



January Newsletter 2017

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

Message from Debra LaTourette, SYNNEX F2F, Sr. Executive Sponsor

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It's remarkable what has been achieved by the modest SYNNEX F2F Community! As we reflect upon the 2016 year, the community continues to make great strides in making an impact on women in the industry and has raised significant awareness within the IT channel and SYNNEX business partners. We are now 455 members strong across North America, including resellers, manufacturers and SYNNEX associates. And we maintain regular contact with members through our bimonthly SYNNEX F2F Newsletter.

It is also amazing to think that it all started six years ago in 2011 with an idea. For the above achievement and the 2016 accomplishments below, we **must** recognize and thank our leaders and Co-Chairs of F2F, Denna Mensch and Janis Hodgins. Their ideas, energy, enthusiasm and ongoing dedication is what has grown this community and members' knowledge, network and experiences.

2016 Pillar Accomplishments

- **Philanthropy**
 - Raised over \$14,000 in support of the American Lung Association through various activities (U.S.)
 - Donated over 2,500 pieces of professional clothing to local charities (defined by each participating office) during our 2nd Annual Fashion Drive (North America)
- **Education**
 - Hosted a winter webinar, "Ways to Supercharge Your LinkedIn Profile," and a 4-part summer webinar series in conjunction with AWIT "Stand up Stand Out"
 - Hosted 17 resellers in NYC during Women of the Channel Winter Workshop
- **Mentoring**
 - Formalized SYNNEX F2F Mentoring Excellence Program and conducted a face-to-face mentor and mentee training in July
 - 9 mentor/mentee pairs ongoing involving all types of members
- **Networking**
 - Presence during all major NA conferences in the form of breakfast, lunch or afternoon breakout with keynote speakers or panels
 - Meet and Greets in Fremont, Carson and Guelph to expose more employees to SYNNEX F2F
 - Hosted two after hour SYNNEX F2F Time-Outs in Greenville and Toronto

In summary, SYNNEX F2F has touched an estimated 1,500 women with its activities across NA, strengthening the SYNNEX brand and doing 'good' in our communities. Again, we **must** recognize and thank our leaders and Co-Chairs of F2F, Denna Mensch and Janis Hodgins, for their unending drive for women in the industry.

Message from the Editor:

It seems a bit late to be wishing you all a Happy New Year, but the way it's been going for me, I'm just getting into the groove of the New Year so perhaps still relevant. A special welcome to our newest members for 2017—it's awesome that we are continuing to grow, even during our 'slower' time. This month the SYNEX F2F Advisory committee met to review successes in 2016 and discussed plans for 2017 as noted in our pillar updates. The committee is always eager to hear from members who are able to share ideas throughout the year to inspire others and help our community become stronger.

I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Laurie Benson for the member profile this month. The conversation we had was inspiring, and for me personally, I had an 'eureka' moment that is becoming a game changer on how I create opportunities for myself. And that is, by reaching out to meet more people on my "to who list", as Laurie phrases it, because all have an interesting story to tell. It's amazing how new people you just meet can have a profound effect on how you think, act and respond in your professionally and personal life. New conversations bring on new ideas.

I hope you all are already enjoying your 2017, and hope to connect with you personally through SYNEX F2F, whether it's an educational webinar, networking event, philanthropic initiative or at work. I look forward to meeting you. If you see, me, please stop and say hi.

Happy reading,

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

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our newest SYNEX F2F Members to the community (November 17, 2016 to January 23, 2016):

David Yeem	Jennifer Oladipo	Eva Garibay
Stephanie Gassen	Mindy Marvel	Dawn McCale
Eva Garibay	Stacey Naumczik	Samara Halterman
Dawn McCale	Dorothy Kawula	Stacy Thompson
Samara Halterman	David Yeem	
Stacy Thompson	Stephanie Gassen	

Member Profile with **Laurie Benson** Executive Director, Nurses on Boards Coalition

Background: Currently Laurie serves as Executive Director, Nurses on Boards Coalition, whose mission is to improve health in communities across the nation by advancing at least 10,000 nurses to boards of all types by 2020. She previously served as CEO of LSB Unlimited, a strategy consulting company serving C-suite professionals. Many of you know Laurie from her role as co-founder and former CEO of Inacom Information Systems for 25 years. Throughout her career, Laurie has served as a member of several corporate and nonprofit boards ranging from health care, finance, and

insurance to manufacturing and technology. While at Inacom Information Systems, she served on technology industry advisory boards including Hewlett Packard and Microsoft.

Let Your Own LIGHT Shine Through In Everything You Do

“Start your day grounded and then continually move toward the light! Release your own light to shine through in all you do, and look for the light that is reflected through others in everyone you meet.” – Laurie Benson

In preparation for my interview with this month’s featured member, Laurie Benson, I took to the web to do some research and found an interview she had with InspiredInsider.com. Within this audio clip, there was one phrase she used, a nugget that really stood out, and resonated with me. She said, “Let your own light shine through in everything you do”.

Prior to our meeting I had given her the idea that we would focus on how she finds her work / life balance. With this as the backdrop to our conversation, Laurie shared her philosophies to her career and personal life.

The essence of Laurie’s message comes down to four core principles that guide her to shine through in everything she does. They are, start your day grounded, move toward the light, release your own light and look for the light in others. Keep focused on your values in all that you do, career and personal life and share your personal experiences openly when engaging with others, and encourage them to do the same. This allows them to see your light “who you are.” Your values come to life through real life examples. People will often respond by doing the same. This makes every interaction more meaningful for you and for others.

