



October 17, 2016

Dear Community Leader,

The Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative, in cooperation with Cetan Corp, Cheryl Tan Media, and Old Dominion University's Women's Business Center would like to introduce a recurring series of events specifically designed for women in business.

Historically, men have dominated the workplace – and established the rules of the organizational culture. As more and more women enter this domain, they encounter ingrained male-dominated environments that, to them, are unwelcoming and inflexible. And no wonder! Women's working styles and talents are vastly different from men's, and the "rules" men have created don't fit women. Unfortunately, to date, there haven't been enough powerful women to change the way business is run – in fact, a high number of women flee their situations before they can make a significant impact. - Jane K. Stimmler, contributing *Women On Business* writer

The challenges women face in business have been well documented and discussed; *Work/Life Balance, Health Issues, Discrimination and Pay, Leadership and the Glass Ceiling, Harassment.*

These issues are real around the world, nationally and regionally, right here in Hampton Roads.

Our concept is by creating a network, support group and experiential learning environment, we can help move the needle in the correct and positive direction.

With the above in mind, we would like to introduce ***The Women's Forum of Coastal Virginia.***



WFCV is a part of the HRIC Critical Mass series of experiential learning and networking events.

WFCV is designed to help women in business to succeed.

WFCV is designed by women for women (but men are welcome to attend and learn a thing or two).

WFCV is a place to share, learn and network.

WFCV is a recurring series for repetitive learning and value-add.

The attached flyer for our first inaugural event to be held in December of this year.

Our ASK is for your help in spreading the word, to build interest and participation. In the future, there will be opportunities to assist with additional sponsorship, meeting space, food, all items to build a strong reoccurring program.

Thank you for your consideration for this new regional program.

Dan G. Bell

President, Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative



THE WOMEN'S FORUM OF COASTAL VIRGINIA

JOIN US FOR OUR INAUGURAL MEETING

DECEMBER 8, 2016 @ 11:30 AM

ODU INNOVATION RESEARCH PARK
BUILDING 2, 1ST FLOOR
4211 MONARCH WAY, NORFOLK



\$25 LUNCH INCLUDED
\$5 STUDENT DISCOUNT
PROGRAM: NOON - 1:00 PM

Whether an experienced or aspiring business woman in Hampton Roads, you share a common bond; the challenges associated with being a woman in business.

The Women's Forum of Coastal VA will deliver panel and interactive discussions on impactful topics of significant importance, via a recurring series of events and peer support group which will allow connectivity and sharing amongst participants. Here are just a few samples of topics we'll cover:

-  *Personal gender challenges faced*
-  *Ways of overcoming barriers*
-  *Shattering the glass ceiling*

-  *Creating a culture of equality*
-  *Changing strategies over time*
-  *Achieving the work/home balance*

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Anyone wanting to learn about women's business challenges and what people are doing to overcome them.

REGISTER TODAY <https://thewomensforum.eventbrite.com>

Contact danbell@hric.email with any questions.

The creators and hosts of this inaugural session are:



**INNOVATION
COLLABORATIVE
HAMPTON ROADS**



**Cheryl Tan
MEDIA**



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Center for Enterprise Innovation

IDEA FUSION

**WOMEN'S BUSINESS
CENTER**