



UNLADYLIKE2020 Interviewee Bios

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, Ta Mak'a Wast'e Win (Good Earth Woman), is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. LaDonna was the first to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline with the Sacred Stone Camp, playing a major role in calling on indigenous nations and the world to stand with Standing Rock. A tribal historian, she has compiled the history of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She is an annual speaker at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, was on the Executive Board of The American Indian Alaskan Native Tourism Association, and was a Tribal Advisor for Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Events. She partnered with the Sitting Bull College to develop the National Native American Scenic Byway, worked with the Alliance of Tribal Tourism as the past and current vice-president and marketing manager, and was President of North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance.

J'Nai Bridges

J'Nai Bridges, known for her "plush-voiced mezzo-soprano" (*The New York Times*), has been heralded as "a rising star" (*Los Angeles Times*). She graces the world's top stages in repertoire ranging from traditional favorites and world premieres, to spirituals and standards. Recent opera performance highlights include The Metropolitan Opera in Philip Glass' *Akhmaten*; San Francisco Opera in the title role of *Carmen*; LA Opera in Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*; and the world premiere of John Adams' *Girls of the Golden West* at San Francisco Opera and Dutch National Opera. A highlight from her soloist career to date was Bridges' 2018 sold-out Carnegie Hall solo recital debut. A native of Tacoma, Washington, she earned her Master of Music degree from Curtis Institute of Music, and her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music. In 2018, Bridges received the prestigious Sphinx Medal of Excellence Award. She feels she is walking in the footsteps of other pioneering African American women in the operatic tradition, such as Jessye Norman, Marion Anderson, and Sissieretta Jones.

Lisa Seacat DeLuca

Lisa Seacat DeLuca is a Director & Distinguished Engineer at IBM. She holds a Masters of Science in Technology Commercialization from the University of Texas McCombs School of Business, and a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University. She is a TED speaker, the author of two children's books titled "A Robot Story" and "The Internet of Mysterious Things," and the most prolific female inventor in IBM history. Her innovation portfolio includes over 750 patent applications filed within the United States and abroad, of which 500 have been granted to date. The subject of her patent ideas range from technologies such as cloud computing, mobile, IoT, social, security, AI, commerce, and everything in between. Lisa has been recognized by LinkedIn's List of Top Voices in Technology for 4 years in a row.

Fairland Ferguson

Fairland Ferguson started horseback riding at a young age. In 2003, Ferguson fell 68 feet off a cliff in Roanoke, Virginia, breaking 46 bones and smashing her face in 23 places. After being told she may never walk again, and a year of hospital stays and 13 surgeries Ferguson made a full recovery and got back in the saddle. At 21, Ferguson started working at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede as a rider and performer, and was soon promoted to be a stunt rider, performing tricks on horseback. Ferguson was among the first female Roman riders—meaning riding a pair of horses with one foot on each horse—in the show's history. In 2009, Ferguson was recruited to join the internationally acclaimed horse spectacular Cavalia. At Cavalia, Ferguson was a stand out trick and Roman rider, until the show stopped touring in 2016. Ferguson now lives in Myrtle Beach with her 6 horses and is pursuing a career in acting.

Wendy Freeman

Professor Wendy Freedman is a Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics and one of the most internationally recognized faculty members at the University of Chicago. She is best known for her work in measuring the size and age of the universe, a quantity known as the Hubble constant. For eleven years (2003-2014), she served as the Director of the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California. A native of Toronto, Canada, she joined the scientific staff of the Carnegie Observatories in 1987. From 2003-2015, she served as the founding chair of the Board of Directors for the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), a 25-m optical telescope scheduled for construction in Chile in 2030. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Science. She is a recipient of many prizes including the American Philosophical Society's Magellanic Prize, the Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics, and the Gruber Cosmology Prize.

Congresswoman Deb Haaland

Elected in 2018, Congresswoman Deb Haaland serves New Mexico's First Congressional District and is one of the first two Native American women serving in Congress. She is a 35th generation New Mexican, a member of the Laguna Pueblo Nation, a single-mother, and an organizer. As Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, she is fighting climate change and for renewable energy jobs. She is also a powerful supporter of military personnel, families, and veterans on the House Armed Services Committee. Before Congress, Haaland ran for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, and became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a State Party, as Chair of the Democratic Party of New Mexico. Since 2016, Haaland has served as an Honorary Commander of Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

Nikole Hannah-Jones

Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and staff writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. She is the creator of *The New York Times'* 1619 Project, a historical analysis of how slavery has shaped American history. Prior to joining *The New York Times*, Nikole Hannah-Jones worked as an investigative reporter at ProPublica, where she wrote extensively

about school and housing segregation. In 2016, she co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, an organization dedicated to training people of color in the field of investigative journalism.