Laurie embraces every day with a sense of purpose. Whether it’s work or personal, it’s the people she meets that inspire her and where she finds her purpose. Daily conversations often lead to recognizing new perspectives on situations, new opportunities and nurturing existing relationships and creating new ones.

Be authentic, be genuine and be open to hear what others have to say, best describes the core of her intent.

Start and keep your day grounded. Have your daily ‘To-Who’ list prepared. The “Do” has been replaced with ‘Who’ since most of what we will accomplish on our list is dependent on speaking or calling someone. How we interact with others can change outcomes. We have an opportunity to learn more about those we interact with or the task at hand. By rephrasing our “To-Do” list, we think differently on our approach to the day.

To keep herself grounded, prioritizing time is crucial. Laurie has learned the importance of being accountable to herself in the management of her time. She makes no apologies when she can’t be at an event. Learning to say, “I can’t make it, I have another commitment”, is all it takes. No apologies necessary. Saying this without judgement is freeing. Don’t second guess your decisions, it creates more stress on yourself. Too often this is a source of negative energy that gets bottled up in people.

Laurie added, “One other note on staying grounded, make time for frequent doses of “pauses”, a conscious time to fill back up.”

One way Laurie achieves this is by occasionally lifting small weights while on a conference call. It’s not distracting and feels good. She also starts her day with a daily devotional, to ground her for the day. Being genuinely interested in learning from everyone you meet on your ‘to-who’ list will most definitely open up opportunities for career and personal growth.

Move toward the light. Be intentional with your actions. Take a positive approach.

When I spoke with Laurie, she reflected on her vision board for 2017. Laurie typically finds a word that really sums up her focus for the year ahead and then applies it to everything she does. The word for 2017 is “embrace”. She plans to use it often, in thought and conversations. She has no preconceived ideas on outcomes, only ideas of what she wants to focus on this year. Laurie intentionally seeks to meet new people because she finds everyone has a great story to share and often has an impact on her personally.

Release your own light. Share what you know to help others. Always read, learn and listen. You are developing you. What you know and share with others can be game changers for them and you.

Mentoring is a good way to help others. Laurie takes an ad-hoc approach, helping people move forward when the opportunity presents itself rather than making it a formal process. Her approach is derived from her nursing background. As a nurse, one first assesses the environment, being sensitive to signals to respond to, including her colleagues who may need help. Always look at yourself as part of a support team. If someone asks for help, don’t think twice. And, asking for help doesn’t make you needy, it makes you strong!

Look for the light in others. Seek, listen, and learn to see opportunities in all that you do in business and personal. In her new role as Executive Director of the Nurses on Boards Coalition, Laurie has surrounded herself with 80% of people she has never known before, until now. She has heightened her alertness to get to know people, learn about them to find opportunities where they may be able to make an impact, contribute or help in another capacity with the resources and knowledge they have. When an opportunity presents itself be authentic and share with others.

All-in

Laurie takes an all-in approach, integrating work and life as one full day. The people she meets in her work and personal life provides great opportunities and outcomes. It’s a reciprocal process where every day we have opportunities to make an impact.

“No matter what we do in our jobs and personal lives, at its core, no matter the circumstances, we all have decisions we have to make about how we spend time. Always be respectful to yourself and others, get over not knowing everything. Credibility is being open to asking for help.

Always be mindful and intentional about moving forward, even if it is just a few steps forward toward your goals. Success doesn’t happen in neutral!

Lastly, always be grateful for the many blessings in your life, to the many people who have helped you along the way and the many opportunities that you have been given, and the ones that are yet to come!” –Laurie Benson

Pillar Updates



Education Update with Chair, Cheryl Henry, CherylH@synnex.com

Cheryl is continuing to work on the development of a new Leadership Development program exclusive to SYNNEX F2F members. We are currently testing a new software to better enable us to record our webinars so you will have access to them if you are unable to attend.

If you are interested in being a webinar speaker for SYNNEX F2F, please contact Cheryl at CherylH@synnex.com. We encourage member’s to share their expertise that will inspire and nurture the development of women, both professionally and personally.

Mentoring Update with Co-Chairs, Jennifer Eley, JenniferE@synnex.com and Qiana La Croix



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The Mentoring Excellence program will launch again early spring 2017. A timeline of registration in-take and matching and training will be available in the next issue.

Networking Update with co-Chair, Felicia Hall, FeliciaH@synnex.com and Suzanne Barrette,

SuzanneB@synnex.com



We are looking forward to our first SYNEX F2F networking event at the Varnex Spring Conference in Austin, Texas in March. The SYNEX F2F Breakfast topic is "The Art of Possible" with Microsoft's Alyssa Fitzpatrick, General Manager, World Sales – SMB. Alyssa will discuss life's defining moments, embracing work and personal demands, and understanding the impact of culture to your journey.



Philanthropy with Co-chairs, Stephanie Gosnell, StephanieG@synnex.com and StephanieBal@synnex.com

SYNEX F2F will continue many of the programs of 2016. In North America, 2017 philanthropic focus will include the annual Professional Fashion Drive to support local women's charities and new this year, focus on supporting the FIRST Robotics program, girls in STEM. A separate communications will be sent next month regarding this initiative.

In addition, in the U.S., 3 charities have been selected to support, they include: American Lung Association, March of Dimes and the Humane Society. In Canada fund-raising efforts will go towards Kids Help Phone.

Never Stop Learning!

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

Recommended FEED, watch: [Simon Sinek on Millennials in the Workplace](#) (excerpt of Simon Sinek from an episode of inside Quest)

Recommended READ: [Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space—a powerful, revelatory contribution that is as essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America. Great movie too, just recently released.

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

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