



Coalition of Minority  
Professional  
Engineering Societies

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE 2017

Saturday, May 20th, 2017  
8 am - 4 PM



## PDC 2017 SELF-DRIVEN SUCCESS

Host:

Ford Powertrain Engineering, Driveline &  
Manufacturing  
29500 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150



Saturday, May 20, 2017

7:30 AM Registration Opens  
7:30 AM - 8:15 AM Breakfast & HR Networking  
8:15 AM - 8:30 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Keynote: Kimberly Pittel, Ford  
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Coffee & HR Networking  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Motivational Speaker: Anne Bonney,  
The John Maxwell Team  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lunch & HR Networking

12:00 PM - 12:40 PM **Breakout session 1:**

A) **Panel: Infotainment Trends - 2017 & Beyond.**

(Jason Johnson, Christian Raschke & Mark Fosmoen): The aim of this panel is to discuss the likely features for connected cars and their environments in 2017.

B) **Presentation: Adapting to the Demographic Changes in the Workplace.** (Felicia Fields): This session will discuss how organizations could respond to the demographic shift by implementing specific policies and practices.

C) **Lightning Talks: Assertive Communications Strategies.** (Ann Green-Ramsey & Erika Alessandrini): This session will address two aspects of assertive communications, i.e., why it makes sense in business and what are the strategies for it.

12:50 PM - 1:30 PM **Breakout session 2**

A) **Panel: Network Your Way to a Mentor.**

(Reates Curry, Frenae Smith, Joan Hart & Alan Cooper): This panel focuses on how to find a mentor by strengthening your networking skills.

B) **Presentation: Automated Driving - Opportunities and Challenges.** (Katherine Ralston): An overview of how Ford started their involvement with Autonomous driving development and their plans for the future.

C) **Lightning Talks: Achieving Symmetry at Work and in Life** (Carol Leach & Padmaja Nandigama): This session will discuss how to achieve professional growth and personal wellness for a holistic and successful life for women.

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM Coffee & HR Networking

2:00 PM - 2:40 PM

**Breakout session 3**

A) **Panel: Diversity and Inclusion in Leadership.** (Shannon Pope, Rachel Guerrero, Robin Cash & Yolanda Durfield): This panel will articulate the benefits of having diversity in the workplace and the importance of having a diverse leadership.

B) **Presentation: Benefits of a Career Re-Entry Program.** (Adela Perez Vinot): This presentation will discuss opportunities at GM to re-enter the task force and provide feedback from employees participating in the program.

C) **Lightning Talks: Business Acumen 101 for Engineers.** (John Kasab & Leslie Bednarz): This session will focus on how technical professionals can develop business acumen to align technical progress with business strategy.

2:50 PM - 3:30 PM

**Breakout session 4**

A) **Panel: Building Entrepreneurship Skills.** (Kristen Holt, Dhanya Rao, Carla Walker-Miller, Katuska Luna & Dr. Sanjib Chowdhury): This panel features is aimed towards discussing the traits needed to be a successful entrepreneur.

B) **Presentation: Emotional Intelligence.** (Brian Thomas): This presentation aims to educate about emotional intelligence and how to recognize and manage feelings using emotional information about individuals and others.

C) **Presentation: Financial Acumen 101 for Engineers.** (Kimberly Enders): This session will discuss how to use your resources to achieve the perfect financial situation and tools for planning your finances.

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Closing Remarks & Photo

### Minority Engineering Societies

#### NSBE Mission Statement

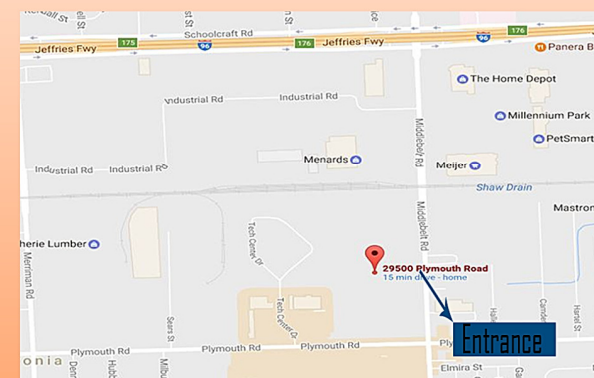
To increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.

#### SHPE Mission Statement

Changing lives in Detroit by inspiring and motivating young Hispanic students to achieve educational excellence in STEM fields through mentoring and community presence; as well as enhancing career opportunities for Hispanics by providing a strong professional network.

#### SWE Mission Statement

The Society of Women Engineers stimulates women to achieve their full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expands the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrates the value of diversity.





## Speakers



### **Kimberly Pittel, Group VP, Sustainability, Environment & Safety, Ford Motor Company**

Kim is responsible for the implementation of Ford's global environment, safety strategy and Ford's blueprint for sustainability. She began her career at Ford in 1985.



### **Anne Bonney Speaker & Coach, John Maxwell team**

Anne is an energetic speaker, leadership trainer & weight loss coach and is the creator of Floor it & Naked Confidence. She has 20 years of leadership experience.



### **Adela Perez Vinot, Program Manager, Global Talent Acquisition, General Motors**

Adela has over 10 years of experience in student and employee development. She led EXCEL and GM's intern & co-op program for over 650 students.



### **Carla Walker-Miller President & CEO, Walker-Miller Energy Services**

Carla is an analytical & strategic businesswoman with an eye for innovation, growth & over 20 years of energy industry experience. She formed her business in 2000.



### **Alan Cooper Senior Engineer, Yazaki**

Dr. Cooper is a triple member of convocation at the University of Manchester, UK in EE. He enjoys many hobbies including Vexillology and choral music.



