently completing her EDTP qualification. Annelize holds a first-year theology degree and ministered during the Marikana incident. In 2010, she faced serious health challenges, including diagnoses of SLE, RA, and diabetes, with a prognosis of five years. Despite suffering a stroke and heart failure, Annelize experienced miraculous healing in 2016. Passionate about helping others, particularly breast cancer survivors, she dreams of establishing a college to share her expertise in the beauty industry and empower women to become the best versions of themselves.

BELINDA VAN SCHALKWYK



ABOUT

Belinda van Schalkwyk is a dedicated cosmetologist and business owner with 18 years of experience in the beauty industry. Known for her commitment to continuous learning and professional growth, she is always seeking to master new techniques and trends. Belinda owns her own beauty salon, where she combines her extensive expertise with a passion for client satisfaction. She is dedicated to creating a welcoming and transformative experience for everyone she treats, ensuring that each visit leaves clients feeling rejuvenated and confident. Belinda's journey in the beauty industry has been shaped by her strong work ethic and desire to stay at the forefront of her field. She understands the importance of personalised care and tailors each treatment to meet the individual needs of her clients. Through her salon, Belinda strives to build long-lasting relationships with her clients, helping them look and feel their best. Her focus on client satisfaction and professional growth has earned her a reputation as a trusted and respected cosmetologist. As a wife, mother, and business owner, Belinda remains grounded in her values, using her career as a platform to inspire and empower those around her.

BIANCA ALBERTS



ABOUT

Bianca Alberts has been in the beauty and wellness industry for 14 years. In 2017, she took a bold step, leaving a corporate job to start her own business, initially renting a single room she was incredibly proud of. By 2021, she had purchased her own premises, where she continues to operate today. Over the years, Bianca has learned valuable life lessons, recognising the vital need for women to prioritise self-care and have a safe space where they can be vulnerable about their challenges and insecurities. Her mission is to empower women, particularly mothers, by providing them with a platform for personal growth. Whether uplifting her team with career opportunities or helping clients understand the importance of filling their own cup, she believes in encouraging women to be better for their families, careers, and communities. Striving for excellence in everything she does, Bianca is a business owner, permanent makeup specialist, and skincare enthusiast. But above all, she is a proud wife and mother of two toddlers, whose love and joy far surpass any professional accolades. Raised on a farm in the Free State, she remains grounded in values of honesty, independence, humility, and faith. Over the past four years, she has battled health challenges, including TSW, which has deepened her daily gratitude and strengthened her belief that she is a vessel for change and awareness. This belief inspired her to honour her current nomination

LORAINIE OLIVIER



ABOUT

Loraine Olivier is a seasoned professional makeup artist and stylist with a robust background in the fashion and beauty industry. Her career commenced with a National Diploma in Somatology from the Technikon of Pretoria in 2000, which laid the groundwork for her expertise in beauty and wellness. She holds several certifications, including a National Certificate in Professional Makeup Artistry and an International Certificate in Special Effects. Loraine's hairstyling skills were honed through specialized courses and workshops. Her extensive experience includes work on notable television productions such as "Musiek Paniek" and "Die Fakulteit," as well as commercials for various brands. Loraine has contributed to high-profile events, including the International CIDESCO Conference and the South African Music Awards. She has worked with several music artists, including Rina Hugo, Jo Black, Nadine, Zaan Sonnekus, and Chris Chameleon, emphasizing her belief in highlighting each individual's unique essence. As a leader, Loraine fosters a collaborative environment within her team, focusing on strategic management and open communication. Her commitment to customer satisfaction has led to an impressive referral rate, underscoring the quality of her services. Loraine's philosophy emphasizes empowerment and community impact, believing that success involves uplifting others. In addition to her work, Loraine identified a market gap for affordable, flavorful lip glosses for teenage girls, leading her to create a product line that has attracted a diverse clientele. Reflecting on her personal journey, she views her divorce as a pivotal learning experience, motivating her to build a successful business and inspire...





NATALEE HOLMES



W O M A N I N
C O A C H I N G A N D
M E N T O R I N G

WINNER



ABOUT

Natalee Holmes is the CEO and founder of three organisations, with a focus on people mentorship, leadership development, and empowerment. With a background in psychology, she has established herself as a transformative coach known for her down-to-earth and approachable style, creating safe, inclusive environments where individuals and teams can reach their full potential. As a passionate advocate for the next generation, Natalee has developed programmes to empower young leaders and enhance their growth. Through her consulting work with schools, she has improved student engagement by coaching teachers in innovative ways. Her latest venture focuses on equipping young people with leadership skills to build a better future. Natalee is also deeply committed to empowering women, playing a key role in the Thrive Project, an international leadership and mentorship initiative. She founded a successful women's networking event, growing it from 14 participants to 400, with over 1200 Facebook followers. This network offers mentorship, inspiration, and a platform for women to connect, becoming a valued resource for personal and professional growth. Her leadership philosophy centres on approachability, accountability, and self-awareness. By encouraging growth, challenging comfort zones, and offering genuine support, she helps clients become confident, capable leaders. Natalee's impact extends to consulting, empowering young leaders, supporting women, and volunteering for the IBCH organisation, offering pro-bono wellness solutions. She is dedicated to creating opportunities that inspire transformation and lasting impact, with a mission to change the world, one empowered person at a time.

ALISON JESSICA WEIHE



ABOUT

Alison Weihe is a founder and award-winning entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in South Africa's construction industry. She is the founder of The Creative Stone Company, renowned for its ethical, design-driven approach to excellence and service. In the past six years, Alison has expanded into coaching, speaking, and writing, earning accolades such as the Speaker Factor Winner 2021 by the Professional Speakers Association of South Africa (PSASA) and a Global Coaching Award from the Coach Foundation. A passionate serial entrepreneur, Alison became an Executive Partner at the Mindset Development Institute, working alongside business partner Jabu Zwane and their growing team. The institute was recently recognised as one of South Africa's top empowerment companies. Together, they aim to promote entrepreneurship education and share stories of hope and healing. Alison's background is as dynamic as her career. She spent nearly 20 years as a political activist, journalist, and trade unionist under COSATU, including participating in the 1985 launch of COSATU's Congress and working directly with President Cyril Ramaphosa and other notable leaders. In her entrepreneurial journey, Alison faced numerous challenges and valuable lessons. She has recently released a memoir, *Belonging*, which will be promoted by Exclusive Books nationwide during Women's Month in August 2024. Known as a Soul Speaker, Alison uses her voice for reconciliation, hope, and healing, playing a pivotal role in South Africa's journey towards unity.

ASANDA PENNY



ABOUT

Asanda Penny is a seasoned manager at Eskom, responsible for overseeing over R2 billion in assets within Inventory at NTCSS (Transmission). With more than 22 years of experience in Supply Chain, Asanda also coordinates the Eskom Women Advancement Programme (EWAP) and facilitates Supply Chain courses within the company to enhance skills development. Her leadership and impact have earned her recognition as one of Africa's Top 100 Most Influential Women in Supply Chain. Asanda is dedicated to mentorship, guiding both high school and university students in their professional journeys. She has received numerous accolades for her work and is deeply committed to philanthropy, with a strong focus on leaving spaces better than she found them. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Asanda serves on multiple boards, contributing her expertise to various initiatives. Her intentionality and passion for growth, both within the business and the community, have cemented her as a respected leader in her field.

ERIKA ENGELBRECHT ALDWORTH



ABOUT

Erika Engelbrecht-Aldworth is an educator, researcher, and advocate for teacher well-being, with 24 years of experience. Guided by compassion, her work spans teaching, counselling, curriculum design, leadership, and writing, with the aim of empowering educators globally. Erika holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the University of South Africa, a Master of Philosophy in Personal and Professional Leadership from the University of Johannesburg, and a Professional Teaching Certificate in Higher Education from Harvard University, where she achieved a 99% final score—an important milestone in her academic career.

She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Well-being at the University of Pretoria, focusing on teacher well-being and burnout mitigation, with completion expected by 2027. Erika has taught a wide range of subjects, including English, Afrikaans, Psychology, Sociology, Life Orientation, Social Sciences, Business Studies, and History, across levels from Grade 4 to postgraduate study. She currently lectures at the South African College of Applied Psychology, teaching Subject Methods: English for the Senior and Further Education and Training Phases and assessing Work Integrated Learning.

With 15 years of leadership experience, marked by rapid promotion, Erika has led curriculum development and wellness initiatives. Her counselling expertise, developed through private practice and school-based roles, informs her coaching and well-being programmes. She also volunteered for one year as a Trauma Counsellor with the South African Police Service (SAPS). As an assessor for the Gauteng Department of Education and an advisory specialist for the Harvard Business Review, academic rigour remains a key element of her professional profile.

Her initiatives seek to transform education through platforms such as the South African Teacher Well-being Initiative and The Teacher Coach. The Teacher Coach Well-being Community on WhatsApp currently supports a growing global network of nearly 200 teachers. As the founding editor of Teachers Matter, Erika delivers research-based tools to educators worldwide. Her forthcoming book, *Being Well While Teaching: A Comprehensive Evidence-Based Well-being Guide for South African Teachers* (due January 2025), is already gaining traction.

She has led thought leadership projects such as Trauma-Informed Leadership in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg's Education Leadership Department and has facilitated workshops with institutions including Stadio, the University of the Free State, SOS Koeleondersteuning, and Solidariteit.

