

Women In Banking Conference

SPEAKER BIOS



Diane Arnold, President & CEO, Essex Savings Bank

Ms. Arnold is the 18th president of the 172-year-old Bank, and the first female to hold this position. Diane has spent most of her career in commercial lending, and prior to her current role, she served as Senior Vice President, Chief Lending Officer, who over 19 years had been an integral part of Essex Savings Bank's success in growing the commercial loan portfolio from a start-up operation to over \$130 million, while maintaining excellent credit quality. Diane's outstanding customer service skills resulted in a very loyal customer base, including numerous referrals from her existing accounts, as well as from professionals such as accountants and attorneys.

Diane's strong leadership skills have been recognized by her promotions during her 21-year tenure at the Bank. She began as a commercial lender and went on to manage the commercial loan officers as well as the loan administration department, was promoted to SVP/CLO in July 2019 and then to President/CEO in 2021. Diane is an effective problem solver, with excellent listening skills and the ability to act as a liaison between parties to achieve the desired results. She has spent her career in community banking and enjoys the diversity of knowledge that is required in a smaller institution.

Diane began her career as a management trainee in a community bank in Branford, CT, which exposed her to each department within the institution. Upon completion, her first role was as a junior commercial lender, and she also became the supervisor for the loan administration staff. She recognized the need for more formal credit training to further her lending knowledge and went to work as a credit analyst for Southington Savings Bank where she rose to the position of Vice President, before returning to the field of commercial lending, this time with Essex Savings Bank.

Diane is a graduate of Quinnipiac College where she graduated as Valedictorian of her class. She also graduated from the CT School of Finance and Management and is a 2017 recipient of the Woman of FIRE award. Diane currently serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. and is a member of the Executive Board of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce.



Judith Corprew, President and CEO of New Haven Bank

Ms. Corprew has had more than 40 years of community banking experience, with concentrations in credit, risk management, lending, compliance and corporate governance.

Ms. Corprew's prior employment included positions as Executive Vice President, Chief Risk Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and CRA Officer. Ms. Corprew has managed residential mortgage operations, monitored risk, CISO and cybersecurity oversight, building programs and effective team building. Ms. Corprew is a recipient of "The President's Award" (1990 from The BankMart, Bridgeport, CT.) and "Positive Impact Award" in 2024 from Color a Positive Thought Organization, located in Bridgeport, CT.

Known in the community for her financial literacy model and development of community partnership programs, Ms. Corprew spearheaded a bank consortium fund to meet the needs of underbanked families by providing emergency funds and banking services bridging economic gaps, supported housing downpayment and closing cost assistance programs, as well as provided grant dollars and underwriting review of grant funds to CT women business owners.

Ms. Corprew is currently the President of the Board of the CT State Housatonic Community College Foundation.

Ms. Corprew is a member of professional and social organizations including American Bankers Association, Bankers Compliance Association of Connecticut, Black Women on Boards, and The Links, Incorporated.



Lisa H. Griffin, President/CEO, Director, Eastern Connecticut Savings Bank

Ms. Griffin began her banking career in 1979 and joined Eastern in June of 2004. Until 2017, Ms. Griffin was responsible for the management/oversight of the branch network, alternative delivery channels, and the marketing and compliance departments. She became President/CEO in May 2017. Prior to joining Eastern, Ms. Griffin was VP, Regional Manager for Banknorth Connecticut.

She is active in a number of industry and local organizations and is currently the Chairman of the Board of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce and Madonna Place, Inc. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Bankers Association, the Three Rivers Foundation and the Greater Norwich Area Business/Industry Foundation, Inc.



