



For Immediate Release

Women in Insurance Technology Gather at the Koger Center in Columbia, SC
Nearly 100 senior and emerging technology leaders meet for a workshop on Unconscious Bias

October 31, 2019, Columbia, SC – The Women in Insurance Technology of South Carolina (WiITsc) hosted a program on Unconscious Bias at the Koger Center for the Arts on October 16, 2019. The program was led by Ann Jessup of Southeast Pathways Consulting and 98 women from more than 50 companies/organizations attended the event, which was sponsored by Sapiens International Corporation.

Dianne Parker of Parker Consulting, Executive Director of WiITsc, was pleased with the success of the event. “Our organization was born out of the roots established in Columbia’s insurance technology community,” stated Ms. Parker, who founded the group in January 2019 with the initial purpose of creating awareness for the STEM-focused programs offered by the SC Governor’s School for Science & Mathematics.



Parker continued, “Our members range from emerging leaders in the early stages of their careers to senior professionals who have achieved significant accomplishments over the years. Our debut program in January was so successful that it led to offers from several local, national, and global corporations to sponsor future events. WiITsc continues to grow and the feedback from our members and guests has been incredibly positive regarding the value they receive from our programs.”

Kay Hampton, Deputy Director of the City of Columbia Economic Development agrees. “The insurance technology talent we have in Columbia is unparalleled and this asset is a priority focus for the City of Columbia for attracting new business. I attended the WiITsc event to meet some of the industry’s top talent and was pleasantly surprised when the program vastly exceeded my expectations” Ms. Hampton said. “While Unconscious Bias is a hot discussion topic in 2019, Ann Jessup’s workshop offered a different perspective and that is to recognize the bias within ourselves. Every person in the room was engaged, focused, energetic, and took real value away from the event.”



Ann Jessup of Southeast Pathways Consulting led a workshop on Unconscious Bias

While WiITsc is managed by a SC-based volunteer leadership team, many participants travel to Columbia to participate in its programs. “We’ve had attendees from New York, Chicago, Massachusetts and Nebraska travel to attend all three of the events we’ve held this year,” states Parker, “In fact, most of our sponsors to date have been companies based outside of South Carolina that recognize the tremendous resources we have here in the insurance technology arena.”

The most recent sponsor, Sapiens International Corporation, is headquartered in Israel. In the past 12 months Sapiens has hired more than 30 insurance technology professionals in Columbia. “It was an honor to sponsor such brilliance and be a part of such a special community,” stated Caroline Berman, Vice President of Professional Services at Sapiens. “I am very active in women-in-technology groups throughout the US and the WiITsc group is the best I have experienced.”

WiITsc is in the process of planning its next event which will be held in the spring of 2020.

**About Ann Jessup**

Ann Jessup, partner of Southeast Pathways Consulting, is a multifaceted business leader with proven success in supporting and improving complex organizations using compelling metrics and targeted plans. Ann has deep insurance and technology expertise and partners with professionals, executives, and organizations to support individual and business initiatives and identify and solve problems locally and globally. She can be reached at southeastpathwaysconsulting@gmail.com.

About WiITsc

The Women in Insurance Technology group of SC (WiITsc) aims to foster a culture of inclusion and support for all, with special emphasis on the emerging women leaders in the Columbia insurance technology community. WiITsc is vendor agnostic and representatives from all insurance technology and related companies are welcome to join the group and/or attend WiITsc programs. With the goal of being inclusive, the group welcomes women from diverse backgrounds and professional experiences. For more information, visit www.wiitsc.com.

Media contact:

Martie Streit

803.239.6780

martie.streit@mvpadvisorygroup.com