



March Newsletter

Keeping members up-to-date and sharing news in our network

Message from Debra, Executive Sponsor

The continued commitment of the Advisory Board and Member engagement across North America has been outstanding. The initiatives focused on the four pillars, education, mentoring, networking and philanthropy continues to be a great source for growth and impacts us personally and professionally. To see the level of engagement our business partners and SYNNEX associates are committed to, is clearly representative of our success as a community.

We have been fortunate to have members and partners that are open to sharing their stories and expertise, whether in webinars, networking events or on the web, contributing and inspiring women in the tech industry. Many of who have impacted us in our personal lives.

Most recently we launched the SYNNEX F2F Mentoring Excellence program, designed exclusively for our members. I encourage you to consider this professional opportunity to continue to develop your talents.

The SYNNEX F2F journey is just beginning. We are learning as we go, to become better and stronger, gaining deeper insights into our purpose and continue to leverage one another's strengths to become who we are today, both as individuals and as a community. I encourage you to continue to help our community grow by engaging with your team, colleagues or peers in the industry, to bring awareness of SYNNEX F2F and get involved, whether attending a webinar, networking event, fund-raising, or contributing to the pages on our web site (like reads and feeds)—your engagement with SYNNEX F2F has the ability to make a difference and make us even stronger.

--Debra LaTourette, Sr. VP. Human Resources, North America, TW, UK, SYNNEX Corporation

Editor's Note: **Welcome to Our First Issue of 2016!**

We've got a new look for the new year and we're working harder to keep our members more informed by creating an editorial layout that features articles from the movers and shakers in our network, noteworthy news, reads and feeds and an update from the SYNNEX F2F Advisory Board's co-pillar chairs. It is my hope that you will gain some new insights or be sparked to send me a note on other news worthy stories that we can share in our network of SYNNEX F2F friends.

--Janis Hodgins, Co-Chair, SYNNEX F2F JanisH@synnex.com

Feature Article: A Different Perspective

SYNNEX Executive, Fred Towns, President, New Age Electronics, Talks About the Value of SYNNEX F2F

Fred Towns has become a great advocate of SYNNEX F2F and his perspective has proven to be one that continually demonstrates an opportunity to think a bit differently in one's day-to-day interactions to make a difference.

Asked to be an MC at a recent SYNNEX F2F breakfast event, Fred walked away with a positive feeling about the company he works for and thinks differently on how he can contribute to growing opportunities equally among male and female employees.

Towns commented, "by providing the forum and a wide breadth of industry people who care and share their experiences from a female perspective about others who have impacted their careers and provide mentoring or leadership (coaching), makes me think of how I can be more involved in helping female members on my team and other females who I interact with in the industry." He further stated, "I also started to look outside of my business world at women who I have spoken with, providing guidance in life, sports or business issues and questioned myself, did I do enough?"

A very broad question, but when put into perspective of helping to nurture and grow women in the industry, like Towns, we all have an opportunity to make a difference through our support of helping one another by recalling what we have learned from our SYNNEX F2F friends and asking ourselves, can I do more to support women in business?

As for Fred Towns, he emphatically remarked, "I AM IN....SYNNEX F2F Rocks!"

Pillar Updates



Education Update with Co-Chairs Cheryl Henry, CherylH@synnex.com

The webinar and event speakers are close to being finalized for 2016. We will be providing the schedule in our next issue. Sneak Peak—we're working to finalize a webinar with Sara Laschever and Kendra Lee, both well-known authors and recent guest speakers at SYNNEX events and we're working with CompTIA, a non-profit organization in the IT industry. www.comptia.org

[*Check Out Upcoming Events Here*](#)



Mentoring Update with Co-Chairs Lisa Slayton, LisaS@synnex.com and Jennifer Eley, JenniferE@synnex.com

SYNNEX F2F Mentoring Excellence Launched!

We are ecstatic to announce the formal launch of SYNNEX F2F Mentoring Excellence Program, a Mentee focused program with training and certification for Mentors. You will be receiving a separate email with details on the program. The soft launch of “Mentoring Excellence” with Lisa Slayton ([linkedin.com/in/LisaCarrollSlayton](https://www.linkedin.com/in/LisaCarrollSlayton)), can be viewed at the SYNNEX F2F web site.

[WATCH NOW](#)

If you are interested in becoming a mentee or mentor of the SYNNEX F2F Mentoring Excellence program, watch for the email communications to all SYNNEX F2F Members. This is a closed program, only available to SYNNEX F2F members. The 2016 program will include 25-30 Mentor/Mentees across North America, with a mix of resellers, vendors and associates.

