



# The Athena Effect

March 10, 2020 | #TheAthenaEffect

PINNACLE AWARDS 2020 | [TICKETS](#) | [NOMINATIONS](#) | [SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

**BREAKING NEWS: [PINNACLE NOMINATIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 13!](#)**

## **San Diego Tech Women's Summit Showcases Vast Career Resources For Women in STEM**

On March 7, the 1st Annual San Diego Tech Women's Summit (SDTWS) united 300+ technologists that ignited a stirring crowd on Qualcomm campus as the region celebrated International Women's Day 2020.

At the heart of this Summit is the extraordinary collaboration between 7 of the region's most influential affinity groups that offer career development services for women working in high tech including: Athena, Blacks in Tech, Designing Women, Girls in Tech SD, #LatinaGeeks, and Women Who Code SD. The Women's Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) of Intuit, Qualcomm and Sony Playstation also played a critical role in showcasing their culture code and internal programs that welcome women in the industry either re-entering the field or those eager to advance their careers.

SDTWS guests were treated to a line up of tech companies in the career and resource fair, a keynote speech by Jessica Naziri, CEO of TechSesh, and dynamic panels on the state of women in STEM, what each affinity groups offers to key market segments and how women of color can break barriers and build bridges.

Visit [#SDTWS2020](#) on twitter and Instagram to experience the overwhelming sense of empowerment and collaboration that led the audience to demand we host a 2nd Anniversary San Diego Tech Women's Summit in 2021. And the collective answer is ...a resounding yes.

Excited to celebrate International Women's Day at the San Diego Tech Women's Summit today. It's amazing to be in a room full of such high quality talent and diversity with such impressive speakers and organizers like [Holly Smithson](#)

#iwd2020 #techwomen #sdtws2020 #sdtws

## San Diego Tech Women's Summit 2020



I wish I had gotten more pictures, but this was such an amazing event. This was the first summit I have attended outside of work, and it was completely inspiring. I made great connections and had the chance to hear from strong, driven, and helpful women. So many powerful conversations were had today. I can't wait until next years! #SDTWS2020 #womenintech

Strong women, talking in real numbers about #sandiego's economy, #women, and the untold story behind our economic growth and how it masks the lack of #diversity in the workplace in San Diego.

#sdtws2020 #internationalwomensday #prosperity #womenintech #womeninstem #womeninbiotech #athenasd #eachdforequal



So much #WOW today at the San Diego Tech Women's Summit!

I got to meet [Kimbra Brookstein](#) (ft. in video) during a #LatinaGeeks event on #data #analytics, where she and [Rocio Montes](#) represented Intuit's team of powerful #latina #techies. It's been awesome running into them ever since!

Kimbra raised some thoughtful points for today's summit alongside [Holly Smithson](#) of Athena and [Jillian Moore](#) of Women Who Code.

My favorite quotes from keynote speaker, [Jessica Naziri](#) of TechSesh was:

"Be fearless in your pursuit of an ally who will get you to the next step, and have the courage to ask questions that are taboo. . . . For it is a beautiful thing when we can help each other without ego."

That was my kickoff for #internationalwomensday!

#inspirational #womenempowerment #tech #leadership #womenshistorymonth #entrepreneur #womenintech #v #latinageeks #latinasintech #cybersecurity #multicultural #inclusion #advocacy #accessibility #network #smart #womensupportwomen

Had a great time at the 1st annual San Diego Tech Women Summit representing UCSD Extension along with UCSD Rady School of Management at Qualcomm. I met so many amazing women in tech who are making a difference in the tech industry and our communities. One of the key messages from Qualcomm's Chief Diversity Officer Vicki Mealer-Burke that really struck accord with me is to just be your authentic self in both work and life. It's ok to be you. Also, the founder of techsesh [Jessica Naziri](#) said your differences is also what makes you stand out and what might make your next opportunity possible. Another message of self-acceptance and authenticity. Also the EDC talked about Advancing San Diego, of which I'm so grateful to be a part of connecting IT professionals with small business. If you're interested, learn more at [advancingsd.org](http://advancingsd.org)



**Athena is NOW HIRING a passionate Programs Champion to meet the membership demands of 750+ portfolio and our 50+ leadership development events/conferences. Is this San Diego-based leadership opportunity made for you? [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)**

Tickets Now Available for Athena's 22nd Annual  
**PINNACLE AWARDS 2020**  
Widening the Bridge: Destination Diversity

Wednesday, May 13 | 5:30-8:30 | UCSD Mandeville Auditorium

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**HOW ARE YOU POWERING  
YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY?**

Join Athena membership as this STEM community of diversity champions accesses leadership development, networking, peer mentoring and advocacy initiatives designed to transform scientists and technologists into corporate leaders.

**JOIN ATHENA**

**CONNECT | TRANSFORM | LEAD**

**ATHENA SPONSOR  
SPOTLIGHT**





Did you earn a promotion? Did your startup company receive a funding round? Did you land a new job or appointment to a board? Did your CEO sign the [UN Global Compact](#)? Did you write a book or start a company? Are you serving on an industry panel or honored with an award? [CLICK HERE](#) to drop us an email so we can share your success on social media. We want to celebrate you and share in your leadership journey.

Retrophin<sup>®</sup>

Get to know the companies that support Athena in powering the leadership journey for Women in STEM, positioning San Diego as the destination for diversity!



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[BluePrint for Success](#) | Dawn Barry, President & Co-Founder, LunaPBC

[EmpowerMinute](#) | Summer Stephan, San Diego County D.A.

[Athenaeum](#) | Video archives of Athena events

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