Maria Hinojosa

In 2010, journalist Maria Hinojosa created Futuro Media, an independent, nonprofit organization based in Harlem, NY with the mission to create multimedia content for and about the new American mainstream in the service of empowering people to navigate the complexities of an increasingly diverse and connected world. As the anchor and executive producer of the Peabody Award-winning show *Latino USA*, distributed by NPR, as well as co-host of the political podcast *In The Thick*, and former anchor of multiple television programs on CNN and PBS, Hinojosa has won numerous awards over the course of her 30-year career, including four Emmys, the 2012 John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism, the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Reporting on the Disadvantaged, and the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Overseas Press Club. Hinojosa is a contributor to the award-winning news program *CBS Sunday Morning*, a frequent guest on MSNBC, and the inaugural Journalist-in-Residence at Barnard College where she teaches courses about the intersections of nonfiction, personal memoir, and journalism.

Cristina Jiménez

Cristina Jiménez is a community organizer, and the executive director and co-founder of United We Dream (UWD), the largest immigrant youth-led network in the country. Born in Ecuador, Jiménez came to the U.S. with her family at the age of 13. Under Jiménez's leadership, UWD has grown to a powerful network of over 100 groups and 400,000 members. For her work as a social justice organizer, Jiménez was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by TIME Magazine, and was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 2017.

Chloe McKenzie

Chloe McKenzie is a wealth literacy expert, leader for wealth justice, and bestselling author. She advises institutions and Fortune 500 companies on how to fight for wealth justice through wealth literacy; and how to attract and retain new and more diverse clientele through more accessible and inclusive financial practices. She is also the CEO of BlackFem, Inc., a nonprofit with the mission to transform school-based learning so that girls of color in underserved communities are empowered with skills, habits, and resources to build and sustain wealth. McKenzie has a B.A. from Amherst College and a Graduate Certificate in Financial Planning and Services from Boston University. She obtained a Master's Degree from NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and is a certified teacher with Graduate Certificates in General Education and Special Education. Her best-selling book, *The Activist Investor: Next Gen Playbook to Dismantle Oppressive Business Models*, teaches the next generation of investors how to trade stocks like a community activist.

Twila Moon

Twila Moon is a Research Scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, part of the University of Colorado Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, a world leader in Earth science. Moon is an expert in glaciers and ice sheets, and the connections among ice, climate, ocean, and ecosystem. Her primary focus is on the Greenland Ice Sheet and the Arctic. Her research has been published in high-impact journals, such as *Science* and *Nature*, and received extensive media coverage around the world. An accomplished science communicator, Moon is leading efforts to improve knowledge exchange between scientists and stakeholders about glaciers and ice sheets and their impact on climate.

Lia Neal

Lia Neal, the daughter of a Chinese-American mother and African-American father, is the first woman of Black descent to swim an Olympic final for the United States and was instrumental in winning a Bronze medal for Team USA in the 4x100 freestyle relay in 2012. She also won a Silver medal as part of the US 2016 team. Her journey as a swimmer started at Asphalt Green, one of the few Olympic-sized pools in New York City. Now, as a graduate of Stanford University and the school's 2016-2017 team captain that led her team to a NCAA swimming championship, Neal is excited to continue as a role model for children interested in health, sports, swimming and beating the odds. She understands the challenges youth often face that challenge achievement of their dreams, but believes her story of resilience can inspire others.

Mia B. Love

Mia B. Love is a former Representative of the 4th Congressional District of Utah. She is the first and only black Republican woman to serve in the United States Congress (2015–2019). Love served on the Financial Services Committee during her Congressional term. While in office, she was a champion for reducing burdensome regulations and was also a leader in pushing for immigration reform. She is adamantly pro-life and believes in protecting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Prior to her time in Congress, Rep. Love served on the city council and as mayor in her hometown of Saratoga Springs, Utah. She is currently a CNN correspondent, and was recently appointed as a non-resident senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. Love, a wife and mother of three children, is the daughter of Haitian immigrants.

Liza Walker Mickens

Faith Elizabeth ("Liza") Walker Mickens is the great-great granddaughter of Maggie Lena Walker. She has been a family spokesperson speaking about Mrs. Walker's history and legacy since she was 5 years old. She is a recent graduate from James Madison University's class of 2019 with a major in Communication Studies and a concentration in Public Relations. In the Spring of 2018, she studied abroad in London, England with an internship in Fashion Public Relations. During her time on campus she was a Student Ambassador, a Global Ambassador, and a Diversity Educator.

