



AN NC CHAMBER EVENT

# Women > A Force In Business

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## Bonnie St. John

Despite having her right leg amputated at age five, Bonnie St. John became the first African-American ever to win medals in Winter Olympic competition, taking home a silver and two bronze medals at the 1984 Winter Paralympics in Innsbruck, Austria. In recognition of this historic achievement, Bonnie was quoted on millions of Starbucks coffee cups and was honored with her portrait in the Main Hall of Trinity College at Oxford as a distinguished alumna.



Bonnie has achieved the highest levels of success in a variety of endeavors throughout her life. In addition to her success as a Paralympic athlete, she is a bestselling author, a highly sought after keynote speaker and leadership consultant for the Fortune 500, a television and radio personality, and an experienced conference facilitator. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard University, and won the Rhodes Scholarship. Upon her return to the United States, Bonnie was appointed by President Clinton as a Director for Human Capital Issues on the White House National Economic Council.

Today, Bonnie travels the globe speaking, leading seminars, and researching her various writing projects. She frequently donates personal appearances at schools, homeless shelters, community groups, and other organizations in hundreds of locations while traveling for corporate clients. As CEO of the Blue Circle Leadership Institute, Bonnie leads several international virtual leadership programs including *Transformational Leadership* - designed to address the unique challenges of multicultural women in the workplace. The celebrated author of seven books, Bonnie co-authored her latest work, *MICRO-RESILIENCE: Minor Shifts for Major Boosts in Focus, Drive, & Energy*, with her husband, former entertainment industry CEO, Allen Haines.

Bonnie also enjoys "giving back." She frequently donates personal appearances to schools, homeless shelters, community groups, and other organizations in hundreds of locations while traveling for corporate clients. Bonnie once again represented the USA as a member of President Obama's official delegation to the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver and the 2106 Paralympic Summer games in Rio de Janeiro.

Bonnie has been featured extensively in both national and international media including: *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *CBS Morning News*, *NBC News*, *PBS*, *NPR*, and *The New York Times*, as well as *People*, "O", and *Forbes*, *Success*, and *Essence* magazines, to name just a few.