



Dear JWBC Community,

As the Advisory Chair of the Jacksonville Women's Business Center, I am continually inspired by the vision, dedication and authenticity of the entrepreneurs in our community. The challenges they face each day and the dedication they show to continue to move forward is an example of true courage. As a business owner and leader in our great community, I am in awe of the talent and the forward thinking business owners that call Jacksonville their home. I am equally in awe of the many sponsors, mentors and friends who choose to support each of us in our many endeavors. One of my favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou, "When you learn, teach; and when you get, give". The Jacksonville Women's Business Center is a true testament of that quote.

We have great momentum this year and have already met some of our ambitious goals. We know our exciting new programs will continue the trajectory to ensure prosperity and entrepreneurial growth. This will position us to move closer to a world class business center that promotes and supports women entrepreneurs. Together, we can do it!

**Rose Conroy, JWBC Advisory Board Chair**

### **JWBC Hosts Keynote Speaker & Entrepreneur, Teresa Meares**

You won't want to miss this inspiring JWBC event as we host **Teresa Meares** whose entrepreneurial journey is simply fascinating. Learn about her career, growing business and her work as an advocate for women in business.

Teresa has 19 years of law enforcement experience and is a retired patrol sergeant with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. Teresa is a published author of the "Think Safe 2 Be Safe" series, with stories focused on teaching children how to stay safe.

She is the Immediate Past Chair for the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). As Chair for the NAWBO Institute for Entrepreneurial Development, Teresa was also appointed as Vice President for the World Association for Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM) and is on the advisory council for Enterprising Women Magazine.



Currently, Teresa is Chair of the Board of Directors for Hubbard House and a Past President of the Women Business Owners of North Florida. She is currently the President of DGG Uniform and Work Apparel and manages Audibelle, a clothing line launched by her daughter, Kayla. DGG Uniform & Work Apparel, has been recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in NE Florida and a Florida Company to Watch by GrowFL.

This event takes place Thursday, Feb. 22nd at Bella Serra from 11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m.



Seating is limited, so be sure to register today!  
Tickets: \$35 per person, includes lunch and program

Registration: click [here](#)

Bella Serra is located at 919 King Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204



**"The support from JWBC has been tremendous! The one-on-one mentorship was just invaluable to me as an entrepreneur."**

Meet **Kristy Alexander**, Founder of Apple Rose Beauty who has a mission to help women one beautiful step at a time. Her video will inspire you to be the best you can be!

To view, click [here](#).



### **JWBC Success Story**

**Vicky Zelen** had a dream. While in high school in Milwaukee, Vicky started working at an insurance agency while she was in high school. She gained a good amount of experience working for the world's largest insurance agency for almost six years. But it was after working at local agencies in Jacksonville for years, and having a hard time finding the opportunity to move into sales, that Vicky started her own insurance agency. She was determined to sell insurance and at the age of 34, Zelen Risk Solutions, Inc. was established. Although Vicky did not have any clients or contracts with insurance companies, her determination to sell insurance propelled her into success.

Read more [here](#).

## Upcoming Programs & Events



### Customer Development Program

**SOLD OUT!**

[Stay tuned for our next series!](#)

This is a revolutionary new 5-week program that focuses on learning the practice of gaining customer insights to generate, test and optimize ideas for products and services.

Please contact Ashlea Justice at 904-366-6623 or [ashlea.justice@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:ashlea.justice@myjaxchamber.com) for more details.

#### **Dates & Location:**

February 8, 15  
March 1, 15, 22  
Time: 9:00a.m. to noon  
Cost: \$150 (intro class special)  
Location: Hadlow Boardroom, JAX Chamber  
Registration link: [www.jaxwbc.com](http://www.jaxwbc.com)



### JWBC Entrepreneurial Saturday

Our high-energy event is back! Join us for another JWBC Entrepreneur Saturday. Our guest speaker will be [Melanie Lawson-Minor](#), WJXT's Morning News Anchor. Melanie is an Emmy nominated journalist at WJXT and the earliest riser on the #1 morning show in Jacksonville. Imagine a four hour long newscast beginning at 4:30a.m.!

Later that morning, [Andy Brennan](#) from the Jacksonville Business Journal will discuss the many ways you can use print news to prospect for success and grow your referral network.

Enjoy a delicious breakfast while making new connections and engaging with our speakers.

#### **Date & Location:**

January 27  
Time: 8:30 - 11:30a.m.  
Cost: Free  
Location: JAX Chamber, Hadlow Board room  
[Click here](#) to register



### JBJ Mentoring Monday

In partnership with the Jacksonville Business Journal, we invite you to the annual Bizwomen Mentoring Monday event on Feb. 12th at 5:30p.m. This event will take place in 43 markets on the same day, from Albany to Hawaii! The Bizwomen Mentoring Monday offers attendees the opportunity to choose from 40+ mentors who are the most influential women in the community for five-minute one-on-one coaching sessions.

For more details and to register, click [here](#).

## WBO Spotlight

Join the WBO at their signature event, March 8, from 11:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. at the UNF University Center. The keynote speaker will be Entrepreneur and Business Leader, **Amy Pope Wells**. For more information and to register, please visit [www.jaxwbo.org](http://www.jaxwbo.org).



Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and tag us on Twitter with the hashtag #jaxwbc



STAY CONNECTED



For more information, please contact Kathy Bolesworth at (904) 366-6633 or [kathy.bolesworth@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:kathy.bolesworth@myjaxchamber.com)