
Press Contact:

Jo Roberson Edwards
Jo Roberson Edwards & Associates, LLC
Tel: 404.758.8899
Email: joedwards@6dconnections.com

YWCA Contact:

Tahirah Mahan
Senior Marketing Associate
Tel: 770.209.3716
Email: tmahan@ywcaatlanta.org

YWCA of Greater Atlanta Presents Suze Orman at Atlanta's Largest Financial Conference for Women

Two-day event presents guest speakers, workshops and one-on-one counseling sessions from some of the financial industry's most dynamic international experts.

ATLANTA, GA (December 19, 2005) – On February 3-4, 2006, The YWCA of Greater Atlanta is hosting **MONEY: The Power to Empower Women**, a financial empowerment conference designed to educate and improve the financial stability of all attendees from all economic backgrounds. The two-day event will take place at the Georgia World Congress Center and will feature internationally acclaimed personal finance expert, Emmy Award winner and author of five consecutive New York Times bestsellers, **Suze Orman**.

In addition to Ms. Orman, attendees of all ages will hear presentations by nationally renowned featured speakers **Valerie Brown, Julie Garella, Cynthia Good, Farrah Gray, Dr. Barbara King, Dee Lee, Dr. Julianne Malveaux** and **Dr. Beverly Tatum**, as well as City of Atlanta **Mayor Shirley Franklin**, in 2005 named by Time Magazine as one of the top five best big city mayors in the country and named among the top 10 mayors in the world by worldmayor.com. Attendees will also participate in workshops and "Ask the Advisor" sessions hosted by sponsoring financial institutions.

"Financial proficiency is a key ingredient in empowering Atlanta's women," said Justine Boyd, CEO of The YWCA of Greater Atlanta. "This city has a large number of economically diverse communities and our newest citizens from New Orleans are faced with the difficult task of starting over financially. This conference is both timely and necessary."

In addition to the featured speaker presentations, workshops on retirement planning, starting over, saving for college and real estate investing, many other issues on finance will also be offered by financial professionals. Attendees will schedule one-on-one sessions with financial advisors, gather information from vendors and have books signed by the presenters.

"It is imperative that women educate themselves about important financial topics like investing, credit, home ownership and retirement and estate planning," said Valerie Brown, an executive with ING, the conference's lead sponsor. "In many households, women hold the checkbooks and make the key decisions about the family's finances. This conference will provide practical information to empower and inspire all the attendees to take charge of their financial future today."

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The proceeds generated from the conference will benefit the YWCA's Women in Transition Program, a transitional housing program for homeless women and children, as well as those who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

For tickets to attend **MONEY: The Power to Empower Women**, media kits, vending opportunities or for more information on the event, please visit www.ywcaatlanta.org or call 404.527.7575 ext. 116.

About the Featured Presenters

Suze Orman

Suze Orman has been called “a force in the world of personal finance” and a “one-woman financial advice powerhouse” by USA Today. She is an Emmy Award winner and the author of five consecutive New York Times bestsellers, *The Money Book for the Young Fabulous & Broke*, *The Laws of Money*, *The Lessons of Life; The Road to Wealth*; *The Courage to Be Rich*; and *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom*; and the national bestsellers, *Suze Orman's Financial Guidebook* and *You've Earned It, Don't Lose It*. Website, www.suzeorman.com

Mayor Shirley Franklin

First female mayor of the City of Atlanta and the first African American woman to serve as mayor of a major southern city. In 2005, named by Time Magazine as one of the top five best big city mayors in the country and named among the top 10 mayors in the world by worldmayor.com. Website, www.atlantaga.gov

Valerie Brown

President of ING Advisors Network, responsible for the strategy, profitability, and sales growth for its four broker-dealers, Financial Network Investment Corporation, ING Financial Partners, Inc., Multi-Financial Securities Corporation and PRIMEVEST Financial Services, Inc. Website, www.ing.com/us

Julie Garella

Ms. Garella is a co-founder of McColl Garella, LLC, the investment banking company dedicated to women owned and run businesses. Together with partner Hugh McColl, Jr., an icon in the banking industry and ardent supporter of women's issues, McColl Garella offers women business owners, presidents and CEOs strategic investment banking services and access to a worldwide network of contacts. Website, www.mccollgarella.com

Cynthia Good

Cynthia Good is the CEO and Founding Editor of PINK, the only national publication exclusively for women in business. An award winning journalist and best selling author with more than two decades in the field of journalism. Good helped create and launch Atlanta Woman magazine in 2002. In its first year the publication won the national Ozzie award for best design of a new publication as well as countless letters from women who said the publication changed their lives. Website, www.pinkmagazine.com

Farrah Gray

Farrah Gray is an internationally known and respected entrepreneur and business leader who address more than half a million people per year on leadership, personal development, diversity, strategic planning, creativity, business development and financial management. Gray is a 21-year old who has risen to national prominence in an American “rags-to-riches” story of success, perseverance and hard work. Raised in the projects on Chicago’s south side, Gray defied the odds and became a self-made millionaire by the age of 14. Gray is one of the great business minds and icons of his generation. Website, www.farahgray.com & www.farahgrayfoundation.org

Dr. Barbara King

Founder/Minister of Hillside Chapel and Truth Center, Inc. with over 10,000 members. She is host of her own television program, “A New Thought, a New Life” and internationally known author of seven books and monologues. Website, www.hillsidechapel.org

Dee Lee

The author of many finance books, a financial consultant for many TV and radio stations across the country and gifted in speaking to audiences who possess differing degrees of financial sophistication. Her newest book, *Women and Money; Your Personal Finance Guide*, gives women no-nonsense financial planning advice and discusses the financial roles women take on during their lifetimes. Website, www.deelee.net

Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Recognized for her provocative, progressive and insightful observations, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, an economist, author and commentator, is the President and CEO of Last Word Productions, Inc, a multimedia production company. Described by Dr. Cornel West as “the most iconoclastic public intellectual in the country”, Dr. Malveaux’s contributions to the public dialogue on issues such as race, culture, gender, and their economic impacts, are helping to shape public opinion in 21st century America. Website, www.juliannemalveaux.com

Dr. Beverly Tatum

A scholar, teacher, author, administrator, race relations expert and the ninth president of Spelman College. Established the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (LEADS) at Spelman where financial literacy and economic development of women of color is promoted. Website, www.spelman.edu

About The YWCA of Greater Atlanta and the Women in Transition Program

Founded in 1902, the YWCA of Greater Atlanta is a women’s membership movement whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women’s growth, leadership and power to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. Our Women in Transition program seeks to facilitate economic self-sufficiency for homeless women and their children through comprehensive residential transitional services. For information about YWCA Atlanta visit our Web site at www.ywcaatlanta.org, or contact us at (404) 527-7575.