

# How to join a corporate board and become an effective director

Panel Discussion  
Professional Development Series  
January 12, 2021



## Agenda

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Kickoff & Introductions
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM	Panel Discussion
5:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Q&A



# Introductions

## Moderator:

Amy Rojik

## Panelists:

1. Patricia Connolly
2. Renee Arrington
3. Florence Lowe

- **How did you get here today?**
- **What would you do differently?** (that would make the journey more fun, or less painful, or more rewarding)



3

# Amy Rojik- moderator



## Professional Experience

Amy directs BDO's [Center for Corporate Governance and Financial Reporting](#), as BDO's National Practice partner, and oversees the firm's communications and governance efforts. Amy has more than 25 years of experience in the auditing profession, engaging with financial reporting executives, audit committees, and board members.

Amy leads a collaborative effort in providing continual thought leadership and educational opportunities for clients and contacts of the firm across a broad variety of corporate governance and financial accounting and reporting topics of interest. This includes live and on demand webinar programming, podcasts, in-person board of director forums and presentations, as well as the development of practice aids, surveys, publications, and alerts. Amy is a certified NACD Board Fellow.

She fully supports BDO initiatives aimed at flexibility, development, and career progression, and serves on the BDO's Women's Inclusion initiative and the Virtual Parenting Network as well as BDO's focus on the audit of the future.

## Education

MBA/MS in Accounting, Northeastern University  
BA in Economics and Psychology, Union College



4

# Renee Baker Arrington



## Board Involvement

- Pearson Partners International Inc.
- IIC Partners
- Rethink Results
- National Association for Corporate Directors (NACD), North Texas Chapter
- Foundation for Young Women's Leadership Academy Fort Worth

## Professional Experience

Renee is President and COO of Pearson Partners International which helps clients build world-class teams. She excels in recruiting board and executive talent for Fortune 500 companies, private-equity-backed businesses and not-for-profit organizations. As President and COO of the firm, she serves on the board of directors and provides leadership to the Technology practice. Renee works across many industries including technology, retail, financial services, business services, manufacturing, distribution and R&D.

Renee was named to the 2021 D CEO Dallas 500 list and in 2019, she was named an HMG Strategy Technology Executive to Watch.

## Education

BA, Trinity University  
Parsons School of Design, Paris



5

# Dr. Pat Connolly



## Board Involvement

- SMC Squared
- Bank Cherokee
- Anchor Bank (now Old National Bank)
- Risk Leadership Initiative, University Of St. Thomas
- DFW ATW (Alliance of Technology for Women)
- Tickets for Kids

## Professional Experience

Patricia Connolly is CEO and Founding Partner of SMC Squared, her latest tech company that focuses on optimizing offshore IT services for US companies. Patricia continues to innovate and embrace leadership roles that have spanned F500 roles, thinktank and Big 4 consulting, academia, and start-ups. Recently recognized as an EY Entrepreneur of the Year award nominee and featured in DCEO, Patricia shares a passion for women in leadership, especially at executive and board roles. Founder of the MAC scholarship and partnering with DFW ATW, Patricia works to inspire and support our young STEM talent.

## Education

BA, Computer Science/MIS – University of Minnesota  
MBA, International Business – University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MN  
PhD, Risk, Corporate Strategy, Leadership – University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MN



6

# Florence Lowe



## Board Involvement

- Refugee Services of Texas
- FEI-Dallas
- University of Chicago Dallas Alumni Group
- Dallas Business Club

## Professional Experience

Florence Lowe is the Chief Operations Officer at Synerzip, a software development firm. Prior to Synerzip she held financial leadership roles at high-growth technology firms EZLynx and iSight Partners; in PE at Hudson Advisors, and at F500 firms like Capital One and American Airlines. She is involved with the technology community in Dallas as a mentor to startups at Capital Factory & VMS NTX, a mentoring group working with UTD, UTA and UT Southwestern. She started her career as a software engineer with IBM Global Services.

## Education

MBA from University of Chicago Booth School of Business  
MCA from Jawaharlal Nehru University  
BA in Mathematics from University of Delhi



7

# Q & A



8

## Contact Information

### **Amy Rojik**

- arojik@bdo.com
- Phone: 617-239-7005

### **Renee Baker Arrington**

- rarrington@pearsonpartnersintl.com
- Phone: 214-292-4130

### **Dr. Patricia Connolly**

- Patricia.connolly@smc2.com
- Phone: 952-428-8068

### **Florence Lowe**

- florence@synerzip.com
- Phone: 214-676-9963



9

## Resource Information

- **BDO Center for Corporate Governance** - programming and thought leadership
- **BDO in the Boardroom Podcast Series**- features series within series on “Getting to the Boardroom”



10

**Thank you**

