



COMMUNICATIONS

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NFL TO HOST FIRST WOMEN'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM MARCH 18-19 IN FLORIDA

Forty women from across the NFL will take part in the inaugural **WOMEN'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM** March 18-19 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club in Boca Raton, Florida. This program is the latest iteration of the annual NFL Career Development Symposium that engages aspiring executives through presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities with club and league executives and industry experts.

Among the speakers and presenters are Dolphins Executive Vice President of Football Administration **DAWN APONTE**; Bengals Executive Vice President **KATIE BLACKBURN**; Chargers Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer **JEANNE BONK**; and Detroit Lions SVP of Administration and CFO **ALLISON MAKI**.

In addition, faculty from both **The Wharton School** and **Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth**, as well as executives from the CIA, financial services and entertainment industries will speak to the participants.

Program sessions include: "Meeting the Ever-Changing Challenges of the NFL," "League Perspective," "What the NFL and National Security Have in Common," "How to be Impactful in Your Professional Development," "Negotiation and Persuasion," "Keys to Navigating Tough Environments," and "Leading with Impact: How to Think, Communicate, and Lead Strategically."

The Steering Committee for this year's Symposium includes Aponte, Blackburn and Bonk, along with NFL Director of Football Operations **MATT BIRK**, Chief Strategy Officer of NFL Football Operations **KIMBERLY FIELDS**, NFL Director of Human Resources **SARA SCHULTZ** and NFL Vice President of Labor Finance **CHRISTINE VICARI**. The program is directed by NFL Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer **ROBERT GULLIVER** and NFL Executive Vice President of Football Operations **TROY VINCENT**.

Career Development Symposium participants are selected by the NFL office after NFL clubs submit nominations from their staffs. There is one participant representing each club and other participants from the league offices.

The Career Development Symposium previously ran from 1998-2008 and returned in 2013. The past Symposiums focused on engaging aspiring head coach and general manager candidates.

Earlier this year the NFL hosted the first-ever NFL Women's Summit: "In the Huddle to Advance Women in Sport" in San Francisco leading up to Super Bowl 50 where NFL Commissioner **ROGER GOODELL** announced the expansion of **The Rooney Rule** to include interviewing women for all open executive positions at the league office. Additionally, the NFL recently launched its [Diverse Talent Community](#) – an invite-only online recruitment platform that encourages quality, dynamic candidates with diverse backgrounds to join its ranks through a shared talent acquisition database for Human Resources across the NFL and its 32 clubs.