



## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT DINNER

**JULY 21, 2024**

**7-10PM**

**Paragon Casino Resort | Marksville, Louisiana**



# AGENDA

6:30PM - Doors Open

7:00PM- Welcome, Ashley Love

7:10PM - Blessing, Rosa Pierite

7:15PM - Heather Cloud, Louisiana State Senator

7:30PM - Dawn Himel, Deputy Director, Louisiana Office of Attorney General, Gaming Division

7:45PM - Trivia Game

8:00PM - Michelle Purl, CEO, United Way of CENLA

8:15PM - Missy Daniels, Be Inspired Counseling and Consulting

8:30PM - Purse Game

8:45PM - Victoria Love, Miss Avoyelles Parish's Teen 2024

9:00PM - Lora Ann Chaisson, Principal Chief of United Houma Nation

9:15 - Dr. Kristi Anderson, Chief Strategy Officer, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

9:30 - Nancy Landry, Louisiana Secretary of State

9:50 - Closing Remarks

# THE MC FOR TONIGHT



Donna Desoto, a Baton Rouge native residing in Avoyelles Parish for 46 years, is a retired juvenile probation officer with 38 years of service. She is passionate about helping youth and currently serves as the Executive Director for the Avoyelles Community & Youth Coalition, focusing on reducing underage drinking and substance abuse.

**DONNA DESOTO**

**Executive Director  
Avoyelles Community and Youth Coalition**

# OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Nancy Landry, Louisiana's 45th Secretary of State, elected in 2023, focuses on voting system security and protecting voter data. Previously, she served as First Assistant Secretary of State and a state representative. A Baton Rouge resident, Landry holds a law degree from LSU and has extensive experience in public service and private law.

**SECRETARY NANCY LANDRY**

**Louisiana Secretary of State**

# SPEAKERS



Louisiana State Senator Heather Cloud, a conservative Christian and businesswoman, represents District 28. Married for 23 years with two sons, she enjoys gardening, horseback riding, and fishing. Cloud, formerly a local mayor, now serves as Vice Chair of Finance in the State Senate, driving change through experience and innovation.

**HEATHER CLOUD**

Louisiana State Senator



Dawn M. Himel, Director of the Gaming Division at the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, has extensive experience in licensing, compliance, and litigation. She earned degrees from UCF and LSU. A member of several professional organizations, she received the 2024 Excellence in Gaming Award for regulatory excellence.

**DAWN HIMEL**

Deputy Director for the Gaming Division  
Louisiana Attorney General's Office



Michelle Purl, originally from Minnesota, has called Florida home for 32 years. A Florida State University graduate, she has a nonprofit background, including work with delinquent youth and abused children. CEO of United Way of Central Louisiana since 2021, she focuses on creating opportunities for communities to thrive.

**MICHELLE PURL**

CEO  
United Way of Central Louisiana

# SPEAKERS



After earning her Bachelor's degree in 2011, Missy Daniel discovered her calling as a peer/support counselor for domestic abuse survivors. After seven years in this field, she pursued a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling to expand her impact. Outside of her professional work, Missy enjoys life on her small farm with her family and animals.

**MISSY DANIEL**

**Licensed Professional Counselor  
Be Inspired Counseling and Consulting**



Victoria Love, a 9th grader at Marksville High School, is the 2024 Miss Avoyelles Parish's Teen. Her initiative, IAmSimplyBeautiful Girls, promotes confidence and combats bullying. She plays trombone in the school band, loves drama, and recently performed in "Fiddler on the Roof." She also enjoys volunteering, aiming to positively impact her community.

**VICTORIA LOVE**

**Miss Avoyelles Parish's Teen 2024**



Lora Ann Chaisson is the proud Principal Chief of the United Houma Nation, serving her people for 42 years. Residing in Pointe aux Chene, LA, she holds significant roles in Native American leadership, including Vice President of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association. Chief Chaisson also teaches traditional Houma crafts.

**LORA ANN CHAISSON**

**Principal Chief  
United Houma Nation**

# SPEAKERS



Dr. Kristi L. Anderson is the Chief Strategy Officer at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, collaborating with leadership to advance UL Lafayette. She served on the state's COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, was honored as Dillard University's Scholar in Residence, and has extensive teaching experience. Dr. Anderson holds a Ph.D. in Systemic Studies and serves on several community boards.

## DR. KRISTI ANDERSON

Chief Strategy Officer  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

*"I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day, and I believe in miracles."*

-Audrey Hepburn

# Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.  
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's  
size

But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms,  
The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please,  
And to a man,  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me,  
A hive of honey bees.

I say,  
It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me.

They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them,  
They say they still can't see.

I say,  
It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.