GADIFELE MOENG



ABOUT

Gadifele Moeng is a passionate mentor, published author, and entrepreneur dedicated to personal growth and empowerment. Her journey, from the bustling streets of Mafikeng to the vibrant heart of Johannesburg, is a testament to the transformative power of self-development. When Gadifele left Mafikeng in 2004, she was simply searching for a job, without clear goals. But everything changed in 2016 when she embarked on a journey of self-discovery and growth that would shape her future. This journey not only led Gadifele to start two successful businesses but also inspired her to become the mentor she never had. Through her work, she empowers future leaders, teaching them the soft skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world. Her curriculum, aimed at kids aged 10 to 17, focuses on building confidence, public speaking, leadership, and critical thinking—skills she believes are essential for success. Gadifele's slogan, "I am the mentor I never had," reflects her deep commitment to guiding others. She draws from her personal transformation—from a timid child to a confident businesswoman—to inspire and uplift the next generation. As a nominee for the Fabulous Woman Awards and a dedicated Toastmaster, Gadifele continues to challenge herself, embracing discomfort as a catalyst for growth. Her belief is simple: being uncomfortable helps us grow. Whether through her writing, mentoring, or public speaking, Gadifele's message is clear—anyone can become the best version of themselves. Her life's work is a powerful reminder that with the right mindset and guidance, every challenge can lead to extraordinary growth.

MAGRIET MOUTON



ABOUT

Magriet Mouton is a Gallup Global Strengths Coach and one of only two Gallup Strengths Coaching trainers in Africa. She is the co-founder and director of the Being Human Group (BHG), an organisation focused on training Gallup Global Strengths Coaches and helping individuals, leaders, and teams reach their potential through human behaviour science and performance solutions. With over 20 years of experience, Magriet has trained more than 420 Gallup Strengths Coaches across Africa. She is passionate about using individual strengths to drive personal and professional growth. Her extensive experience spans industries such as telecommunications, insurance, marketing, financial services, learning and development, and non-profits. Magriet is known for her deep insight into human behaviour and has facilitated numerous coaching sessions and workshops, earning praise for her ability to inspire and empower others. She consistently receives an average evaluation rating of 4.8/5 for her Gallup Global Strengths Coaching Certification facilitation. Outside of her professional accomplishments, Magriet is dedicated to community building and has a love for animals. She actively participates in rhino conservation and volunteers at animal shelters. Magriet Mouton's career demonstrates the power of strengths-based coaching, continuing to inspire and empower individuals across Africa.

NTHABISENG SETHOGA



ABOUT

Nthabiseng Sethoga is an outstanding coach and mentor known for her character, expertise, and dedication to empowering others. Those fortunate enough to receive her guidance have experienced significant professional growth. Her unique ability to listen, understand, and provide personalized advice has helped many navigate challenging situations and make informed decisions. Nthabiseng's wisdom, empathy, and encouragement serve as a constant source of inspiration. What truly sets her apart is her genuine passion for helping others succeed. With her extensive expertise and experience, she is an invaluable resource, while her kindness and compassion make her a beloved mentor.


PAULA MALEKA



ABOUT

For a period spanning more than 20 years, Paula has been running student accommodation, providing a nurturing and supportive environment that serves as a true home away from home for her tenants. From the onset she established a mentoring environment for the student tenants. Her genuine care and compassion have touched the lives of hundreds of young people who have had the privilege of passing through her doors. By creating a warm and welcoming space, Paula has not only provided a place to live but has also fostered a sense of belonging and family among her tenants. Her protégés from the time she started remember her fondly and maintain contact with her as a life coach.





TRACY MCQUARRIE



ABOUT

Tracy McQuarrie's passion for animal welfare was ignited after watching the documentary Dogtown, which inspired her to travel to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah, USA. Despite being a successful, self-employed video editor at the time, Tracy yearned to learn about animal rescue and the workings of running a rescue shelter. Upon returning to South Africa, Tracy set out to transform the country's animal welfare landscape. She secured sponsorship and launched the website BARKING MAD, an online platform designed to help individuals and shelters responsibly re-home pets through the Barking Mad Network. One of the platform's most successful initiatives, Click-to-Feed, encourages users to click daily to sponsor a portion of food for animals in need, benefitting shelters nationwide. In late 2009, a friend in animal rescue requested a temporary home for 10 dogs over the Christmas holidays. Tracy arranged for the building of spacious runs on rented property to house the dogs, unknowingly laying the foundation for Dogtown South Africa. Fifteen years later, Dogtown has grown significantly, now operating from a 50-acre farm and caring for around 100 animals on average. The shelter is renowned for its exceptional animal care and training programs and has gained international recognition.

GCINA TWALA



ABOUT

Gcina Twala was born into a family dedicated to community service. Her father, Linda Twala, a renowned philanthropist, has served Alexandra township for 57 years through Phuthaditjaba, instilling in her the values of leadership and giving back. In 2021, Gcina co-founded an organisation with her partner to build on this legacy, addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals in Alexandra and beyond. Gcina's initiatives focus on uplifting marginalised communities. She has organised outings to Gold Reef City for 400 children, helicopter rides for 300, and provided wheelchairs to 30 disabled individuals. Her organisation also runs meal programmes for vulnerable children, Easter egg and blanket drives, sanitary pad distributions, Christmas parties, and annual Mandela Day events. A notable achievement is the establishment of a soup kitchen at 48 London Road, Lombardy West, which serves over 500 schoolchildren and unemployed individuals weekly. The organisation's reach extends to Soweto, Tembisa, and Rosettenville through a meals-on-wheels programme. Gcina has also empowered local entrepreneurs, assisting five Alexandra-based SMMEs in securing mobile food trailers through Coca-Cola's "Bizniz in a Box" programme. Additionally, she spearheaded a vertical farming and hydroponics project with Coca-Cola's support, fostering sustainable development in her community. Recognised as a YES 35 Under 35 alumna, Gcina remains committed to driving meaningful change and improving lives, continuing her family's profound legacy of service and empowerment.

GONTSE RICHLI



ABOUT

Gontse Richli is a passionate advocate for education, youth empowerment, and community transformation. She is the visionary behind the HOPE Recovered Library for children in the township, reflecting her commitment to fostering education and creating opportunities for growth within her community. Gontse's extensive experience includes leading children's ministry for the global organisation Operation Mobilization (OM) and developing a variety of impactful children's programmes. She is a certified trauma counsellor, an early childhood development teacher, and a dedicated mentor to young people. Her exceptional work has received international recognition, including accolades from South Africa's Pioneer Museum of Heroes. In 2023, she was honoured as Mrs. Pretoria Tshwane 1st Princess, further cementing her role as a community leader and source of inspiration. Gontse's unwavering dedication to the advancement of children and youth has had a profound impact locally and globally, showcasing her as a beacon of hope and transformation.

MARISHKA PILLAY



ABOUT

Marishka Pillay leads the Bavuke Foundation, a key partner of Valley Group, in implementing impactful community development initiatives in South Africa. With a strong commitment to empowering youth, the Foundation focuses on enhancing education, health, and sports development, enabling young South Africans to access economic opportunities. Bavuke Foundation's youth empowerment programs provide crucial resources, mentorship, and training, fostering self-reliance and opening pathways to employment and entrepreneurship. These initiatives align with Valley Group's goals of sustainable development and economic inclusion. The Foundation also emphasizes educational support for underprivileged youth, bridging gaps in marginalized communities. In the health sector, the Foundation addresses critical issues such as food insecurity through programs like the Hungry Heart Programme, which provides nutritious meals to young athletes on match days. This initiative not only enhances athletic performance but also supports the overall well-being of young individuals. Additionally, Bavuke promotes physical development and teamwork through its sports programs, nurturing talent and instilling important values. A notable aspect of Bavuke Foundation's approach is its emphasis on volunteerism, fostering a culture of community involvement and encouraging shared contributions to social progress. Overall, Bavuke Foundation exemplifies a steadfast advocate for community development and youth empowerment, and its work continues to bring significant, sustainable change to communities throughout South Africa.

MARIZAAN BREDENKAMP



ABOUT

Marizaan Bredenkamp is a dedicated philanthropist and social entrepreneur committed to empowering South African youth and uplifting communities. As the founder and Managing Director of Hope for Youth South Africa, she leads initiatives focused on education, mentorship, and skills development for underprivileged individuals. Beyond her role at Hope for Youth, Marizaan is an experienced HR professional and the founder of Unite360 South Africa, a Human Resources Consulting company. Through Unite360, she has driven positive organisational change by promoting inclusive and supportive workplace cultures. Her expertise has also enabled her to mentor professionals, fostering career development and growth. Marizaan's passion for social impact extends to collaborative efforts with local organisations to tackle critical issues such as poverty alleviation, youth unemployment, and mental health awareness. Her holistic approach to community development reflects her belief that empowering individuals is essential for creating sustainable change. With a career that blends professional excellence and community service, Marizaan continues to inspire and drive meaningful change, contributing to a brighter future for South Africa's youth and marginalised communities.

MATSHIDISO LENCOASA



ABOUT

Matshidiso Lencoasa is deeply committed to social justice and driven by her humble beginnings to harness fiscal policy as a tool for equality and empowerment. As the first in her family to earn a university degree, study abroad, and break cycles of poverty and injustice, she is passionate about creating opportunities for others and championing gender equality. In her role as Senior Budget Researcher at SECTION27, a leading legal NGO advocating for education and healthcare rights in South Africa, Matshidiso has taken on significant leadership positions. She has served as Chairperson of the Budget Justice Coalition and as a member of advisory groups for the South African Human Rights Commission and National Treasury's Fiscal Openness Accelerator. A 2023 Mandela-Washington Fellow at Cornell University, Matshidiso is also an alumna of the Canon Collins Scholarship and the Mandela-Sussex programme. These accolades reflect her dedication to leadership and advocacy. Her voice has been amplified through national TV interviews, opinion pieces, and her contribution to the Presidential Climate Commission's Youth Perspectives Series 2024. Matshidiso holds a Master's in International Development and Education from the University of Sussex and a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting Sciences from the University of the Witwatersrand. Through her diverse experiences and thought leadership, she continues to amplify underrepresented voices, hold leaders accountable, and drive transformative change for gender equality and social justice in South Africa.

