

Entrepreneurship / Information Technology Conference, September 10

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Washington, DC - Dialogue on Diversity begins the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with its own annual recognition of the role of Latinas and the Latino heritage in the thoughtful agenda that concludes its thirtieth year of programming in the Entrepreneurship / Information Technology Conference, September 10th at the **Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center**, 901 K Street, N.W in Washington.

“Among Awards to be presented,” **Ma. Cristina Caballero**, President of Dialogue on Diversity, announced, “are the **Diversity City Leadership Award** to **Jackie Reyes-Yanes** of the D.C. Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs, while a **Corporate Award** will go to an honoree to be announced at the Conference. Certificates of Completion go to attendees in the STEM/STEAM program. Greetings will come from **Microsoft**, our Conference host.”

Midday session speakers include the familiar figure of **Hon. Gregory L. Rohde**, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and NTIA chief, and later heading e-Copernicus, a firm specializing in counseling and the design of IT systems for firms, here and abroad, dealing with governments and other large clients. **Hon. Luís Borunda**, Maryland’s Deputy Secretary of State, appears with his overview account of the lessons of a successful career as entrepreneur, owner of a graphics production firm, and a persuasive summation of the general principles of effective entrepreneurship.

Roberta Rincón, Senior Manager, Research for the Society of Women Engineers (and a valued Director of Dialogue on Diversity), speaks again from her formidable fund of information, generated in a career’s ongoing quest in the data sources for key insights on the studies and achievements of young women in the arduous preparation, rare but valuable, and the successful pursuit of professional excellence in the essential engineering skills. **Sharon Pinder**, heading the Capital Region’s Minority Supplier Development Council, updates an audience eager to learn the nut and bolts of the intricate ties linking large industrial firms myriad of small enterprises, usually highly specialized and awesomely skilled in fabricating a narrow range of goods that precisely fit the notches in the mega production lines of the industrial behemoth.

Specifics on the many applications of information technology in the small enterprise setting will be presented by **Fernando Torrez** of NanoTech Computers, and **Jeremy Greenberg** of the Future of Privacy Forum. Emphasis will be on the proliferating network of IoT (Internet of Things) systems assuming a leading role in detail management and control functions in the economic realm — all with a wary look at the potential privacy challenges entailed.

Dwight Barbour, Mr. IT for our Dialogue, returns with an update cluing our hearers in on the latest discovered avenues for success in the production side of computer operations. Not what buttons to punch simply, but how to set things up so that the punch produces the just the information miracle you need. There are answers, and it takes the wit and persistence of experts of Mr. Barbour’s class to ferret them out and disclose them to a conference table of well-chosen hearers.

The typical case for analysis of entrepreneurship and its many routes to fortune, are the stock in trade of D.C.’s expertly manned Department of Small and Local Business Development, which hones its model in shaping the small business segment of the D.C. economic dynamic. Its Director, **Kristi Whitfield**, a prodigy in the field, brings the DSLBD components together in a powerful engine of entrepreneurial progress.

The Dialogue explores the cutting edge of the American educational enterprise, with the computer training for kids of elementary and high school age (and above) in the TED, and “Acers Lane” courses described by **Alicia C. Lane**. For a slightly older cohort : the attention focused on the new D.C. Charter School, Girls’ Global Academy, set to begin operations in 2020 after the long qualification process, readying site, faculty, library, and equipment. **Shayne Swift** and **Karen Venable-Croft**, both long experienced teachers in the PG County Schools, are organizing the enterprise for a

purpose: each high school class of dedicated and eager girls of color will be turned out as veritable Citizens of the world, self-confident and enabled with many skills.

Among speakers, moreover, are a business-oriented diplomatic representative of the Embassy of the Bolivia; Invited speakers include **Rep. Suzanne Bonamici** of Oregon, Chair of the House STEAM Caucus; the remarkable **Rynthia Rost**, GEICO Vice President, Public Affairs, and **Maria Oquendo**, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

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