I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing,  
It ought to make you proud.

I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need for my care.

'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

# MAYA ANGELOU

# POSITIVE THOUGHTS & AFFIRMATIONS

1. I can do it
2. I get better every day
3. I am great
4. Today I am a leader
5. I am perfect just the way I am
6. I stand up for what I believe in
7. It's ok to not know everything
8. Today I choose to think positive
9. I can get through anything
10. I can do better next time
11. I am capable of so much
12. It's ok to make mistakes
13. If I fall, I will get back up
14. I can do anything
15. I believe in myself
16. Everything will be okay
17. Good things will come my way
18. It's ok to feel your feelings
19. I am open and ready to learn
20. It's enough if I do my very best
21. I am whole
22. Mistakes help me learn
23. I believe in my abilities
24. Everyday is a fresh start
25. I can be anything I want to be
26. Today I will walk through my fears
27. I have courage and confidence
28. I forgive myself for my mistakes
29. All of my problems have solutions
30. I deserve to be loved
31. I am proud of myself
32. I deserve all good things
33. I am working on myself
34. I am thankful for today
35. Today I will spread positivity
36. I choose my own attitude
37. I've got this
38. I can do it one step at a time
39. I am proud of how far I've come
40. Anything is possible
41. My voice matters
42. I am in control of my emotions
43. I'm working at my own pace
44. I can live in the moment
45. I have inner strength
46. I'm prepared to succeed
47. I am strong and determined
48. I'm beautiful inside and out
49. I'll focus on the things I can control
50. I am in charge of my life



HERE'S TO  
*strong women*

MAY WE know them  
MAY WE be them  
MAY WE raise them

EDUCATORS  
aunts & nephews  
HEALERS & sisters & care-  
WARRIOR Stakers &  
ADVOCATES protectors  
mentors & change  
grandmas & ROLE makers &  
MODELS WOMXN  
MOMS & Leaders  
TRAIL DAUGHTERS  
BLAZERS innovators &  
WOMEN

NEVERTHELESS.

PARLISTED







# "I Am..." Affirmations

## WORD SEARCH

FIND THE WORDS HIDDEN IN THE GRID. WORDS MAY BE FOUND HORIZONTALLY, VERTICALLY OR DIAGONALLY.

L T O B E N U G S U C C E S S F U L W E  
H R R D F I H U M D M Q B W F N E O Y G  
C S N H G I O Z D H I J X S L V N T L E  
S F R U O U L E A R N I N G A D S P W B  
Y E A M L H O D B U D G K M X X X U Q L  
G C D R Q K V C W D F S R D X L H R Z Q  
K Z I P W O E B O W U G U A V U Q B H F  
L S A I L Y D Y R M L N H V T L B I F S  
S Z N S F X T D T Y P U R H T E X Q M O  
A K T V N F Y E H R V A L U E D F C L A  
F Q F A N N E T Y A X G S G M A Y U Y J  
E T Z R H B L E S S E D J S J Z L A L J  
C T J U U A S R U N D C S I I D S T R T  
G R O W I N G M W G Y P X E N O U G H U  
V R E Y G M M I C U K M I I A M N E S Y  
H L J A A J F N C A L M K G S L O A I V  
J C M H T X P E A C E F U L H N G C T H  
V D C W J I P D Y M W U R E L A X E D E  
Y S N H N O V Z P O W E R F U L I O S M  
P G J N M K S E Z Q P N P I L D J E P E

## WORDS TO FIND

- |            |            |               |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| Blessed    | Calm       | Compassionate |
| Creative   | Determined | Enough        |
| Grateful   | Growing    | Healthy       |
| Kind       | Learning   | Loved         |
| Mindful    | Peaceful   | Powerful      |
| Radiant    | Relaxed    | Safe          |
| Successful | Valued     | Worthy        |









## HISTORY

Founded by Best Selling Author and Activist Ashley Love in May 2015, the #IAmSimplyBeautiful Movement emerged in response to campaigns that didn't represent all women. Inspired to boost confidence universally, it quickly garnered international attention. In 2016, we were honored to be recognized by Michelle Obama and The United State of Women. With over 350,000 global posts and mainstream celebrity support, the movement has evolved into IAmSimplyBeautiful Global, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, dedicated to helping women thrive.

**We provide tools, resources, and support in finance, entrepreneurship, job skills, and goal-setting to help women and girls elevate themselves personally and professionally.**

## MISSION

To empower women globally, with a focus on minority, indigenous, and rural communities, as well as underserved areas, to embrace their worth, feel included, and achieve their personal and professional goals.

**Learn more about us at [www.iamsimplybeautiful.org](http://www.iamsimplybeautiful.org).**