DR. MMATEPENG MUDA TEMANE



ABOUT

Mmatepeng "Muda" Temane is a visionary leader and community builder who has dedicated her life to driving change since 2005. With a passion for youth development, education, leadership, and social justice, she founded the Dr. Muda Foundation and several transformative initiatives that have touched countless lives. Dr. Muda's journey began in 2014 when she turned a neglected dumping area in the North West province into an Early Childhood Development Centre. In 2016, she extended the reach of AFS Interculture SA to her Mamelodi community, solidifying her reputation as a nation-builder. In 2017, she launched her signature initiative, "Boys Leading Change," focusing on mentoring and empowering boys. Motivated by the challenges boys face and the societal issues threatening their future, the programme fosters purpose-driven lives and challenges stereotypes through safe conversations under the slogan, "We Have a Voice." Since 2022, she has successfully hosted annual Leadership and Adventure Camps, equipping boys to become ambassadors of change. Her unwavering commitment to transformation earned her an Honorary Doctorate in Community Development in 2021 and recognition as a changemaker and trailblazer. Dr. Muda's work reflects boldness, courage, and an enduring belief in the potential of others. She continues to inspire and empower through her impactful initiatives, creating brighter futures for South African communities.

ZOLA MBATHA



ABOUT


Zola Mbatha is an Admitted Attorney of the High Courts of South Africa and the founder and Fiduciary Specialist at Legacy Yezibaya, a niche firm offering Estate Planning, Fiduciary Services, and Legal consultation. As a Legal Wellness Public Speaker, she has been invited to speak at notable events, including the 2024 Africa Financial Inclusion Summit in Cape Town, and has appeared on podcasts such as Redefining Your Money with Palesa and Sisters in Conversation. Zola has also moderated workshops for prominent financial institutions like Old Mutual and Allan Gray. Through Legacy Yezibaya, Zola established the Community Legal Clinic in Soweto, South Africa, providing free legal consultations to help community members plan and protect their estates. Many people in these communities face challenges in managing family estates, particularly regarding homes that are often the sole valuable asset. Zola's clinic aims to mitigate risks associated with unadministered estates and empower people, especially the older generation, who may have limited access to legal advice. Her work reflects her belief that everyone deserves legal assistance, regardless of their financial means.





W O M A N I N
E D U C A T I O N A N D
T R A I N I N G

WINNER



PROF. LETHIWE NZAMA SITHOLE

ABOUT

Prof. Lethiwe Nzama-Sithole is a distinguished academic and leader, serving as a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head in the Department of Commercial Accounting at the University of Johannesburg. With over 19 years of professional experience, she teaches Auditing and Internal Controls in the Diploma in Accountancy program and has a background in Financial Accounting and Internal Auditing. She is a PhD holder in Auditing and a Certified Internal Auditor, contributing significantly to academia by supervising postgraduate students, reviewing for esteemed journals, and mentoring colleagues.

PROF. DIPILOANE PHUTSISI



ABOUT

Prof Dipiloane Phutsisi is a visionary leader who has made a significant impact in South Africa's TVET Colleges sector, particularly through her leadership at Motheo TVET College. Since becoming Principal in 2013, she transformed the college from administrative challenges to becoming one of the top three TVET institutions in South Africa for Engineering studies in 2022 and 2023. Her dedication to providing quality education and empowering youth is evident in this achievement. Under her leadership, Motheo TVET College has introduced innovative programs, including the National Artisan Development Academy, which fast-tracks artisan development, and specialized studies in Maritime and Aviation, addressing labor market needs and combating unemployment. Her efforts have garnered numerous international, national, and provincial awards, solidifying the college's reputation for excellence and customer satisfaction. Prof. Phutsisi's expertise in human resource and curriculum development has earned her recognition as an esteemed authority in leadership. She has been a keynote speaker at international conferences, representing the TVET sector across Europe and Africa. Her dynamic leadership continues to drive the success of Motheo TVET College, leaving a lasting legacy of innovation and impactful educational programs.

PROF. NITA INDERLAL SUKDEO



ABOUT

Prof Nita Inderlal Sukdeo is an Associate Professor in the Department of Quality and Operations Management at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. She holds a Masters degree in Quality from the Durban University of Technology and a PhD in Engineering Management from the University of Johannesburg, with a second PhD in Quality Engineering currently underway. Prof. Sukdeo is a leading researcher in total quality and operations management, and serves as the chairperson and director of the Society for Operations Management in Africa (SOMA). A passionate advocate for women in Engineering and STEM, she chairs the Faculty's Women in Engineering and the Built Environment (WiEBE). She is also an active member of the Southern African Society for Quality (SASQ) and the International Society for Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM Global). Additionally, she contributes to the National Forum for Quality and Operations Management and the Global Quality Society, hosted by the University of Khalifa. Prof. Sukdeo has made significant contributions to quality engineering education, publishing numerous research papers on quality management, engineering education, Artificial Intelligence, and Quality 4.0. She has received several awards and recognitions for her leadership and contributions to engineering education and practice. Known for her expertise, leadership, and dedication to promoting excellence, Prof. Sukdeo is a respected figure in both academic and professional communities.

PRECIOUS MAPUTLE



ABOUT

Precious Maputle is the Marketing Coordinator at the University of Johannesburg's Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. She holds an Honours degree in Communication Theory, which she earned Cum Laude, and was recognized on the UJ Faculty of Humanities Dean's List for academic excellence. Currently, she is completing her Masters degree in Strategic Communication. Precious was recently honoured as the winner of the prestigious 2023 Mail & Guardian Power of Women award in the "Governing Woman" category, celebrating leading women in South Africa. She serves as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of the Platinum Incubator (TPI) and as a Board member of JCI Sandton, where she has held various leadership roles. Recently, she was awarded a "Future Leader" certificate by JCI Sandton. Additionally, Precious volunteers as a News Presenter at Rainbow FM Christian Community Radio Station.

THERESA MOILA



ABOUT

Theresa Moila is an MBA graduate with a distinguished career dedicated to serving humanity. With a background in social work, she has worked as a lecturer and tutor at four higher learning institutions and has delivered academic papers and motivational talks for over 20 years. In 2007, she was a guest speaker at the WITS Graduation for Humanitarian Studies, where the former President of South Africa was also in attendance, and she has also spoken at the University of the North Turfloop campus. Her passion lies in empowering others, and she finds great motivation in seeing the positive changes in individuals, groups, and communities through her work. Theresa's commitment to social impact is evident in her over 20 years as a Senior Manager in the CSI space, focusing on education, sport, and women and children. She has served on various boards since 1988, including The Coaches Mentors of South Africa (COMENSA), the Connie Chiume Foundation (Chairperson), Education Development Trusts across five provinces, and the YASDI Advisory Board. She continues to coach and mentor young people from South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana and is the International Ambassador for South African Youth Cadets. Through her work, Theresa has touched the lives of countless individuals, helping them become productive members of society.

YOKE VAN DAM



ABOUT

Yoke van Dam has been called the Kintsugi queen™ because of her ability to join, repair, and transform teams into collaborative, committed, and cohesive superstars of their organisations. Yoke van Dam's work is driven by her passion for empowering leaders and teams. Through her advisory, speaking, and coaching, she helps them create meaningful workspaces by tapping into their purpose and enhancing human connection. She instils confidence and influence in leaders and teams, guiding them to find their flow and develop a growth mindset. Yoke van Dam's expertise extends to a wide range of leaders. She works with those who want to articulate and communicate their vision effectively, ensuring their teams are fully committed. She also guides new, untested leaders, providing them with a strong foundational roadmap for working with and leading teams to successful outcomes. She is passionate about the buying brain and has been obsessed with persuasion, sales, and influence since selling pizza at 15. She empowers leaders and teams to find their voice, step into their power, and speak so that people want to listen to them. Today, as a qualified behavioural change coach, she teaches leaders and sales professionals how to get people to buy into their ideas and take action on them. As a qualified behavioural change coach with verifiable in-the-field experience (2000+ team members, 2 300+ hours training, and 350+ coaching hours), she would love to uncover the real issues holding your teams back. If she's not speaking, training or transforming...



TSHIDI MNDZEBELE



ABOUT

Tshidi Mndzebele is a business executive, entrepreneur, non-independent director, and accomplished engineering professional with over 18 years of experience in the mining, manufacturing, engineering, and public sectors. She is the founder and CEO of Avenir Holdings, an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management (EPCM) company delivering engineering excellence to its clients. Tshidi holds a National Diploma and B-Tech in Industrial Engineering from the University of Johannesburg, a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration, and an MBA from the Gordon Institute of Business Science. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD at Wits Business School, reflecting her commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth. Her career began at IBM, DaimlerChrysler SA, and Standard Bank as an industrial engineer. In 2007, she joined Sasol Mining and later moved to Anglo American, where she managed a spend of R1.5 billion and achieved significant cost savings through business improvement initiatives. She further demonstrated her expertise as a lead sourcing professional at Gibela Rail Consortium. Tshidi is passionate about leveraging daily challenges as opportunities for innovation, growth, and empowerment. Her work is driven by a deep belief in the transformative power of change, and she approaches her role with enthusiasm and vision. Tshidi is dedicated to empowering others, fostering community development, and advancing ambitious organisational goals, leaving a lasting positive impact in the engineering and business sectors.

