



# 2019 WELD Charleston Emerging Professionals' Series March

WELD's mission is to develop and advance women's leadership to strengthen the economic prosperity of the communities it serves. A national 501(c)(3) organization, WELD builds programs, events and a community to support the leadership development of women and drive business growth.

**Venue Host:**



**Jennifer Giovannitti**

**March 19, 2019**  
Tuesday

**Networking**  
11:30am – 12:00 pm

**Program**  
12:00pm – 1:30 pm

**Location**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Charleston Conference**  
**Center**  
400 2nd Avenue, SW  
South Charleston, WV 25303

- Registration Fees -  
Member:  
\$25  
Non-Member:  
\$45

*No refunds or credits after  
3/5/19*

*For sponsorship opportunities,  
contact Barb Smoot at  
smootb@weldoh.org*

**When women lead, our economy, companies and communities thrive.**

## Deploying Your Value – How to Pay it Forward

Join WELD for our March Emerging Professionals' Series with Jennifer Giovannitti, President, **Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation on the topic of Deploying Your Value – How to Pay it Forward.**

In our journey towards gender inclusivity in the workforce, it is imperative that successful women capitalize on their own achievements in order to help other women succeed. Women who have earned a place at the table must be cognizant of opportunities to make space next to them for other talented women, and to provide guidance to those who would like to fill said space. This session will discuss the ways in which women can work together to further the advancement of other women in their organization, industry, or community.

Participants attending this session will gain insight on:

- The difference between sponsorship and mentorship, and how each can help early career professionals achieve success.
- Ways to develop professionally, both within and outside one's company.
- How early career professionals can seek mentorship from professional women.
- Key learnings that our successful panelists have gleaned from their own experiences in the workforce.

*Registration closes on March 14<sup>th</sup>! Late fees apply after registration closes. Contact Mindy Koenig at [mkoenig@weldoh.org](mailto:mkoenig@weldoh.org) if you have questions.*

**Register at:**  
**[www.weldusa.org](http://www.weldusa.org)**



## About Our Speaker...



### **Jennifer Giovannitti** **President** **Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation**

**CLAUDE**  
**WORTHINGTON**  
**BENEDUM**  
**FOUNDATION**

Jen Giovannitti is the President and a Trustee of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, a private family foundation founded in 1944, which serves southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Giovannitti led strategic programs and community-based initiatives for seven years at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, most notably in community investment, human capital, regional collaboration, and capital access. She emphasized the role of data-driven decision-making in regional projects. She formed the West Virginia Loan Fund Collaborative in 2012 to better understand the impact of small business lending in underserved communities. She has authored a variety of reports, publications, and opinion essays, and has applied her expertise broadly in rural development strategies.

Ms. Giovannitti lived West Virginia for 11 years, first serving as the director of the Elkins rail yard redevelopment project, then serving as chief executive of the Randolph County Economic Development Authority and West Virginia Wood Technology Center. The successful redevelopment of the Elkins (WV) Rail Yard preserved historic structures, reconstructed a historic bridge, and added tourism infrastructure and public amenities. The project was a model for rural communities redeveloping brownfield sites. In her role leading the county's economic development agency, she was committed to advancing workforce development and supporting the many businesses and local manufacturing operations in the region.

Ms. Giovannitti describes herself as "passionate about community development, innovation and the power of people." She is a member of the steering committees for West Virginia Forward, a statewide initiative to advance the state's economy, and the Appalachian Funders Network. Throughout her career she has held leadership positions at the local, state, and regional level with nonprofits, universities, state trade associations, and government planning bodies. Early in her career, she also worked with municipalities in western Pennsylvania in positions with the engineering firms of Mackin Engineering Company and Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic, Inc.

Ms. Giovannitti obtained her MA in Community and Regional Planning from the University of British Columbia, and her BA in Planning and Urban Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993. She was an international research fellow in 1995-1996 through the University of British Columbia Centre for Human Settlements, where she led a research project in Vietnam designed around the role of women in the household economy and poverty alleviation in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Her research was later published through the Asian Urban Research Network. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband and three children.

