

# LEAP ALUMNI LECTURE SERIES



## *Navigating Challenges & Expectations in the Work Place*

**APRIL 19, 2024 AT 9:30 AM**

### ALUMNI SPEAKERS



**MELISSA EDMOND**  
*LEAP 2010, Howard 2014, South  
University 2018 & 2023, Clinical  
Pharmacist II*

Starting out as a LEAP Kindergarten, Melissa graduated high school at the top of the class of 2010. Melissa then decided to call Howard University home, as a Nutritional Sciences major. After graduating from Howard in 2014, she moved on to the South University School of Pharmacy in Savannah, GA where she pursued her passion for pharmacy and earned her Doctorate in Pharmacy degree. In 2022 she went back to school to complete her Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration. She is now a full-time Clinical Pharmacist in the Baltimore, Maryland area.



**JENNYFER SANTANA**  
*LEAP 2008, Rutgers 2010, Recruiter  
at Wells Fargo, Assistant Vice  
President*

Jennyfer Santana's trajectory from humble beginnings in Camden, NJ, to her current role as Assistant Vice President Recruiter at Wells Fargo is a testament to resilience and hard work. After graduating from Leap Academy and facing challenges at Rutgers Camden, Jennyfer joined Wells Fargo as a Teller to support her family. Through dedication and exceptional performance, she ascended through the ranks, ultimately achieving her current leadership position. Jennyfer's journey exemplifies the power of perseverance and seizing opportunities, inspiring others to overcome obstacles on their path to success.



**FRANCISCO MALDONADO**  
*LEAP 2008, Stockton University,  
Sergeant, NJ State Police*

Francisco Maldonado's educational journey began at LEAP in 7th grade, leading to his high school graduation in 2008. He then earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Stockton University in 2012 and completed training at the NJ State Police Academy with the 153rd Class on December 6, 2013. Throughout his career with the NJ State Police, Francisco has served in various assignments, including Buena Vista, Bridgton Station, and Bellmawr Station. Currently stationed at the NJ Turnpike, Troop D, Moorestown Station, Francisco remains dedicated to upholding the values of the force. He resides in Mount Laurel Township, happily married with three children.



**BIELKA GONZALEZ**

***LEAP 2016, Rutgers 2020, Protiviti  
Consultant Accountant***

Bielka Gonzalez, a graduate of LEAP with the class of 2016, continued her educational journey at Rutgers-Camden, earning her bachelor's degree in Accounting in 2020. With a keen interest in financial matters, Bielka currently thrives as a consultant, specializing in Internal Audits, SOX testing, and Anti-Money Laundering work for various companies. Notably, she is a recipient of the Rutgers Alfredo Santiago & Gloria Bonilla-Santiago Scholarship, a testament to her academic excellence and dedication. Looking ahead, Bielka is diligently preparing to transition to Rutgers Law School, where she plans to leverage her accounting background to pursue a career as a financial law consultant, combining her passion for finance with legal expertise to make a meaningful impact in the field.



**SOFIA ABREU**

***LEAP 2007, Stockton 2011, Temple  
2015, Stockton Director of Career  
Education & Development***

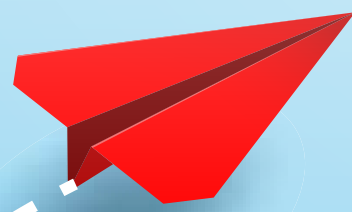
Sofia Abreu, a proud first-generation student and Stockton University alumna, recently assumed the role of Director of Career Education & Development at Stockton University. With a decade of experience in higher education, Sofia has cultivated expertise in Career Services, having served in roles at Temple University, Villanova University, and Rowan College at Burlington County. She holds a B.S. in Speech Therapy and Audiology from Stockton University and an M.Ed in Educational Leadership from Temple University. Passionate about supporting students' career and professional development, Sofia is dedicated to fostering equity and inclusion in all aspects of her work. She is committed to collaborating with the campus community to innovate and provide students with the opportunities and networks necessary for success.



**ROB RANSOM**


***LEAP 2009, Howard 2013, Rutgers  
Law 2016, Assistant General Counsel  
Exelon Lawyer***

Rob Ransom is an accomplished lawyer with a diverse background in corporate and commercial law. A graduate of LEAP in 2009, Howard University in 2013, and Rutgers Law in 2016, Rob has honed his skills in handling complex transactions and resolving contractual disputes. Currently serving as Assistant General Counsel at Pepco Holdings, Inc, an Exelon Corporation company, Rob plays a pivotal role in facilitating the company's business objectives. With a focus on real estate transactions, land development matters, and energy projects, Rob leverages his extensive legal experience to provide practical solutions that drive success and promote collaboration across various business units.



**Contact Us**

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