BONTLE MTSHENGU



ABOUT

Bontle Mtshengu, a proud Christian and mother of two, hails from a rural village in the heart of the Northern Cape. She treasures time spent with her family and remains actively involved in her faith and community through her dedication to the work of Christ. Professionally, Bontle is a resilient and passionate Mechanical Engineer with over 23 years of experience in the mining sector. Her journey has seen her rise from Mechanical Technician to Senior Management roles in Engineering, and now, as a business owner. She has expertise in maintenance strategies and leading teams across open-pit, dredge, and underground mining operations involving iron ore, mineral sands, gold, platinum, and coal. She holds a Mechanical Engineering degree and a Government Certificate of Competency (GCC) for mines and is pursuing an MBA to enhance her leadership and strategic abilities. Recognised as an exceptional leader, Bontle has received numerous awards in the mining industry for her contributions to innovative projects. Having experienced challenges related to diversity and inclusivity, Bontle is committed to mentoring and coaching others, helping them unlock their full potential and achieve their goals. She is the founder of Quantum Leap Smart Engineering, a strategic partner in engineering and consulting. The company focuses on driving innovation, safety, and transformation in the mining industry, offering engineering solutions, TMM collision prevention programmes, and advanced technology integration to enhance industry practices. Bontle's vision and dedication continue to inspire excellence and progress in her field.

CINDI HENDERSON



ABOUT

Cindi Henderson is a highly accomplished Senior Technical Services Professional with over 22 years of expertise in ore reserve and resource management. Her extensive experience spans hard rock mine production, trackless massive stope mining, and bord and pillar mining. Cindi has successfully led large-scale mining operations, ensuring compliance, operational efficiency, and the implementation of strategic growth initiatives. She holds a Master's degree in Mineral Resource Throughput Management (2021) and a BSc Honours in Geology and Geographical Information Systems (2002), complemented by a Certificate in Engineering Management (2024, with distinction) and leadership qualifications. Her dynamic leadership style is underpinned by a commitment to innovation, safety, and excellence in mining operations. Cindi is deeply dedicated to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and is passionate about mentoring women in the mining industry. She leverages her strong work ethic and sound judgement to overcome complex challenges and drive operational success while maintaining focus on team well-being in a male-dominated environment. Respected for her integrity and people-focused approach, Cindi leads by example, motivating and guiding teams to achieve exceptional results. She excels in managing change, overseeing feasibility projects, and delivering strategic growth while balancing current operations effectively. Committed to driving profitability and fostering creativity, Cindi is a key decision-maker in high-level operational strategies. Her dedication to honesty and respect in leadership ensures her teams are inspired and equipped to meet the evolving demands of the mining industry.

LUFUNO MBEDZI



ABOUT

Lufuno Mbedzi is an accomplished Mechanical Engineer with a National Higher Diploma from the University of Johannesburg (2007) and a B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Africa (2016). She earned her Government Certificate of Competency for Mines and Works in 2013, awarded by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. Her commitment to professional growth is evident in her graduation from the Future Leaders' Development Programme at Wits Business School (2016) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice from Henley Business School (2017). Lufuno is currently pursuing an MBA with Henley Business School, expected to conclude in April 2025. Recognised for her leadership, Lufuno was a finalist in the African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) Rising Star Awards and a semi-finalist in the 2021 TransUnion Rising Star Awards. At Mogalakwena South Concentrator, she led a team of over 150 employees, achieving over two years without a disabling injury by February 2023. Under her leadership, the plant was recognised as the most improved, with runtime exceeding 86%, showcasing her resilience and tenacity. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Lufuno is a proud mother to two sons and a daughter, balancing her career with a strong commitment to family. She prioritises quality time with her children, embodying the values of dedication and excellence in all aspects of her life. Lufuno's journey reflects her unwavering commitment to engineering excellence, leadership, and family.

NTOMBIFUTHI DOREEN MVUBU



ABOUT

Ntombifuthi Mvubu is a seasoned Production Engineer at Two Rivers Platinum Mine, managing operations in an underground trackless shaft. She holds a 2.13.1 legal appointment, ensuring machinery efficiency, employee health and safety, and compliance with environmental and risk management standards. Between 2022 and 2023, she successfully implemented the TMM Collision Avoidance System Level 9 projects at Two Rivers' Merensky and North Decline shafts, minimising production disruptions through effective change management. An ECSA-registered Professional Certificated Engineer, Ntombifuthi brings nearly 20 years of experience in mining and maintenance management. Her career spans roles at Eskom Power Generation, Anglo American Platinum, Modikwa Platinum Mine, and Murray & Roberts Cementation. Ntombifuthi is an Executive MBA candidate at Henley Business School, focusing her research on the socio-economic impact of mine closures on local communities and businesses. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practices (Henley), a DMRE Government Certificate of Competency, and a Junior Managers Programme qualification (Wits Business School). She earned her National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from Mangosuthu Technikon. Outside work, Ntombifuthi is devoted to her faith, having completed a Diploma in Theology at Team Impact Bible School. She is passionate about mentoring, career guidance, and promoting opportunities in engineering and technology. A family-oriented individual, Ntombifuthi enjoys travelling and sharing the Word of God, reflecting her commitment to both personal and professional growth.

SUZAN PORTIA PHALANE



ABOUT

Suzan Portia Phalane has a National Diploma and B-Tech degree in Construction Management in Civil Engineering, Certificate in FIDII and General Condition of Contract (GCC) and professionally registered with Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) and have worked as a Technician Engineer in Civil Engineering Consultancy, Project Manager and Site Agent in Civil Engineering construction. For the past 12 years, she has successfully been running her own company Sue Phalane Trading and Projects (Pty) Ltd. Portia has won Prestigious Awards in the year 2023, from CIDB ERWIC Awards (Women Mentor of the Year, Youth-Owned Women Construction Entity of the Year, Transformation Entity of the Year and Rural Project of the Year). Another stellar achievement was receiving Standard Bank Top Young Woman Achiever of the Year. In 2024, from CIDB ERWIC Awards (Mentoring Entity of the Year and Exceptional Woman in Construction Contributor of the Year).

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THOKOZILE MAHLANGU



ABOUT

Thokozile Mahlangu is a respected leader in the insurance industry, renowned for her ability to develop and deliver impactful professional development programs. She successfully launched the Insurance Director Training Programme in collaboration with the Institute of Directors, creating a skilled pool of professionals for director roles, with nearly 150 delegates benefiting since 2019. In 2019, she introduced an Executive Management Development Programme that equipped delegates with practical skills that set them apart from their peers, delivering immediate results. Thokozile also developed the Insurance Leadership Development Programme, which has graduated over 200 industry leaders since 2014. Since 2023, she has been at the forefront of equipping young professionals with technical insurance skills through IISA's corporate social investment initiative, addressing unemployment and ensuring a future talent pool for the industry. Recognizing the digital shift, she partnered with TDI Academy to offer the Certificate in Digital Insurance (CDI) and a mini-MBA, enabling professionals to excel in various areas such as sales, marketing, underwriting, claims management, strategy, and transformation. Through her leadership, Thokozile has positioned IISA as a thought leader, implementing a strategic stakeholder management framework that has increased support from stakeholders both within and outside the industry.

BUSISIWE SHABANGU



ABOUT

Busisiwe Shabangu is a seasoned Relationship Executive at Absa Bank, with 14 years of experience in the financial industry. Specializing in building long-term partnerships with small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), she has developed a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities SMEs face. Her expertise spans tailored financial solutions, strategic business growth advisory, risk management, and facilitating access to capital markets and trade finance. Among her notable accomplishments, Busisiwe successfully onboarded the Energy Council of South Africa, partnered with prominent construction companies like Remako Group Holdings Proprietary Limited, and facilitated a 50% growth in revenue for Azul Intelligence Pty Limited. She has managed a portfolio of clients with turnovers up to R800 million and has a proven track record of client satisfaction and retention. Her ability to structure effective financial solutions for high-growth businesses has solidified her as a trusted expert in the industry.

DEBI HUGHES



ABOUT

Debi Hughes is a remarkable leader in the male-dominated motor industry, known for her professionalism, expertise, and graceful demeanor. She commands respect from clients and colleagues alike, not just for her extensive knowledge but also for her warm approach in navigating complex challenges. Debi's confidence and clarity, combined with her commitment to excellence, set her apart as both a natural leader and a cherished team member. In the face of a tough economic landscape and competition, Debi has thrived, serving as a brand ambassador and building lasting relationships with motor dealers. Her understanding of vehicle asset finance, coupled with her up-to-date knowledge of market trends and financial products, allows her to offer timely and valuable insights to her clients. Her strategic foresight enables her to effectively address challenges and seize opportunities, enhancing her reputation as an indispensable asset. Debi's collaborative spirit fosters a culture of innovation and openness within her organization, encouraging teamwork and continuous improvement. She passionately mentors aspiring leaders and actively seeks out learners eager for growth, helping them become valuable contributors. Through her dedication to nurturing talent and breaking down barriers, Debi has significantly impacted her team's success and the overall culture of the organization. Recognized for her remarkable contributions, Debi Hughes stands out as a contender for the prestigious Woman in Finance award, exemplifying resilience, commitment, and a genuine passion for both finance and empowering others.