### **Ann D. Green-Ramsey, Global Manufacturing Quality Director, Ford Motor Company**

Ann has worked for Ford for over 21 years. Currently she leads global manufacturing quality for all global vehicle platforms. She is a NSBE and SWE member.



### **Brian Thomas CEO, KIPNspire Group**

Brian is a University of Arkansas graduate. He is currently an automotive plant manager and he founded KIPNspire group where he leads motivational teachings.



### **Carol Leach Psychologist**

Carol is a limited license psychologist who has 25 years clinical experience of which include stress and anxiety management, women's issues and successful aging.



### **Christian Raschke Engineering Manager, Elektrobitt**

Christian has more than 17 years' experience in the automotive industry. Prior to Elektrobitt he worked at Pneh automotive. He's been with Elektrobitt since 2014.

## Speakers



### **Dhanya Rao, Owner & Choreographer of Abhinaya School of Dance**

Dhanya pursued her Masters in performing arts in India. She's a well-known dancer & Choreographer. She runs Michigan's Abhinaya School of dance of 230 students.



### **Sanjib Chowdhury, Professor of Management & Director, Eastern Michigan University**

Dr. Chowdhury works is the director of the center for entrepreneurship at EMU. His papers have been published in several high level scholarly journals.



### **Erika Alessandrini President/CEO, Strategies for Success**

Erika served over 23 years as an automotive aftermarket executive and currently works closely with corporate leaders to help them grow through coaching.



### **Felicia Fields, Group VP, Human Resources & Corporate Services, Ford Motor Company**

Felicia is the VP for HR since 2008. In this position, she provides expertise in key HR capabilities. She has outstanding leadership & professional achievements.



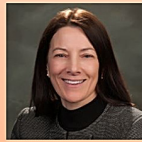
### **Frenae Smith Manager of Codes & Standards, DTE Energy**

Frenae has led her laboratory in becoming the first energy lab in 2009. She currently mentors youths and is an active member in NSBE, SWE, ESD and many others.



### **Jason Johnson Director of User Experience Design, Harman**

Jason champions a user-centered and collaborative design process to create innovative technologies. He has long expertise with infotainment design.



### **Joan Hart VP, Program Management, ZF**

Joan has 25 years of program management and continuous improvement. At ZF, Hart provides a central focus on the deployment of standard training & tools.



### **John Kasab Senior Technical Specialist, AVL powertrain Eng Inc**

John is a senior & life member of SWE and award recipient. At his work, he leads projects covering criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas reduction.



### **Katherine Ralston AV Program Manager, Ford Motor Company**

With 26 years of experience at Ford, Katherine worked in various roles in product design and global planning. Currently, she leads development on AV vehicles.

## Speakers



### **Katuska Luna Life Coach, Koncenter Coaching & Counseling**

Dr. Katuska Luna has a strong scientific and research background. She is a Neuroscientist who found her passion in is life coaching and founded KONCENTER in 2014.



### **Kimberly Enders CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™**

Kim has been in the industry since 1995 with firsthand knowledge in most areas of personal finance. She is a Wayne State graduate and is active in her community.



### **Kristen Holt CEO, GreenPath Financial Wellness**

She is leading GreenPath to achieve the Goal of remixing the American Dream so that it works for everyone by 2027. Kristen has over 20 years of financial experience.



### **Leslie Bednarz, Global Director of Advanced Supply Chain, Inteva Products**

Leslie is responsible for Supply Chain Strategy development, Early Supplier Involvement and Supply Chain Finance. Prior to that, she was a consultant.



### **Mark Fosmoen VP Engineering, Visteon Corporation**

Mark leads program engineering delivery for North American vehicle manufacturers including infotainment products. He has over 24 years of experience.



### **Padmaja Nandigama, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology at WSU & Schoolcraft**

Apart from her psychology major, Padmaja is also a life coach and a motivational speaker. She is the author of the book "Building Balanced Relationships".



### **Rachel Guerrero, Director, Engineering-Ford Head Units at Panasonic Automotive Systems**

Rachel is an Engineering Director at Panasonic and will attend the conference to participate in the Diversity and Inclusion in Leadership panel.



### **Reates Curry Technical Expert, Ford Motor Company**

Reates is a part of the Virtual Test Track Experiment which has one of the most advanced simulators. She has long expertise in HMI and has received multiple awards.



### **Robin Cash Technical Training Manager, Ford Motor Company**

Dr. Cash spent her last 28 years alternating positions at Ford Motor Company and is an award recipient. She is an adjunct professor in topics such as Thermodynamics.

## Speakers & Registration



**Shannon Pope, Director of Automotive Entertainment Solutions, Sony Electronics Inc**  
Shannon has worked in the automotive industry for 20 years and been in leadership roles since 8 years. She started her career as an intern at Ford Motor Company.



**Yolanda Durfield  
Agent/ Owner, State Farm Agency**  
Yolanda' agency is an independently owned State Farm Insurance & Financial Services Agency. She has been in business for 10 years and has received multiple awards.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW UNTIL MAY 6TH, 2017  
REGISTER ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:**

**[WWW.COMPESPCD.ORG](http://WWW.COMPESPCD.ORG)**

### **CONFERENCE PRICING (Including Lunch):**

- 1) COMPES Professional Member (\$40 USD)**
- 2) Platinum & Gold Sponsors Employees (\$40 USD)**
- 3) Professional Non-Member (\$55 USD)**
- 4) Full-time Student (\$20 USD)**
- 5) Unemployed/Retirees (\$30 USD)**

*If you need assistance, please contact [info@compespcd.org](mailto:info@compespcd.org)*

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