



## Speaker bios

**PROFESSOR LANDRY SIGNÉ** is a world-renowned professor and leading practitioner who has won over 70 prestigious awards and distinctions globally for his academic, policy, business, and leadership accomplishments. He has received the fastest reported tenure and promotion to the highest rank of full professor in the history of U.S. universities in his discipline. He served as the Managing Director and is now the Executive Director and Professor at the Thunderbird School of Global Management; Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution; Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University; Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Regional Action Group for Africa; Chairman of the Global Network for Africa's Prosperity; Senior Adviser to top global leaders (presidential, prime minister, and C-suite levels) in business, policy, and international affairs; and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Agile Governance, among others. He is also Founding Director of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Globalization 4.0 Initiative and author of numerous books published by the world's #1 ranked academic press in the field (Cambridge University Press). In addition, he has been on numerous boards and councils including for the World Economic Forum, the United Nations, and the African Union.

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**FLORIZELLE (FLORIE) LISER** is the third President and CEO of CCA. She is the first woman to lead the Council since its founding in 1993. Ms. Liser joined CCA from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), where she was the Assistant USTR for Africa since 2003. At USTR, she led trade and investment policy towards 49 sub-Saharan African nations and oversaw the implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Ms. Liser's previous roles include Assistant USTR for Industry, Market Access, and Telecommunications; Senior Trade Policy Advisor in the Office of International Transportation and Trade at the Department of Transportation; Director in the USTR's Office of GATT Affairs; and Associate Fellow at the Overseas Development Council. She has occupied various board positions, including her current role on the Sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee for the Export-Import Bank (EXIM); chair of the Advisory Council for the Millennium Challenge Corporation; and Board member for the Women in International Trade (WIIT). Ms. Liser holds an M.A. in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, and a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from Dickinson College.

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**SEAN WALKER** is an African American entrepreneur who has lived in South Africa for 14 years. He became drawn to the South African hairdressing industry almost immediately after arriving in Johannesburg in January 2009. With the size and buying power of the black middle class in South Africa, he wondered whether there was an opportunity to provide a high-quality training program for individuals passionate about styling black hair. Upon meeting one of South Africa's top stylists, Kenneth Mokgosi, Sean realized that his initial idea had merit and the two started to build a curriculum that would meet the needs of the South African market. Before co-founding Royal Hairstyles, Sean was a small business consultant for three years at Endeavor South Africa. Before that, Sean spent two years as an M&A investment banker at Citi Bank in New York. Sean has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, with a concentration in Finance, from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

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**LOTANNA AMINA OKPUKPARA** is a Gemological Institute of America (GIA)-certified Gemologist and Engineer. She has an MSc. in Business and Innovation from Lancaster University, UK. She is the Principal Director of the vertically integrated social company, Mina Stones, and is actively involved in projects that aim to develop the jewelry industry as well as improve livelihood of people along the supply chain. She is the co-founder of the African Gemstone & Jewelry Exhibition and Seminar (AGJES). She is on the Black in Jewelry Coalition (BIJC) Advisory board, a member of the Society of Women Engineers, Technologists, and Scientists (SWETS) Africa where she is involved in mentorship and community service. She is also a member of the Women's Jewelry Association (WJA) USA where she serves as a mentor.