GERTY GREEN



ABOUT

Gerty Green is a passionate professional dedicated to inspiring and supporting others in achieving their own definition of success. The most rewarding part of her career is witnessing those transformative "Ahaa" moments with her clients. Her core values—Spirituality, Courage, Transformation, and Independence—guide her journey, and she believes the Creator connects with her through intuition, though she is still learning to fully trust and follow that guidance. Despite facing fear throughout her life, Gerty has consistently taken bold steps. After qualifying as an industrial engineer, she ventured into various fields, including selling insurance (life and short-term), working in finance, and even becoming a farmer. In 2008, while searching for a place to stay in East London, she enrolled at Unisa to study accounting part-time and achieved her CA(SA) qualification in 2021 at the age of 47. Gerty always knew she would own a business, and in 2017, she took the leap, starting her business from scratch with no clients or network. Transformation is at the heart of her philosophy; she sees every day and every situation as an opportunity to learn and grow. She continually expands her knowledge, whether to better serve her clients or to further her personal development. Through the years, Gerty has learned to find the gift in challenging circumstances. Her independence allows her to create and live the life she desires.

MARINA LOCHNER



ABOUT

Marina Lochner is a Director, Certified Financial Accountant in Practice, Tax Practitioner, and Executive Coach with over 25 years of experience in accounting, taxation, information technology, and coaching. She holds qualifications in financial management, taxation, IT, and executive coaching. Marina is the Founding Director and CEO of Menlyn Consulting and the CFO and Director at Barking Mad South Africa NPC. A multipotentiality and creative strategist, Marina has developed expertise as an accounting and taxation specialist with a deep interest in information technology. She honed her skills during her tenure at Big4 professional services firms, including her role as Associate Director and PwC Africa Tax Leadership Executive. In 2020, she founded her own consulting firm. Throughout her career, Marina has served on numerous boards, committees, and leadership teams, contributing significantly to both her industry and non-profit organizations. She played a key role in the digital transformation of PwC Africa, driving the implementation of tax technology across Southern and Sub-Saharan Africa. Marina is passionate about making a positive impact on people and animals. She mentors executives and entrepreneurs, empowering them to reach their full potential. With a focus on business growth through digital transformation and education, she helps businesses gain a solid understanding of their financials and KPIs.

NERA NAIDOO



ABOUT

Nera Naidoo is a Candidate Doctor in Business Administration from Audencia Business School in Paris, with an MBA from Henley Business School, a degree in Chemical Engineering from UKZN, and certification as a Professional Business Coach from GIBS. She practiced engineering for ten years before transitioning into the Development Banking Industry, where she earned the Top Student Award for a certification in Finance from GIBS. With over 15 years of experience, Nera currently serves as a Senior Investment Manager at the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, specializing in Corporate and Project Finance. A philanthropist at heart, Nera has held executive roles in several non-profit organizations and recently founded Virya Seva, a Non-Profit Organization focused on business and individual coaching, mentorship, upskilling entrepreneurs through training, and community upliftment. She firmly believes in helping others along the way, stating that with every step forward, we must look back and lift others. Her two children, who are respectful, kind, and intelligent, are her greatest achievement and inspiration. They motivate her to continually strive for excellence, both professionally and personally, and she hopes to be an example to them of living a purposeful life aimed at making the world a better place. Nera has a deep love for travel, which feeds her curiosity and passion for experiencing different cultures and landmarks. She is at her happiest when exploring new places, always seeking to broaden her horizons.

NONHLANHLA NXELE



ABOUT

Nonhlanhla Nxele is an award-winning financial expert and the Founder and CEO of Esteemed Financial Solutions and Esteemed Learning Academy. In 2024, she was honoured with the prestigious "It Starts with Me" award by the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa. With over 16 years of experience, Nonhlanhla is a seasoned CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® and General Tax Practitioner. She is also an accredited coach, facilitator, and assessor, contributing actively to the financial services industry as a member of the Financial Planning Institute. Nonhlanhla holds a BCom in Finance and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Tax Law from the University of Johannesburg, as well as a Certificate and Post-Graduate Certificate in Advanced Taxation from the University of Pretoria. Her expertise has earned her multiple recognitions, including being named Liberty's Financial Advisor of the Year twice and Momentum's Elite Broker twice. She has also been nominated for the Woman Leadership Award (ABSIP-FSTC) and the Sebenza Awards for Women in Finance. As a respected guest speaker on financial planning, Nonhlanhla is dedicated to helping individuals secure their legacies and achieve financial success.

NTOMBIKAYISE HLONGWANE



ABOUT

Ntombikayise Hlongwane is an accomplished financial professional with over a decade of experience in accounting and finance. She holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Accountancy Honors with a specialization in Taxation from the University of Johannesburg. Ntombikayise has worked across multiple reputable companies, including Tradebridge, Syrex, Impulse International, and TransUnion, before assuming her current role as a Financial Accountant at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Known for her meticulous attention to detail and proactive problem-solving, she has built a reputation for driving financial operations with efficiency and accuracy. A passionate advocate for women's empowerment, Ntombikayise leads and mentors women in the finance sector, promoting professional growth through workshops, networking events, and leadership initiatives. She is also actively involved in community projects that support financial literacy and leadership development among young women, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Her leadership extends to church programs where she mentors girls and contributes ideas on community empowerment. Ntombikayise's innovative approach was demonstrated during a major project at Impulse International, where she led the implementation of a new accounting system that improved operational efficiency and fostered a culture of learning and support, particularly for women in her team. Her dedication to inclusivity and continuous improvement reflects her commitment to transforming the finance industry into a more collaborative and empowering space for women.

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PROF. ISABEL COETZEE PRINSLOO



ABOUT

Prof Isabel Coetzee-Prinsloo has dedicated over 31 years to education, bringing passion and excellence to her field. Promoted to Full Professor in January 2023, she serves on the boards of the Academia of Nursing in South Africa (ANSA) and the World Federation for Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN). As Chairperson of the Education Committee at the Essential Health Higher Institute in Cameroon, where she is also a visiting Professor, Isabel plays a pivotal role in advancing nursing education. Recognised as one of South Africa's 50 Nurse Heroes in 2022 for her contributions during the Covid-19 pandemic, she was instrumental in developing and reviewing ICU admission guidelines for Covid-19 patients. A mentor for the African Federation of Critical Care Nurses (AFCCN), Isabel has successfully supervised 15 PhD and 60 Master's students and is currently mentoring 12 PhD and 10 Master's candidates. Her academic achievements include publishing 35 articles in national and international journals, examining 20 PhD and 85 Master's theses, and presenting more than 50 oral papers at conferences worldwide. As a national and international external examiner for over 15 universities, she continues to contribute to global academic excellence. Professor Isabel Coetzee-Prinsloo's career is a testament to her dedication to education, research, and leadership in nursing, inspiring future generations to excel in the profession.

JOSIE VENTER



ABOUT

Joset "Josie" Venter, a 34-year-old woman, is a devoted wife, mother to two beautiful boys, and a full-time professional in the insurance brokerage industry. A steadfast believer in faith, Josie describes herself as a child of God. Her journey has been one of resilience and transformation. Facing profound challenges alongside her husband -including infidelity, financial hardship, and emotional turmoil-she found the strength to rebuild her life. Determined to rise above adversity, Josie embraced a new purpose, founding Love Beyond Words. Her personal motto, "She took her broken wings and learned how to fly," encapsulates her inspiring story of courage and growth. Josie is a beacon of hope, showing others that it is possible to overcome even the darkest times and soar to new heights.

MARITZA VICTOR



ABOUT

Maritza Victor is an internationally qualified holistic wellness practitioner and life coach committed to helping individuals rediscover their inner spark and embark on transformative healing journeys. With credentials from ITEC and Face to Face, her expertise spans aesthetics, physiatrics, reflexology, and aromatherapy, complemented by additional qualifications in life coaching, biofeedback, Access Bars, colour therapy, and a diploma in psychology. Based in Meyerton, Maritza's holistic healing sanctuary offers tailored therapeutic modalities designed to nurture wellness in mind, body, and soul. Her integrated approach creates a safe and supportive environment for clients to experience profound growth and revitalisation. In addition to her practice, Maritza is an inspirational speaker who travels widely, sharing powerful insights and motivating audiences to embrace balance, health, and purpose. Her talks and sessions aim to uplift and empower, making her a passionate advocate for holistic wellness and personal development.

DR. MARLI JOOSTE



ABOUT

Dr Marli Jooste holds a PhD degree in Psychology and is an accredited commercial and workplace mediator. She is a passionate personal growth activist that wishes to inspire and mobilize individuals on their unique wellness journey. She further facilitates conversations whether internally to encourage individual and personal growth, to create a deeper understanding between different parties and/or navigate through conflict or disputes. She favours combining transformative mediation with her background in psychology during conflict resolution, crucial conversations and/or leadership development. Dr Jooste serves various companies in an advisory capacity during selection / development processes, corporate strategizing, restructuring and succession planning, as well as overseeing emotional wellbeing. She often conducts psychometric assessments to support these mentioned business processes and/or to provide a scientific foundation to build upon, followed by coaching and consulting to name but a few. Other than being in private practice for more than 13 years, she co-owns PhysEQFiT Wellness and PhysEQFiT Guesthouse. She therefore and although having a national and international footprint across various industries within the human capital space, understands and appreciates the daily challenges, especially of women having to wear numerous hats.