[For more information click here.](#)

[REGISTER NOW: SYNNEX F2F Mentoring Excellence](#)



Networking with Denna Mensch, DennaM@synnex.com (and co-Chair, SYNNEX F2F) and Suzanne Barrette, SuzanneB@synnex.com

Canada hosted it's first of the year, networking event in Toronto, February 19th, during the SYNNEX Solv Summit and Sales Conference. Guest speaker, Tara Fine, Director Commercial Channel, Dell, shared her insights on career and family choices. Early in her career, Tara had to make choices when it came to family, taking a leave of absence during her mom's illness and has never regretted putting family over her career. She once believed she would lose tremendous opportunities to advance her career by doing so, but staying true to who she was, and keeping her integrity close to her to do the right thing, she found out this was not the case. For Tara, she put family first and has never regretted her decision. Returning from her leave of absence, Tara excelled in her job and advanced quickly within the Dell organization. Her message, stay true to who you are, never sacrifice your integrity or beliefs and never stop wanting to grow.

Upcoming Networking Events:



SYNNEX F2F TIME Out, April 27 at 6:30pm at Bar Louis on Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC.

Join your SYNNEX F2F friends for appetizers and conversation, and get to know one another in this casual atmosphere. Bar Louis will be donating 20%

of the proceeds to support Lisa and SYNEX in the 2016 American Lung Association Upstate Dancing with the Stars fundraiser.

Please RSVP StephanieG@synnex.com

SYNEX F2F Breakfast Events: If you are attending SYNEX' Varnex Spring Conference and Red White & You Event in April, please be sure to sign up for the SYNEX F2F Breakfasts



Philanthropy with Stephanie Gosnell, StephanieG@synnex.com
and Stephanie Ballenger, StephanieB@synnex.com

The Philanthropy pillar is a buzzing with activity. This month SYNEX F2F, Greenville is baking homemade doggie treats to help raise funds for the 2016 American Lung Association's Upstate Dancing with the Stars fund-raiser, earning us points in support of SYNEX' Lisa Slayton.

We are looking forward to repeating on last year's successes with the SYNEX F2F Professional Clothing Drive across North America, which is slated for the fall. New this year is a Halloween (gently used) Costume Sale, which is also planned for the fall in SYNEX' offices across North America.

We are in the early stages of developing an activity that will raise awareness to the FIRST Robotics program in the U.S. and Canada that is focused on "Inspiring Girls in Science, Math, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). *If you are interested in joining the planning process, please email JanisH@synnex.com*

Welcome New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest 2016 Members (December 1, 2015 - February 29, 2016):

- Rahman Abeer
- Deanna Nichols
- Kathryn Rose
- Amanda Garcia
- Stephanie Ballenger
- Catherine Vinh

In Our SYNEX F2F Community:

Member Profile: Jennifer Eley on Coaching Children

Three years ago my oldest son came home and expressed his interest in joining the Robotics Team at his new school. When the school asked for a few volunteers I saw this as a great opportunity to spend quality time with my son and give back to the school by volunteering my time.

The Green Charter School robotics team entered the First Lego League (FLL), part of the FIRST program (*FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*). FLL is an

international competition organized for elementary and middle school students aged 9 -14 years old in the USA and Canada. FLL introduces scientific and real world challenges for teams to focus, research and find solutions to, with focus on science and technology. Children experience competition in a sporty and competitive environment encouraging team work, problem solving and public presentation skills.

I went from being a volunteer to becoming a team coach responsible for creating enthusiastic young minds, capable of working as a team to solve everyday problems within our community, from recycling, pollution to natural disasters. My focus was on guiding students in research on the selected topic and supporting them during the robot build, teaching programming techniques.

My initial goal of spending more time with my son evolved into so much more! Being a mentor to a group of young aspiring minds became very inspiring to me personally and was very rewarding to watch them work together and grow as individuals within the team. Watching children from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds laugh, learn and excel at something they loved doing was emotionally rewarding for me.

All in all the FLL has been a fantastic life experience.

–Jennifer Eley, Federal Sales Manager, SYNEX Corporation

To learn more about FIRST <http://www.firstinspires.org> (USA);
<http://www.firstroboticscanada.org> (Canada)

Never Stop Learning!

Remember, the SYNEX F2F web site is filled with great reads, feeds and videos.

WATCH: [7 Leadership Hurdles Women Face in the Workforce](#)

READ: [Four Signs That We're Nearing A Turning Point for Women In Leadership](#)

Gloria Feldt recently wrote a great article for Fast Company about the opportunities women have to change the gender-leadership gap and the four signs that support her belief.

What's your personal favorite read, feed or video? Let us know so we can share with others.
Email us at F2FAdvisory@synnex.com

Pass it on and get your peers to join

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