



March 17, 2020 | #TheAthenaEffect

## A MESSAGE FROM ATHENA CEO HOLLY SMITHSON

### Together, We Are Stronger

At this moment in history, community is everything. With events, meetings and conferences cancelled, and many daily interactions moving online, maintaining a sense of who we are as a community at Athena is more vital than ever. Everything that defines and unites us as a community is enduring. And while the feeling of experiencing our community isolate and sequester is disturbing on many levels, it matters to us that we continue to remain connected with one other through this stronghold called Athena. Under the worst of circumstances, we're discovering that we're more capable and more productive by banding together.

As we adjust to this new normal, you can expect Athena to provide new "virtual event" opportunities for #WomeninSTEM as our commitment to connect, engage and educate is unwavering. You can expect a new media campaign that amplifies the collective voices in support of women- owned businesses, and you can also expect the unveiling of Athena's new interactive website that serves our member community in new and improved ways. Stay tuned for these new member developments as we continue, more determined than ever, to harness the power of the Athena network and the fabric of our deep connections and shared values. We also encourage feedback and suggestions from our community as we look to deliver on our mission to advance women in STEM during this unprecedented period in time. Together, we are stronger.

## Athena Graduates Second Cohort of Board Certified Women in STEM

On March 10, Athena graduated its second cohort of [Athena on Boards Series](#). These 15 STEM executives completed this 3-Part Series over a 5-month period that informed board selection and placement strategies,



assigned dedicated mentoring groups led by seasoned female directors for accountability and plan execution, a roster of CA board opportunities and exposure to VC firms and boardroom recruiting firms as a way to activate these integral networks. We thank Cooley Partners, Charity Williams and Karen Deschaine for hosting both Series and for leading the program's legal segment.

Several market events continue to generate strong demand for women on boards: 1) Goldman Sachs just announced at the World Economic Forum that they will not take any company public without women on their boards; 2) California public companies are now looking ahead to comply with the second leg of the law - SB 826. By the end of next year, it calls for

California-based companies to have at least two female directors on five-member boards, and at least three female directors on boards with six or more members and, 3) CA Sec of State just released its March 2020 compliance report of those companies subject to SB 826. 330 of the 653 impacted companies filed a statement and 282 self-reported compliance with the law.

Athena On Boards 3-Part Series – which launches its third cohort this Fall – effectively prepares boardroom candidates, helps customize their plan of attack and strategically markets the corporate profiles of these board-ready candidates.

"As the voice of women in STEM, Athena offers a deep bench of executive women ready to help companies modernize their boardroom and drive performance," Athena CEO Holly Smithson said. "The *Athena On Boards* Cohort I & II represent a talented pipeline primed for board placement in both companies and non-profits, alike."

### **Athena On Boards Cohort 2:**

#### **SHIRIN ALIPANAH**

Sr. Director, Program Management Office/Enterprise Analytics, Bumble Bee Foods

#### **BOBBI BABITZ**

Co-Founder and Partner, Britehorn Partners

#### **CARLA BOREN**

General Counsel, Head of Human Resources, Otonomy, Inc.

#### **KATHRIN COPLEY**

Sr. Director Regulatory Affairs, Allele Biotechnology

#### **KRISTIN EATON**

Head of Intellectual Property, Vividion Therapeutics

#### **DIANE FERNANDEZ**

Director Pathology, Pfizer

#### **CRISTINA GIACHETTI**

Founder and Principal Consultant, AdvantDx

#### **DR. ANITA GUPTA**

Sr. Vice President, Medical Strategy & Government Affairs, Heron Therapeutics

#### **SARA HOFFMAN**

Sr. Manager Financial Planning and Analysis, BD

#### **JULIE KILPATRICK**

Director of Real Estate, University of California San Diego

#### **SITA LOWMAN**

Vice President and General Manager, Platform Services Integrated Practice, DXC Technologies

#### **MARIA LUPETINI**

Sr. Manager Data Science, BD

#### **KATHY NAYLOR**

Executive Coach, Change and Leadership Solutions

[CAMILLE NEWTON](#)

Founder and Past President, PureWick, Inc.

[LORELEI WESTIN](#)

Of Counsel, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Contact [Athena CEO Holly Smithson](#) to get on the wait list for our third cohort and launch your board search with Athena's On Board Series.

## 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 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](#)



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.

### ATHENA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



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

[Upcoming Programs and Events](#)

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