MATJATJI MOTHAPO



ABOUT

Matjatji Mothapo is a certified coach, mentor, and leadership professional with a passion for helping individuals unlock their full potential and transform their lives. As a transformational coach, she specialises in breaking mental and emotional barriers using her expertise in Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP) and Neuroscience Coaching. With over 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry and a degree in Genetics from the University of Pretoria, Matjatji seamlessly integrates scientific knowledge with her coaching practice. She is the founder of the Transformed Lives Coaching Institute and collaborates with organisations such as the Mind Retirement Institute and Hello Coach SA, offering online coaching services. Currently pursuing a Master's degree in Business Psychology, her focus on workplace wellness and women empowerment inspired her to launch the "WHO AM I" program, dedicated to empowering disadvantaged girls through coaching. Her partnership with On Point Healthcare extends her support to survivors of rape. As a member of COMENSA, Matjatji serves on the research portfolio committee, furthering her commitment to leadership development and personal growth. Her contributions include writing articles for a business women's magazine and serving as an expert speaker on radio talk shows. A sought-after public speaker with over a decade of experience, Matjatji has featured at events hosted by Oracle SA, Women in Mining SA, and various government departments. Her dedication to inspiring and empowering others continues to shape her journey as a leader in transformational coaching and mentorship.

NOMSA MASOKA



ABOUT

Nomsa Masoka is a dedicated Speech Therapist with 24 years of experience, specializing in working with children facing conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, hearing impairment, speech and language delays, among others. Throughout her career, she has worked in both the public and private sectors and currently operates her own private practice. Nomsa is deeply committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with special needs. In addition to her professional work, Nomsa is a mother to a 20-year-old autistic son, which has further fuelled her passion for supporting families affected by autism. Inspired by her personal journey, she founded MOCWA (Mothers of Children with Autism), an NPO that supports over 460 mothers raising autistic children. Nomsa also authored the book *Unbreakable*, sharing her experiences and educating readers about the challenges faced by families raising autistic children in society. Her expertise is enhanced by numerous local and international training opportunities on autism, making her a prominent advocate and resource for families and professionals alike.

DR. SAFFIA JACOBS



ABOUT

Dr Saffia Jacobs is a distinguished aesthetic doctor and entrepreneur, renowned for her leadership in the wellness and aesthetics industry. She transitioned into aesthetics in 2020, founding Ameliore Wellness & Aesthetics in Johannesburg. Within four years, she expanded her business to include a second clinic, Renew by Ameliore in Bela Bela, and established herself as a prominent figure in the competitive market. Her journey into aesthetic medicine began as a leap of faith during the pandemic, relying on her savings and self-confidence to launch her practice, which has since flourished. Dr. Jacobs is passionate about helping women feel confident and beautiful, and her ability to connect with patients personally has been key to her success. She is also a dedicated advocate for women's empowerment, breast cancer awareness, mental health, and period poverty. Her accomplishments include being a finalist at the Les Nouvelle Esthetiques Spa Awards in 2022 and winning multiple categories at the 2024 Haute Grandeur Global Spa Awards, including Best Wellness Clinic in Africa and Best Beauty Salon in South Africa. She has also been nominated for the Supreme Industry Awards 2024 and was a finalist for the Forty Under 40 Awards South Africa 2024. Dr. Jacobs embodies resilience, determination, and a commitment to making a positive impact on others. Her work in both her clinics and her advocacy efforts solidify her as an extraordinary leader, leaving a lasting legacy of empowerment, compassion, and change.



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TARA PENNY



ABOUT

Tara Penny is the Head of News at HOT1027, where she leads the creation of engaging human-interest stories that have garnered multiple awards at the New York Radio Awards. Her work covers a wide range of important topics, including bullying, parenting, mental health, road rage, and substance abuse, often bringing in experts to offer practical solutions and advice. Tara also enjoys tackling lighter subjects, such as online dating, skinny dipping, and theatre productions, ensuring her news stories are both impactful and entertaining. In addition to her role at HOT1027, Tara is deeply involved with Hot Cares, where she has the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the community by helping to improve lives on a daily basis.

BERNE DE KLERK



ABOUT

Berne de Klerk is a dynamic entrepreneur, CEO, executive director, TV show host, and businesswoman, renowned for her achievements as a five-time gold medalist at the World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles. She drives change and impact through productions and services that make a profound difference in people's lives. As the founder of 5 Colour Collective (5CC), Berne created a holistic wellness app designed to enhance mental wellness, fitness, food, travel, fashion, cosmetics, and soon finance. Aimed at corporates and schools, the app helps users improve their well-being through active engagement, boosting local travel and tourism in the process. With a keen understanding of branding and marketing, Berne provides optimization services to organizations, driving tangible returns on investment. She is also the owner of 5 Colour Collective, an Omni Channel Marketing agency that serves top brands, and the producer of two successful TV shows. One of her notable productions, 5 Colour Fitness, aired to 55 countries, reaching peak viewership of 600,000 over four years, while Lewenslus, Kuiers met Berne, a holistic lifestyle show, aired 26 prime-time episodes, benefiting audiences across South Africa. Berne is also the owner of Fox Models, an agency promoting young talent and distributing promotional staff to multinational brands, helping them build confidence and success in their respective fields. Her multifaceted career and contributions have solidified her as a leader in business, entertainment, and wellness.

BUNNY MAJAJA



ABOUT

Bunny Majaja is a multi-talented entertainer, known for her infectious laughter and vibrant personality. She brings warmth and charm to Gauteng's Hot 102.7FM, where she co-hosts the flagship Hot 1027 Breakfast Show alongside Simon Parkinson and Simon Hill. As the "rose among thorns," Bunny's easy eloquence and quick smile have made her a standout on the show, which airs weekdays from 5:30 to 9 AM. Bunny's career began with a Top 5 finish on SA Idols Season 9, where she captivated the audience and impressed judge Randall Abrahams with her captivating performances. She later graduated from the Hot 102.7FM training academy and began her radio journey at Hot 91.9FM. Starting in the copy department, she quickly moved on to co-host the Saturday Morning Show and later a weekday afternoon slot. Her exceptional work earned consecutive SA Radio Award nominations for Best Daytime Show. Beyond radio, Bunny is a highly sought-after MC for high-profile corporate and award ceremonies, with clients including BBC, Mutual and Federal, and Standard Bank. She is also a versatile DJ and has performed at various events. In 2024, Bunny returned to television, presenting Ultimate Maths on SABC 2. When she's not in the studio or on stage, Bunny is working on a series of children's books and podcasts, continuing to inspire and entertain her audience in various creative ways.

CHRISTA EYBERS



ABOUT

Christa Eybers is a creative storyteller with a passion for audiovisual production and journalism. After earning a degree in Audiovisual Production Management in 2006, she began her career in TV production at SABC3, working on Snazzy Stories and Fun Factory, where she honed skills in scriptwriting, props, and set design. Her experiences culminated in *Liefeling, die Movie*, the first Afrikaans musical in years, where she contributed to scriptwriting, assistant directing, and editing, drawing inspiration from her grandfather's music career. In 2012, Christa shifted to journalism, joining Primedia Broadcasting as a Multimedia Journalist. She embraced the emerging field of video storytelling and was soon awarded the Best Online Journalist award by the National Press Club in 2013. During her 10 years at EWN, she covered major global events, including the Oscar Pistorius Trial and Nelson Mandela's death, and reported from countries like Switzerland, Kenya, and Brazil. As Multimedia Editor for five years, Christa managed a team and helped build one of the country's most successful video departments. Post-COVID, Christa joined HOT 102.7FM to lead digital projects and now heads the digital department. She is also deeply involved in content creation for Hot Cares NPC, combining her storytelling skills with a passion for making a positive impact. Christa is excited for the future at HOT 102.7FM, proud to be part of a rapidly growing team.

HAZEL NAMPONYA



ABOUT

Hazel Namponya has over two decades of experience in media, communications, and publishing. Her career has been driven by a deep commitment to using media as a tool for societal transformation. Hazel's passion lies in storytelling that addresses critical issues such as gender-based violence, gender equality, women's empowerment, and mental health. Currently, Hazel serves as the Media and Communications Manager, Co-Creator, and Editor-in-Chief of Collective Action Magazine at the Mental Wellness Initiative. This pioneering publication works to combat gender-based violence by amplifying survivors' voices, raising awareness, driving behaviour change, and promoting inclusivity. She is also the Executive Producer of the 2024 AVPA award-nominated podcast Heal Your Mind with Tracey Lee Kotzen, which seeks to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. In addition, Hazel is the Co-Founder of Elevation Holdings, where she oversees platforms such as Maua Bio Magazine, which highlights African women making a difference globally, and Elevation News, a digital news outlet focusing on African voices and underreported topics. She previously co-founded My Afrika Media, where she launched My Afrika Magazine, created three African-owned VOD channels on Roku, and developed three social apps. Hazel is also a co-author of the Pregnancy Prayer Guide: Hidden Mysteries to a Victorious Pregnancy and runs her publishing house, Write Words Create, through which she has edited and published several acclaimed works. Her contributions to literature and corporate publications have earned recognition under the SA Publication Forum.

MATHAPELO MOLOI



ABOUT

Mathapelo Moloi is a seasoned and multi-skilled journalist with nine years of experience in the media industry. She has held various positions in both television and radio, demonstrating her versatility and commitment to the field. Mathapelo takes pride in her deep knowledge of the world around her and her passion for enriching the lives of others through journalism. Above all, Mathapelo is a devoted mother. Her role as a parent has enhanced her ability to multi-task, plan effectively, and nurture those around her. Working in an environment that often involves hard news, Mathapelo consistently seeks out positive stories that uplift, motivate, and bring hope to her audience. Her dedication to finding and sharing these encouraging stories makes her a valuable voice in the industry.

NATASHA THORP



ABOUT

Natasha Thorp is a creative professional with a passion for radio and television. As a television presenter and public speaker, she excels both behind the mic and in front of the camera. Though naturally reserved, Natasha exudes confidence in her work, and those who get to know her appreciate her quirky, fun side. Outside of her career, she is a devoted wife, mother, and Christian.