Cathy Nestruck, Vice President of Women's Leadership and DE&I, American Bankers Association

Ms. Nestruck is the Vice President of Women's Leadership and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the American Bankers Association where she provides guidance, thought leadership, and resources for the banking and financial services industry. Cathy came to ABA after she transitioned from a legal career, first as a law partner in a Midwest firm where she represented banks and other businesses, and later as the Vice President and General Counsel of a global manufacturing company where she

also founded the first Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

She received a bachelor's degree in economics from Hanover College, a law degree from Indiana University, and an Executive Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from Georgetown University. Cathy co-founded the Parity Podcast focused on the equitable advancement of women. She is a frequent speaker and workshop facilitator on women's leadership, allyship, and inclusive workplace cultures.



Maura Malo, President & CEO, Northwest Community Bank

Ms. Malo has 30 years of senior level experience in the banking industry. Prior to her being named President and Chief Executive Officer in 2023, she was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. In addition, she was Senior Vice President and Chief Risk Officer. She was an FDIC Bank Examiner from 1993-2003 before she joined the bank. She holds an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BS from Western New England University. She is also a graduate of the National School of Banking and has received the New Leaders in Banking Award from the Connecticut Bankers

Association.

Maura Malo currently serves on the boards of FISH, Warner Theatre, and is a Regional Board member of Hartford Healthcare. In addition, she has served on numerous other boards in the region. She was a Girl Scouts of CT Troop Leader for 18 years. She and her husband Stephen Malo and their two daughters reside in Litchfield, CT.

Northwest Community Bank is a mutually owned state-chartered bank, headquartered in Winsted, Connecticut since 1860. The bank has branches in Avon, Canton, Collinsville, Farmington, Granby, Lakeville, Litchfield, New Hartford, Simsbury, Torrington, Watertown, Winsted, and an academic branch at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted.



Ellen Poole, Author/Speaker

Ellen Poole teaches people at all levels of their careers effective strategies to build networks and nurture relationships for professional success. She is the author of the book *"Network" Is Not a Verb*.

After graduating from the George Washington University Law School, Ellen moved cross-country to practice law in Arizona. Despite knowing almost no one when she arrived in her new, adopted state, four years later she was selected to be CEO of the Arizona Bankers Association, becoming only the fourth woman to ever lead a state bankers association.

Two years after that she was named by the Phoenix Business Journal as one of its ten most influential people under 40. More recently, Ellen spent almost 15 years as a multi-state government relations executive for USAA, where she built a professional network spanning the country.

Ellen's professional background further includes work at the American Bankers Association and her own consulting and lobbying firm. She is the recipient of an award from the FBI for her efforts in combating bank fraud.



Lesla A. Vanotti, President & CEO, Torrington Savings Bank

Ms. Vanotti is the 14th President & CEO of Torrington Savings Bank. In November of 2019 she was appointed President & Chief Operating Officer as part of a 9-month transition succession plan toward the CEO role. She took the helm on October 2020.

Prior to November 2019, Lesa held the role of Senior Vice President, Treasurer & CFO. She joined Torrington Savings Bank as an Accounting Assistant in 1996. During her tenure she's held titles of Accounting Officer, Assistant Treasurer, and Vice President & Controller. She is a graduate of Torrington High School and Post College and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.

Lesa is a Torrington native who is active in service to the banking industry and the community. She currently serves as a board member of the Connecticut Bankers Association and is President of the CT Community Bankers Association. She also serves as Treasurer of the Torrington Library, the Warner Theatre, and the Torrington Development Corporation in Torrington. Additionally, she is the former chair and member of the Torrington Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, and is a Corporator of the Torrington Historical Society, Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial, and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. She previously served as a member of the St. Peter's School Board & Finance Committee, Asst. Treasurer of the United Way Board of Directors, Secretary & Treasurer of the Women & Girls Fund of Northwest Community Foundation and served as Treasurer, Vice Chair and Chairperson on the Board of Community Health and Wellness of Greater Torrington.

Lesa is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and the Financial Manager's Society and is an instructor for the Connecticut Bankers Association School of Finance & Management and the Barret School of Banking. She was recognized as a 2021 Women in Business honoree by the Hartford Business Journal.

She currently resides in Torrington with her husband, Tom. They have two grown children, Justin and Morgan.