

Good Evening,

Welcome to our 38th annual Business Exposition, which we've designed to spark opportunities on your path to innovation and growth. It's an honor to support this goal as president, and to lead a passionate team whose dedication has helped to build so many alliances throughout my time here.

I want to thank all of you - our committed Corporate Members, dedicated MBEs, and friends of WRMSDC- for taking part in today's event. This year, we're proud to have sponsored support from industry leaders Apple, IBM, MGM Resorts International, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Way to Be, and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, who've been generous advocates to the cause.

There couldn't be a better time for this year's theme "Breaking Ground Through Diversity." Certainly, my goal is to continue bringing our Corporate Members and MBEs together to advance their industries in unprecedented, groundbreaking ways. And it's clear that as the marketplace continues to evolve, the importance of increasing diversity in business continues to rise and is vital to innovation and development. More than ever, diversity is essential to making the kinds of leaps and bounds we know we're capable of in so many sectors, from health, to energy, finance, tech and beyond.

As most of us can attest, driving sustainable, measurable growth from the idea stage into the real world takes a great deal of dedication. It also takes collaboration from many minds, and many talents, to bring about the changes we wish to see. I'm proud to say that WRMSDC has worked hard to help facilitate these collaborations.

As you connect and inspire each other today, I think you'll find many meaningful ways to bring about exciting change. Whether you're forging alliances to those with similar goals, finding ways to strengthen your business, or gaining inspiration from a new connection, I hope you'll take this opportunity to build your business in the ways you want, and to find ways to truly break new ground.

Sincerely,

Your President