SARAH VAN HEERDEN



ABOUT

Sarah van Heerden is a creative professional deeply committed to purpose-driven work and ethical storytelling. As the CEO and Co-Founder of The Unity Water Foundation, she leads a movement focused on addressing global water insecurity and advocating for the rights of women and youth. Passionate about realigning the narrative in the NGO sector, Sarah strives to shift the focus from sensationalized despair to proactive and empowering citizenship. With over 15 years of experience as Editor in Chief of Rotary Africa magazine, Sarah has revolutionized the publication by creatively engaging volunteers and aspiring writers to produce content that resonates with diverse audiences. She aims to make the magazine a platform where all voices are celebrated. Her career spans media, marketing, and nonprofit sectors, marked by a commitment to ethical storytelling and a dedication to sustainable solutions. Sarah's volunteer work includes serving as Public Image Chair for Rotary District 9370 from 2018–2020, where she enhanced brand compliance, reputation management, and media relations. She has also served on the Management Committee of uMngeni Tourism and volunteered for Rotary Family Health Days South Africa and the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention. Her education in public relations and social media marketing equips her to navigate complex challenges.

SBONGILE MBATHA



ABOUT

S bongile Mbatha, born and raised in KwaZulu-Natal, comes from a loving family with both parents and five siblings. From a young age, she demonstrated strong leadership qualities and was a top achiever in school. After finishing matric with outstanding grades, she received a scholarship from Eskom to pursue her studies. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Accounting degree from Wits University and later completed her Honours degree at the University of South Africa. With over 10 years of corporate experience, S bongile has worked with prestigious companies such as SAB as a Junior Accountant and Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa as a Financial Accountant. These roles helped her gain invaluable financial and leadership skills. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, S bongile founded Esther Talk Show, broadcast on GNF TV, and established Esther the Light Foundation. The foundation's mission is to empower women from all walks of life. Through the show, she invites women to share their experiences, wisdom, and knowledge to inspire and impact others. Her vision for the organization is to be a powerful vessel that contributes positively to the world by teaching, informing, and touching people's lives. S bongile is a goal-driven individual passionate about seeing women take up space and exercise their power. She believes that by working together with unity, significant progress can be made. Guided by her values of integrity, ethics, and humility, she strives to uplift others as she rises.

SILIZIWE NGQELENI



ABOUT

Siliziwe Ngqeleni is an experienced PR and Events professional with over 10 years of expertise in crafting and executing successful campaigns, managing events, and building strong relationships with clients, media, and stakeholders. She has a proven track record of delivering results-driven solutions that consistently exceed expectations.



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WOMAN OF STATURE AWARDS
WOMAN IN MICE, TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY
WINNER
AWARDED TO
Estie Fourie

12TH APRIL 2025
DATE OF ISSUE

CHARLOTTE DU PLESSIS
CEO
WOMAN OF STATURE AWARDS
SOUTH AFRICA





ESTIE FOURIE



ABOUT

Estie Fourie is a passionate businesswoman based in the vibrant town of Thabazimbi. With a strong foundation in business, she embraces the challenges and opportunities that come her way. Her approach is guided by her deep morals and values, focusing on delivering quality client service and exceeding expectations with every interaction. Building lasting relationships with clients is at the core of her work, and she takes great pride in achieving results that align with their needs. Estie's journey has been marked by significant learning, teaching her the importance of humility and giving without expectations. She has adapted to diverse personalities, enriching her understanding of human nature and deepening her capacity for empathy and connection. Reflecting on her personal and professional experiences, Estie recognises how every challenge and triumph has contributed to her growth. From navigating business intricacies to overcoming personal hurdles, each moment has shaped her into a resilient and compassionate individual. She believes that her experiences, both good and bad, have been essential in moulding the person she is today. Her family and community remain her top priorities, and she finds immense satisfaction in giving back, enriching both her life and the lives of others.

BHAVISHA NAIDOO



ABOUT

Bhavisha Naidoo is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in the Brand Activations, Event Temporary Staffing, and Aviation industries. Over the years, she has held various roles, including Flight Controller, Promotions Coordinator, Account Executive, Booking Agent, Operations Manager, and General Manager, each providing her with valuable insights into the complexities of these dynamic sectors. Bhavisha's dedication to growth is reflected in her continuous learning, including earning a certificate in The Introduction to Psychology from the University of Toronto through Coursera. Her commitment to excellence was recognised when she won the TOP 40 Women in MICE award in 2018, a testament to her achievements and contributions to the industry. Her expertise goes beyond technical skills, extending to client and customer retention, administration, peer life coaching, basic payroll services, and staff management and training. Beyond her professional success, Bhavisha is passionate about empowering South Africa's youth to pursue their dreams. She believes in the power of self-motivation and strives to inspire others to unlock their potential. Her positive mindset, open communication, and supportive nature have made her a source of encouragement to those around her. Bhavisha is driven by the belief that entrepreneurship, personal life, and community impact can be balanced with determination and vision.

ELLEN OOSTHUIZEN



ABOUT

Ellen Oosthuizen began her career as a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) 28 years ago after leaving her role as a Personal Assistant at the SABC. Her early events, from 1997 to 1999, took her to countries like Namibia, Malawi, and even a challenging visit to Robben Island. In 2005, Ellen was invited to join the PCO Alliance Network, becoming one of the founding members alongside Jacqueline Stumke. She was responsible for site inspections and educational initiatives for the Alliance. A significant milestone in Ellen's career came in 2017 when she was honoured with an award as one of the Top 40 Women in MICE. She went on to serve as Vice Chairperson and, in 2019, was voted Chairperson of the PCO Alliance Network. During the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, Ellen represented the PCO Alliance Network on the South African Events Council (SAEC) and worked tirelessly to help reopen the Events & Tourism industry. Ellen also played a key role in the PCO Alliance Network's association with the Event Greening Forum. She now serves as Vice Chairperson of the PCO Alliance Network, continuing her impactful work in the events industry.

JEANA TURNER



ABOUT

Jeana Turner is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience in the Travel, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, & Events), and Tourism industries. In early 2019, she founded her own Hospitality Representation company, driven by a passion for enhancing brand visibility and boosting revenue for independent hotels and lodges. Recently, Jeana joined the Hospitality Junxton Alliance, a strategic partnership that delivers comprehensive sales and marketing solutions to the hospitality sector across Southern Africa. Beyond her business achievements, Jeana actively supports Abba Child Protection & Social Services, contributing to their mission of providing safe, loving homes for vulnerable children in South Africa. She is also involved with the Professional Association for Secretaries and Administrative Assistants (PAFSA), where she works to elevate industry standards and foster professional development. Jeana's impact in the hospitality industry is widely recognised, including her selection as one of the Top 40 Women in MICE in 2016. She has served on advisory boards, such as the South African Association of the Conference Industry (SAACI) and the SATSA Gauteng Committee, advocating for sustainability and knowledge-sharing within the sector. Known for her exceptional networking skills, Jeana believes that "Your network establishes your net worth." She is passionate about mentoring others, fostering collaboration, and driving meaningful change. Jeana resides in Tshwane, Gauteng, where she continues to inspire those around her with her commitment to service, excellence, and industry growth.

KATHY LAVERY



ABOUT

Kathy Lavery is a positive, enthusiastic professional with a passion for the MICE industry. Known for her strong soft skills, service standards, and work ethic, she has built a successful career in sales and marketing. After completing a diploma in travel and tourism and serving on the student representatives council, Kathy became an accomplished professional in the MICE sector. She is currently the Business Development Manager for South Africa at Euromic. With over 20 years of experience, Kathy's industry knowledge is highly regarded, and she excels at building strong client relationships. She began her career as a sales assistant at Lu Dowell Representations in 2003 and quickly advanced to Public Relations Manager over a nine-year tenure. Kathy then moved into the wholesale sector, where she established and developed the groups and incentives department at The Holiday Factory. Her journey also took her to Mauritius, where she became the Business Development Manager for Mauritius Incentive Connection, representing luxury hotels and DMCs exclusively for the South African incentive travel market. Kathy later expanded into aviation, joining Latam Airlines as the Key Account Manager for incentives and leisure, where she managed public relations, events, and destination training for agents in South America.

SUSAN MARAIS



ABOUT

Susan Marais is a dedicated mother of three, wife, and owner of 4.5 businesses. She attended high school in Pretoria and later earned a BCom in Tourism Management at UP. With nearly 20 years of experience working for some of the top hotel groups both in South Africa and abroad, Susan decided to pursue her dream of owning her own business. Ten years ago, she opened 3@Marion Guesthouse in Colbyn, where she enjoys welcoming visitors from around the world to South Africa. Susan also founded the Pretoria Bucket List, a platform designed to inspire both locals and visitors to explore the capital city and create lasting memories. The website supports popular city experiences through marketing and communication. In addition, Susan started the Safest Capital City campaign to make Pretoria the safest capital in the world. She serves on the Board of the Tshwane Tourism Association and as part of the Lifework Leadership Programme functional team. Passionate about Pretoria, Susan is committed to promoting the city's beauty and potential, inspiring hope for a brighter future in her beloved home.

WARDA GERTSE



ABOUT

Warda Gertse is a dedicated professional with a passion for innovation and community empowerment. With a background in the MICE, hospitality and tourism industry, she has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and leadership. Warda holds a master's degree in international relations from Queen Mary University of London as well as a degree in Communication Science from the University of South Africa and has over 15 years of experience in brand & marketing, communications and community development. As a visionary leader, she has spearheaded numerous initiatives that have driven change and fostered collaboration within her organisation and the wider community. Warda is known for her strategic thinking, ability to inspire teams, and her unwavering dedication to making a positive impact.

