



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**African Diaspora Network Hosts “A Celebration of Sisterhood” Featuring Keynote Speaker
Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, PhD**

Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, COO of AnitaB.org, keynotes for the 2019 ADN International Women’s Day Event

March 9, 2019 — African Diaspora Network (ADN), in honor of International Women’s Day, hosted a celebration of sisterhood to commemorate unity among diverse individuals for the common cause of advancement for women and girls. The intimate conversation featured keynote speaker Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, PhD, an author and seasoned impact leader and executive who is making a global impact as Chief Operating Officer of AnitaB.org, the world’s preeminent Women in Tech enterprise.

Founder of ADN Almaz Negash began with opening remarks to welcome the thirty attendees present and invited Caroline Ocampo of CKO+ Media to share what International Women’s Day means to us locally and globally. Negash and Ocampo emphasized the importance of celebrating one another, sharing aspirations and challenges, strengthening relationships, and investing in women. “When you give a woman a dollar, about 75% goes back to their family,” says Negash. “If we know this to be true, why not invest in women?”

Negash introduced Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, who was recently named a leader in preserving the stories and accomplishments of African Americans by The HistoryMakers. In her keynote address, Dr. Copeland-Carson established the contemporary period as “The Century of the Woman.” Infusing personal narrative within the historical progress of women from the 20th to the 21st century, she conveyed themes of disjointedness among women’s experiences. She recounted anecdotes ranging from her youth in Philadelphia to her time as a university student in Nigeria that cultivated her awareness of identity at the intersection of race, gender, and diasporic origin. Summing up her journey, Copeland-Carson concluded with ten major life lessons that include overcoming socialized perfectionism among women, advocating for oneself, and empowering women as a key ingredient to a healthier planet.

Dr. Copeland-Carson’s keynote address was followed by a deep-dive conversation facilitated by Almaz Negash and Caroline Ocampo based on the UN Women International Women’s Day 2019 Theme: “Think equal, build smart, innovate for change.” Attendees voted upon Q&A topics including:

- As innovators and industry leaders, how are we game-changers in our communities?
- How do we keep evolving as 21st century women?
- How do we open opportunities for ourselves and others?
- How do we identify our own dreams and inspire those around us?
- How do we inspire transformative innovation in our society?
- What are the innovative ways we can advance and empower women and our communities?

- What barriers do we want to remove for women and girls?

Guest attendees included women leaders of technology firms including AnitaB.org, eBay, and Symantec. Participants emphasized the importance of mentorship and counsel in advancing opportunities for women and girls. Amari Romero-Thomas concluded the session with a celebratory call to action, encouraging participants to define an actionable goal based upon the session's takeaways. Attendee responses ranged from building deeper connections with budding women leaders to seeking opportunities to mentor and further innovation.

“Everyone who is successful has had someone stand up for them,” says Jacqueline Copeland-Carson. “We better find our common ground and work on the principle of 'ubuntu.' That is what I live by, 'I am because you are.’”

For more information, please contact us at: info@africandiasporanetwork.org