Brittany Packnett Cunningham

Brittany Packnett Cunningham is an educator, organizer, and writer at the intersection of culture and justice. Cited by President Barack Obama as a leader whose "voice is going to be making a difference for years to come," Packnett is the author of the forthcoming book, *We Are Like Those Who Dream*, (One World/Penguin Random House). Packnett was a Fall 2018 Fellow and current Director's Leader at Harvard's Institute of Politics, a member of the Ferguson Commission, and President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. A lifelong activist, she was active in the Ferguson Uprising and is co-founder of Campaign Zero, a policy platform to end police violence. Packnett is also co-host of the four time Webby-award winning podcast Pod Save The People, and her popular 2019 TED Talk has garnered more than 3 million views since its release.

Ai-jen Poo

Ai-jen Poo is an award-winning organizer, social innovator, author, and a leading voice in the women's movement. She is the Executive Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Co-Director of Caring Across Generations, Co-Founder of SuperMajority, and Trustee of the Ford Foundation. Poo is a nationally recognized expert on elder and family care, the future of work, gender equality, immigration, narrative change, and grassroots organizing. She is the author of the celebrated book, *The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America*.

Dr. Yvette Roubideaux

Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH, a Rosebud/Standing Rock Sioux, is the Vice President for Research and Director of the Policy Research Center at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Her prior work includes research, education, health systems administration and policy development related to American Indian/Alaska Native health, and diabetes care. She served in the Obama Administration as a Senior Advisor to the HHS Secretary for American Indians and Alaska Natives, and as the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). She is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Systems, Management, and Policy in the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado. Roubideaux received her undergraduate, medical and public health degrees at Harvard University. She is also the author of several peer-reviewed research publications, and co-edited the 2001 book, *Promises to Keep: Public Health Policy for American Indians and Alaska Natives*.

Ted Schulze

Ted Schulze is a fourth-generation Californian, and the Grandson of Tye Leung Schulze. Growing up, he had no idea about his grandmother's extraordinary role in American history. In the early 1980's, when historian Judy Yung started documenting Asian American women, Schulze started to realize how deep a role Tye Leung Schulze had in this rich history. Ted's father, Fred, was the primary informant in interviews about Tye Leung Schulze until his passing in 2003. Ted Schulze has since proudly taken on the mantle of researching and sharing her story. Schulze recently

retired after 36 years working for Xerox. He now spends his time volunteering for the animal care team at the Marine Mammal Center, and at China Camp State Park in Marin country, CA.

Judge Toko Serita

Toko Serita is the first Japanese American judge in New York State as well as the first Asian American woman appointed to the New York City Criminal Court. She is a leading judicial expert on human trafficking and presides over the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court (QHTIC), which is nationally and internationally recognized for its innovative work providing services to trafficking victims and survivors. The success of the court in Queens resulted in the nation's first statewide initiative that added eight similar courts designed to address human trafficking cases throughout New York State. The QHTIC was also the subject of a full-length feature documentary, "Blowin' Up." Judge Serita has always been involved in public service and in women's issues and worked as a criminal appellate attorney for the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Appeals Bureau for many years. She is a graduate of Vassar College and the City University of New York School of Law.

Colonel Merryl Tengesdal

Merryl Tengesdal is the first and only African American female U-2 pilot. She is a combat pilot who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and earned her Navy wings flying Seahawk helicopters on multiple cruises that included the Middle East and South America. She continued her military career with a transfer to the Air Force, flying the U-2 spy plane on multiple combat deployments. Merryl has held various leadership and training positions, including Director of Inspections for the Inspector General of the Air Force. She retired as a colonel in 2017 and now works as an executive coach and fitness trainer.

Ina Vandebroek

Ina Vandebroek, Ph.D, is the Matthew Calbraith Perry Associate Curator and Caribbean Program Director at The New York Botanical Garden. She has conducted ethnobotanical research and outreach for 20 years, studying the relationships between plant diversity, traditional knowledge, and community livelihood and well-being, working in collaboration with indigenous and farming communities in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and New York City. Her research underscores the importance of plants for the preservation of cultural heritage. In New York City, Vandebroek uses the results of her research partnerships with Caribbean and Latino communities to develop training activities for medical students and healthcare providers, to help establish a better dialogue and trusted physician-patient relationship, and promote culturally sensitive healthcare. Vandebroek is also an Adjunct Lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences in New Haven, CT.