



**Merry Korn**

**Proven Value Creator and Social Entrepreneur**

Korn is a passionate leader with a successful track record of building and scaling high-growth companies. Leveraging a unique combination of business acumen, social impact focus, and collaborative leadership to create exceptional value for stakeholders.

**Key Achievements:**

- Grew Pearl Interactive Network, a for-profit social enterprise providing healthcare and contact center services to government agencies, to over \$50,000,000.
- Prior to Pearl, Korn co-founded American Health, a national medical management firm, achieving \$30 million in sales before acquisition.
- Championed social impact initiatives by creating a "Blue Ocean" strategy in the government sector, prioritizing hiring individuals with barriers to employment and accessing government designated set-aside certifications.
- Cultivated a high-performing culture, recognized with numerous awards including the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Columbus Business First Fast 50 Award.

**Expertise:**

- **Leadership & Team Building:** Foster a collaborative and empowering environment, attracting, and retaining top talent.
- **Business Development:** Develop and execute strategic plans, achieving consistent top-line growth.
- **Product Development:** Conduct market research and collaborate with stakeholders to create innovative solutions.
- **Strategic Marketing:** Develop and implement effective marketing strategies across diverse channels.
- **Workforce Development:** Create career pathways and promote employee engagement through innovative programs.

**Functional Expertise:**

- Start-up Business Development
- ESG/Workforce Development
- Strategic Partnerships

**Sector Expertise:**

- Managed Healthcare
- Liability Insurance
- Government Contracting

Awards Include: (Awards prior to 2016 have not been included)

- 2024 Elev8 GovCon Award
- 2023 Stevie Awards (3)
- 2023 Washington Technology Fast50
- 2023 Women in Business Awards (3)
- 2023 Winchester Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award

- 2023 Columbus Business First Women of Influence, Entrepreneur of the Year Award
  - 2022 Cheshire Home Champion of Breaking Barriers Award
  - 2022 Pillar Award for Community Service
  - 2022 Women WELDing the Way Calendar Honoree
  - 2021 Columbus Business First Fast 50 Award
  - 2019 EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award
  - 2019 NAWBO Member of the Year Award
  - 2018 SmartBusiness Progressive Entrepreneur Honoree
  - 2017 SmartBusiness Smart 50 Award
  - 2016 Columbus Business First Fast 50 Award recipient
  - 2016 Columbus Business First Diversity in Business Award recipient
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### **Jill Nagy-Reynolds**

Jill Nagy-Reynolds began assisting small businesses in understanding government procurement in 2008. As Director of the Southwest Central Ohio Procurement Technical Assistance Center (now Apex Accelerators), she led a team of Counselors dedicated to assisting small businesses in understanding government acquisitions and certifications. She began working as a Business Opportunity Specialist at the SBA Columbus District Office in 2012. Her responsibilities include working with companies currently certified in the 8(a) BD program to enhance their business development and access to government contracting opportunities. She also serves as HUBZone Liaison for the Columbus District.

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**Sheryl Marrero** SMarrero@savkon.com

CEO, SavKon Construction Office: 614.372.5069

2868 Stelzer Rd #226

Columbus, OH 43219

As the CEO of SavKon Construction, Sheryl Marrero brings a lifetime of enthusiasm, innovation and project management experience renovating projects. Serving Franklin County and surrounding areas, SavKon specializes in renovating to including acoustic ceilings, carpentry, demolition, flooring, painting, drywall and framing. Employees are OSHA-certified and customers range from general contractors to all levels of governmental agencies to private clients.

Fully licensed and bonded, a Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB) and member of the Columbus' Business Opportunity Assessment Program (BOAP), her many other designations and certifications include MBE (Minority Business Enterprise), EDGE (Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity) and (LEDE) Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise. An Air Force veteran who served her country during both Iraqi conflicts, she is also part of the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Companies (SDVOSB). She received her MBA from Webster University. While excelling in a 15-year information technology career, Sheryl's true passion has always been renovation. In 2011, she started Better Homes by Sheryl, LLC that specialized in renovating residential properties. In 2017, she changed the name to SavKon after a successful expansion to renovating commercial real estate. SavKon stands for Savvy Contractor and reinforces Sheryl's commitment to quality work and customer service in the construction industry.

Sheryl's IT experiences, including managing security, development and improvement of personnel and systems for the Chillicothe VA Medical Center, have also resulted in her mastering of many of the skills necessary for completion of multiple, many-tiered and overlapping projects. These include:

- Project management
- Knowledge of safety and occupational health principles, practices, and regulations
- Analysis and evaluation of safety/security issues
- Risk and vulnerability assessments
- Developing, verifying and implementing compliance standards and procedures
- Designing and modifying workplaces, processes, products or other systems to control, identify or eliminate hazards
- Supervising and directing a diverse workforce

Sheryl and her family currently reside in Columbus, Ohio. Her hobbies include exercising, world traveling, reading, coaching and mentoring.



**Jeanne M. Gokcen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**

President/CEO

FutureCom Technologies

- Founder and President/CEO of FutureCom Technologies
- Speech-language pathologist and speech scientist
- Organizations:
  - o NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners)
    - member since 2006
    - 2011-12 President of NAWBO Columbus
    - Past VP of Public Policy Committee
- Member of Public Policy Committee, 2006-present
  - o President, Board of Directors, Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce, 2023, 2024
  - o Board of Directors, Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce, 2020-present
  - o Board of Directors, The Ohio University Alumni Association, 2010-2013
  - o ASHA, member since 1984
  - o OSLHA, member since 1984
  - o Chair, Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition (OSHGAC), 2003-2007
- Awards:
  - o 2010 Member of the Year, NAWBO Columbus
  - o 2008 Medal of Merit Award for distinguished achievement in my field, Ohio University Alumni Association
  - o 2007 TopCAT Award (renamed TechColumbus Innovation Award) for “Outstanding Woman in Technology” for innovations in products, services, and business model for FutureCom’s speech technology consulting and development, TechColumbus
  - o Athena PowerLink Award, 2006
- Education:
  - o PhD, Speech Science – The Ohio State University
  - o BS, MA, Speech-Language Pathology - Ohio University

**About FutureCom Technologies**

- Founded in 1994
- Certified Woman-owned Small Business
- We provide intelligent telecom for business, helping companies create a dynamic, effective phone business front and call management system that actively contributes to their business’s success and growth. We offer a comprehensive service ensuring all telecom needs are taken care of for each customer, including basic infrastructure and equipment, tailored call management, mobility, and disaster recovery, utilizing Comunify®, our cloud-based, speech-enabled unified communications platform.



**Monica L. Womack (Moderator)** is a respected strategic advisor and advocate for economic equity with over two decades of experience advancing inclusive economic development. She is the Founder and CEO of MLW Solutions LLC, where she leads innovative initiatives that address the structural and financial barriers faced by historically under-resourced businesses.

Prior to launching MLW Solutions, Monica served as the Chief of the State of Ohio Minority Business Development Division, where she led statewide efforts to expand business certifications, increase access to capital, and deliver robust technical assistance - changing thousands of entrepreneurs across Ohio. A results-driven and community-centered leader, Monica is known for building cross-sector partnerships that empower both public- and private-sector ecosystems to drive measurable, lasting change. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management and a Master of Public Administration, both from Franklin University.