



# Speakers and Panel

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER – ELIZABETH MCCORMICK

A decorated US Army Black Hawk Helicopter Pilot, Elizabeth McCormick flew air assault, command and control, top-secret intelligence missions, and transported high-level government VIP's, transitioning from her military service to corporate management with her business background including being an international contract negotiator, and commodity manager in purchasing and supply chain for global corporations. Elizabeth is now an in-demand Motivational Keynote Speaker named by Choicepoint Health as one of the Top 30 Motivational Speakers in the WORLD, and a Leadership expert, currently #4 on the list of "Leadership Experts to Follow Online."



Her leadership and rise to success in the military paved the way for her professional achievements in corporate and entrepreneurial environments. Through her gifted art of analyzation and negotiation, expert mentoring abilities, mastery of management, and team-building skills, she led several teams throughout her career to top achievements that include millions of dollars in strategic cost-saving measures for regional, national, and global entities.

Her authority on Leadership, Customer Experience, Military, and Veterans Issues is highly sought after with the media. She is frequently seen on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CW, in the Wall Street Journal and was just recently live on CNN for a segment on flying helicopter. Her personal development book, *The P.I.L.O.T. Method; the Five Elemental Truths to Leading Yourself in Life*, is a "must read" along with her 19+ business tip books in the Soar 2 Success series on leadership and entrepreneurial topics.

In addition to her aviation training, Elizabeth was trained in the US Army's Safety School to contribute to her unit's preparedness, readiness and improve their safety records. In addition to the Army Aviator badge, her many military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal. In 2011, Elizabeth received the *US Congressional Veteran Commendation* for her service to her country and community as a disabled veteran.

Elizabeth speaks at 100+ engagements per year and is an *in-demand motivational business success speaker with a focus on Leadership, Safety, Sales, Change Management, Professional Development, and Personal Growth*, bringing a celebrity experience to events. Elizabeth inspires audiences, sharing her

pioneering and insightful aviation lessons learned in a *dramatically memorable* and action-oriented keynote presentation. As a premier leadership trainer and top performing founding member of the John Maxwell Team of speakers, she is a dynamic and energizing expert sought after for events around the world.

In 2019, Elizabeth earned her Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) career designation bestowed by the National Speakers Association. To achieve this designation, the professional speaker must demonstrate documented proficiency over a minimum of five years, must receive positive evaluations from their clients, and be evaluated and affirmed through a peer-review process. Elizabeth has earned the “Certified Virtual Presenter” designation for her proficiency in online performances and “Certified Virtual Host” designation for her ability to engage and entertain virtual audiences. In 2021, Elizabeth was not only named as one of the TOP 30 Motivational Speakers in the World, and she was also added to the John Maxwell Team faculty in the Speaker Track teaching the necessary speaking skills, technology and business strategy to 40,000+ team members globally.

## CAPSTONE SPEAKER – DR. DAVE SCHRAMM

Known as “Dr. Dave” on campus and across the country, Dave Schramm is an associate professor and family life extension specialist at Utah State University in the department of Human Development and Family Studies. From British Columbia to Beijing, China, and from St. Louis to San Diego, Dr. Dave has given over 500 presentations, classes, and workshops to a variety of audiences, including the United Nations and a TEDx talk in Florida. He married his high school sweetheart Jamie, they have four children, he loves peanut M&Ms 😊, and the Schramm family lives in North Logan, Utah.



## PANEL – RECRUITING, SUPPORTING AND RETAINING A DIVERSE BASE OF VOLUNTEERS

### Moderator

**Nia Fields, Ed.D.**, Assistant Director of University of Maryland Extension and Maryland 4-H Program Leader.

Dr. Nia Imani Fields is the Maryland 4-H Program Leader and Assistant Director of Maryland Extension. Dr. Fields has a doctorate in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from Morgan State University and has a long career in youth and community engagement.



As the Maryland 4-H Program Leader, Dr. Fields provides leadership and direction for 4-H Youth Development programs, faculty, and staff. Her true purpose in life is to expose as many young people as possible to new and exciting experiences—experiences that encourage youth to dream BIG!

## Panel Members



**Jeff Howard, Ph.D.**, UME Coordinator for Organization & Faculty Development-LGBTQ+ volunteers.

programming.

Dr. Jeff Howard is an Assistant Extension Director in Maryland. He was State 4-H Leader for 11 years. He served on the Board of National 4-H Council, National 4-H Congress and is currently serving on States 4-H International Exchange. He served on the National 4-H Champions Group for LGBTQ+ Youth Inclusion and has presented 21 international and national talks on LGBTQ+



**Annie Jones, Ph.D.**, Professor, Organization Development and Tribal Nations Specialist, UW-Madison, Division of Extension, Affiliated Faculty, Departments of Community and Environmental Sociology and American Indian Studies.

Annie Jones is a Professor, Organization Development and Tribal Nations Specialist with the University of Wisconsin, Division of Extension where she is also affiliate faculty with the Departments of Community and Environmental Sociology and American Indian Studies. She co-leads UW-Madison's Native Nations UW Initiative and the Tribes Lead program, both of which have Tribal Advisory Councils. On campus, Professor Jones teaches a course entitled, Community Organization and Change, and in the field, she has considerable experience utilizing indigenous methodologies like the Native American medicine wheel to lead planning, implementation and evaluation efforts for Tribes, communities and organizations. Dr. Jones is proud to be working in Extension for 23 years where she has served in a variety of roles including as a county community development educator, special assistant to the Dean for strategic directions and as an Associate Dean. Annie is an enrolled member of the Menominee Nation.



**Maurice Smith Jr, Ph.D.**, National Program Leader within NIFA's Institute of Youth, Family, and Community.

Dr. Maurice Smith Jr. serves as a National Program Leader within NIFA's Institute of Youth, Family, and Community. In collaboration with the Land-Grant University System, Cooperative Extension Service, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations, Maurice provides national leadership for 1890 and 4-H positive youth development programs with emphasis on minority serving institutions and underserved youth.



**Xiomara Diaz-Vargas**, State Specialist, New Audiences Initiative – 4-H Youth Development, Purdue University.

Xiomara serves as the Indiana 4-H State Specialist for New Audience Initiatives and has over 17 years of serving as a cross-cultural competent Extension Professional for the Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development program areas. She has extensive experience in urban and rural programming, peer mentorship, volunteer empowerment, and strategic partnerships. Xiomara is a second-generation 4-H'er and Extension Educator.

Xiomara served farmers, youth, and families in Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, and Indiana. She is a certified Navigating Difference facilitator and serves as a co-chair of the Program Leaders Working Group Access, Equity and belonging for all Committees - Immigrant and Refugee Youth, collaborates with the 4-H Latino Advisory Council, and serve as the co-chair of the True Leaders in Equity Program and the Institute design team. Actually, she is the co-principal investigator on a five-year federal grant from the USDA Children, Youth, and Families At Risk (CYFAR); focused on academic behavior change, Indiana Juntos 4-H, and the 4-H Soccer for Success funded by local funding focused in nutrition, physical activity, and mentorship in after-school programs for underserved and marginalized audiences.