
SPEAKER BIOS

BUCKS-MONT COLLABORATIVE 2026 COMMUNITY SUMMIT

Bold on Purpose: Leading Audaciously, Together



Wednesday, May 20
9:30am-3:30pm
+ AM Networking



Gwynedd Mercy University



[Dethra U. Giles](#)

The Audacity Broker®, 5x TEDx Speaker, CEO of ExecuPrep, and Author of *That's Not What I Said*

Dethra Giles is the voice organizations call when communication breaks down and culture is on the line.

A sought-after speaker, executive coach, and strategist, Dethra helps companies, leaders, and teams transform how they show up, speak up, and lead across lines of power, perspective, and difference.

With a background in leadership development, organizational development, and conflict navigation, she delivers more than inspiration—she delivers infrastructure for how people work together when the stakes are high. Her proprietary frameworks, including the award-winning DARE™ model, have helped thousands of professionals master difficult conversations, navigate change, and turn tension into clarity.

Dethra has served clients across industries, Fortune 500s, startups, academic institutions, and government agencies, earning a reputation as the person who can shift rooms, reset teams, and move missions forward. Her approach is bold, insightful, and always rooted in the belief that culture is not what you say, it's how you communicate, lead, and live it out.

When she's not on stage or advising the C-suite, Dethra is teaching the world how to master conflict with conversational competence in her book, *That's Not What I Said*. She's also a weekly voice on the nationally syndicated Willie Moore Jr. Show, helping professionals move from the cubicle to the corner office with strategy and audacity.



Dr. Veirdre Jackson

**Deputy Chief of Training, Development, and Multicultural Initiatives
for Montgomery County, PA**

As the Deputy Chief of Training, Development, and Multicultural Initiatives for Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Dr. Veirdre Jackson brings her passion for cultivating emotionally intelligent, equity-driven, and resilient leadership to a countywide stage. She leads the design and facilitation of transformative professional learning, strengthens partnerships across systems and communities, and champions environments rooted in trust, psychological safety, and belonging. With a deep commitment to elevating community voice and guiding leaders through complex challenges, Dr. Jackson advances inclusive excellence that honors the dignity and worth of every resident.

With more than 20 years of leadership experience and as CEO of Living Strong Consulting, Dr. Jackson is a visionary leader, educator, and entrepreneur dedicated to helping businesses, educational institutions, leaders, and professionals overcome burnout, enhance communication, boost productivity, and strengthen team relationships. Her work centers on fostering belonging and resilience to create thriving environments where individuals and teams can reach their full potential. As an award-winning author, keynote speaker, and consultant, Dr. Jackson's dynamic expertise has impacted organizations across sectors.

Through her R.E.F.I.L.L. Framework—which includes strategies to Rewire for Relationships, Embrace Emotional Health, Find Strength in Community, Influence Others, Let IT Go, and Level Up—Dr. Jackson delivers practical, transformative tools for addressing burnout, managing stress, and building authentic connections in fast-paced professional settings.

Dr. Jackson's influence spans diverse audiences, including educators, corporate leaders, administrators, and clinicians. She has collaborated with leading organizations, including:



Dr. Veirdre Jackson (Continued)

- Lakeside Global Institute, where she served as a mentor trainer.
- Penn State Extension, developing online trauma responsive courses.
- Head Start and Early Head Start, as a coach for classroom and home visiting staff.
- Numerous charter schools, public school districts, and intermediate units, as a Relational Coach.

Dr. Jackson's work with these organizations underscores her commitment to improving communication, building trust, and fostering sustainable growth.

Her John Maxwell Team Certification elevates her leadership training capabilities, allowing her to facilitate transformative workshops, mastermind sessions, and one-on-one coaching. She covers topics such as Today Matters, Leadership Gold, Becoming a Person of Influence, and The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth, empowering professionals to achieve personal and organizational success.

From 2021- 2023, she was also the host of the popular Living Strong: The Flip Side of Adversity LIVE radio show on the Voice America Network's Empowerment Channel, which reached over 100,000 listeners across 75 countries. In 2024, she expanded her reach by launching a podcast of the same name on Podbean and YouTube, syndicated to platforms like Spotify, Apple Play, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Music. The podcast features inspiring stories and actionable advice for navigating adversity in relationships, leadership, health, and mindset.

As an accomplished author, Dr. Jackson has published several impactful works:

- 16 Principles for Abundant Living (2016), a guide for women's empowerment.
- Fearless Conversations with a Limitless God (2019), an award-winning exploration of breaking toxic thought cycles. Recognized with two Silver Medals from BookFest and featured on the Nasdaq board in Times Square, this book continues to inspire readers globally.
- R.E.F.I.L.L.: 6 Strategies to Reconnect, Rejuvenate, & Restore with Soul Care (2024 eBook), a vital resource for navigating the demands of professional caregiving and rediscovering purpose and fulfillment.



Dr. Veirdre Jackson (Continued)

In 2025, Dr. Jackson will release the eBook, *Belonging Over Barriers: Unlocking The Art of Belonging in Business, Personal Power, and Collective Impact*. This groundbreaking series equips leaders and teams with skills to create authentic belonging, foster empathy, and drive innovation in today's professional landscape.

Dr. Jackson's expertise has earned her numerous accolades, including:

- Recognition as a Professional Development Champion by Pennsylvania's Keystone Stars Southeast Regional Key.
- Selection as an Author Allstar in 2023 and 2024.
- Honoree of the 2023 Exchange Leadership Initiative, which celebrates visionary leaders in early care and education.

She is also a featured presenter for the Trauma and Child Development Series by Penn State's Better Kid Care, a contributor to Women's Entrepreneur Magazine, and a sought-after keynote and podcast guest.

Dr. Jackson holds a Bachelor's degree from Drexel University, a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Temple University, and a Doctoral Degree in Leadership and Innovation from Wilmington University. Her academic foundation supports her innovative approaches to leadership, community building, and resilience.

Outside of her professional life, Dr. Jackson cherishes her roles as a wife, mother of two daughters, and GiGi to her three grandchildren: Max, Jaxon, and Ceres. Her family inspires her continued commitment to creating meaningful, lasting change for the next generation.

With her deep understanding of organizational systems, trauma-informed practices, and leadership development, Dr. Veirdre Jackson is uniquely positioned to guide businesses, schools, and professionals toward success. Whether addressing burnout, enhancing communication, or fostering belonging, she delivers actionable solutions that inspire transformation and drive results.