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA




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SOUT





TIFFANY MIGUEL



ABOUT

Tiffany Miguel is the Director and founder of Splash Aquademy Swimming School, where she developed a unique course designed to teach adults how to swim in just four weeks. She also established Splash Soldiers Instructor Agency, which trains underprivileged youth to become certified swimming instructors and places them in well-paying positions around the world. In addition, Tiffany founded The Amour Foundation, which creates life-changing events for underprivileged children and has planted 837 community gardens. Tiffany has been nominated for several prestigious awards at the Supreme Industry Awards, including second place for the Woman Empowerment award, Female Entrepreneur of the Year, NPO of the Year, and Small Business of the Year (the awards ceremony is on 2 November, and she will update on her wins). She was also named the 2023 Director's Choice Winner for Supreme Queen Global Earth Africa and placed in the Top 5. In 2024, she became the Leader of the Honour Society for Supreme Queen Global Earth Africa. Throughout 2024, Tiffany has been featured in various magazine articles and is affectionately known as the "Black Mermaid." She serves as the Sports and lifestyle Editor of Momtrepreneurs Kids and Baby Magazine.

KRISTEL OLIVIER



ABOUT

Kristel Olivier is a ladies only personal trainer with a deep passion for fitness. She is dedicated to helping women improve not only their physical health but also their mental and spiritual well-being. Kristel's holistic approach empowers her clients to achieve balance and strength in all aspects of their lives. In 2022, she was crowned Miss World Glamour WFF in Thailand, a recognition of her commitment to health and fitness. Kristel continues to inspire women to become the best versions of themselves.

MARY MUTLANYANE



ABOUT

Mary Mutlanyane is a seasoned Communication Specialist with a passion for endurance sports. Her fitness journey began 11 years ago as a road and trail runner and has since evolved to include various sporting disciplines such as cycling, mountain biking, swimming, and mountain climbing. Mary is an accomplished athlete who has completed major events, including the Isuzu Ironman 70.3 in Durban, Mossel Bay, and Nelson Mandela Bay, as well as summiting Mount Kilimanjaro. She has also participated in prestigious races like the Two Oceans Half & Ultra marathons, the Comrades marathons (both Up and Down runs), the Om die Dam Ultra marathons, and the Double Century 202km cycling race. Notably, Mary won the swim discipline at the Woolworths Off-road Triathlon, becoming the first woman out of the water in the short distance discipline. She represents leading brands as an athlete for Speedo South Africa and serves as a brand ambassador for Spar Women's 10km/5km road races. Mary's commitment to fitness, adventure, and pushing her limits continues to inspire others.

TSHOLOFELO PEETERS



ABOUT

Tsholo Peeters is a dynamic professional and entrepreneur with extensive experience in telecommunications. As a seasoned product manager, she has led the development of innovative products that positively impact society. Beyond her corporate success, Tsholo is passionate about fitness, sports, and community empowerment. As the founder of TpeeActive and the movement #Activ8SA, she uses sports and fitness to promote mental health awareness and support local communities. Tsholo has initiated several grassroots sports projects, including founding a netball team, Activ8SA, contributing to Alex's basketball programs, and participating in Lethabo la Netbal in Alex. She also provides children with shoes and resources to help them engage in sports. Tsholo's fitness journey began on TikTok, where her energetic cardio HIIT sessions motivated countless women to focus on their health and well-being. Recognized as a Mrs. South Africa Top 10 finalist, she continues to advocate for holistic wellness—mental, physical, and financial—while empowering women and youth through fitness and sports. Balancing her roles as a corporate professional, mother of three, and community leader, Tsholo is committed to creating opportunities and driving transformation. She credits her success to faith, early morning workouts, and a strong support system, showing that passion and purpose can lead to meaningful change.



SOUTH AFRICA

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W O M A N I N
T E C H N O L O G Y

WINNER



NOMFUNDO
MTHETHWA

ABOUT

Nomfundo Mthethwa Masombuka is the founder and managing director of Pointique, an SAP consulting firm she established in 2017. Driven by her passion to create opportunities for youth in the SAP industry and to assist companies in overcoming system challenges, Nomfundo brings her extensive experience as an SAP Manufacturing Consultant to the forefront. With over 20 years of experience as an ERP Consultant and more than 15 years as a certified consultant, Nomfundo specializes in Production Planning (PP), Quality Management (QM), Transportation 1 Management (TSW), Advanced Demand Planning and Integrated Business Planning (IBP), and Material Management (MM). Starting with just herself in 2017, Nomfundo has grown Pointique into an organization employing over 30 people under her leadership.

MAS'OODA VARACHIA



ABOUT

As an under-30 CEO of Raven Technologies, Mas'ooda Varachia is recognised as one of the leading women in technology, pioneering Platform Service offerings that deliver true business value to clients. With a strong background in Telecoms and a deep understanding of human behaviour, she has successfully led a diverse portfolio of projects, fostering a culture of high performance within her team. Her contributions extend beyond her role at Raven Technologies, as she also serves as an academic coach and business development expert for a prominent 4iR Social Enterprise in South Africa, underscoring her dedication to empowering communities and driving sustainable growth across the continent.

MONICA SABBIONI



ABOUT

Monica is the Chief Data Officer at Marquis Finance, a vehicle finance startup that was formed in 2019. She has a Computer Science degree which she obtained through Unisa. Her career in technology started when she was transferred to the IT Department at Sage Life, and she has worked in IT ever since. She has 27 years of experience having worked mainly in the banking sector, but has experience in telecommunications, FMCG, and IT consulting. She's worked as a programmer, an analyst, a database administrator, a data engineer, an SME lead, an infrastructure manager, and a CIO.

TIARA PILLAY



ABOUT

As a young woman in the ever-evolving world of IT, Tiara Pillay has embraced numerous challenges and opportunities to establish herself as a dedicated and impactful professional. Her journey began with a deep passion for technology, which led her to pursue a career in IT, where she quickly made strides in roles that demanded both technical expertise and leadership skills. One of her proudest achievements has been the ability to navigate complex IT environments, overcoming the barriers that women often face in male-dominated industries. She has successfully managed and led diverse teams across critical projects, demonstrating her ability to balance technical problem-solving with strategic vision. Her experience spans software development, data management, and IT project delivery, with a focus on delivering innovative solutions that drive business growth.

TSHIRELETSO MADUMO



ABOUT

Tshireletso Madumo is a distinguished Professional Natural Scientist specializing in Chemical Science, currently advancing her research through a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Johannesburg. Her groundbreaking work is centered on the development of advanced membrane filtration technologies for the selective removal of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) from wastewater, addressing a critical need in Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) for clean water and sanitation. Recognized for her contributions to sustainable science, Tshireletso was awarded the "ACS Sustainability Star!" by the American Chemical Society on April 4, 2024. Her research on nitrogen-doped graphene/metalorganic framework (MOF) nanocomposites has garnered local and international acclaim, with presentations at major conferences such as the Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA) biennial events and prominent scientific meetings in Lisbon and Singapore. Her innovative findings are published in Environmental Nanotechnology, Monitoring & Management and a key chapter in IntechOpen.

NIKKI QUINN



ABOUT

Nikki Quinn has extensive experience in the market research industry managing operations, projects, and client relationships. Strong experience in delivering outcome-based solutions and transferring data into actionable insights. This industry has evolved into a data technology industry, and use data, the power of technology, and AI to help her clients make more effective business decisions. She has leadership experience with stakeholder management expertise, presentation and communication, leadership & team building skills, change management experience as well as the ability to get things done. Her experience and knowledge across multiple industries including Consumer Packaged Goods, Tech & Durables, Automotive, and ICT and experience working across the globe.

DELIWE MORE



ABOUT

Deliwe More is a wife and a mother to 2 boys. A dynamic and experienced professional in the realm of technology, where she holds the position of Client Services Manager at a company that specializes in providing Electronic Health Record (EHR) solutions to medical institutions. In her role, she spearhead a dedicated team tasked with the implementation and maintenance of EHR systems. Her primary responsibility is to ensure the accurate collation and secure distribution of patient information, ensuring that it is accessible only to authorized personnel who need it.



LESLIEY-REA COETZER



“This has been one of my best achievements and it’s an honour achieving the Public Choice Award for 2025.”

SPECIAL CATEGORY WINNER

**PUBLIC
CHOICE 2025**

A gold-framed award plaque. The plaque features the Woman of Stature Awards logo, the text "WOMAN OF STATURE AWARDS", "PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD WINNER", and "PRESENTED TO" followed by the name "Lesley-Rae Coetzer" in cursive script.

GINDY

BRITS

 WOMAN OF STATURE™
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SOUTH AFRICA

“I spearheaded this event to be in the running for the award and make a real difference in the lives of women in business,”

SPECIAL CATEGORY WINNER

FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

MAN OF STATUE AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA





A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MC TEAM AND GUEST MUSICIAN FOR MAKING THIS A SPECTACULAR EVENT!

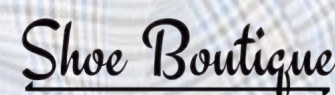
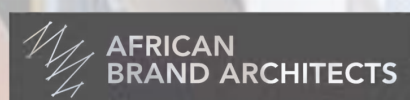
**Noni Khumalo
(MC)**

**Nicole Capper
(MC)**

**Lloyd Cele
(Guest musician)**

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“Woman of Stature Awards South Africa would not be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors and partners. Your belief in our vision helps us celebrate and uplift remarkable women. Thank you for walking this journey with us.”





Congratulations

Congratulations to all our 2025 Woman of Stature Finalists and Winners on your amazing achievement! We want to thank you for your courage and wish you all the best on your journey of success.

Woman of Stature Awards South Africa.



20 25



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