

Women's Water Network Forum

Speaker Profiles



Shannon Bendixen

Leadership Development Consultant and Executive Coach
Keynotes for Leaders
Colorado Springs, CO

Shannon Bendixen has over 16 years experience in the organizational and leadership development field and specializes in partnering with clients to design and deliver leadership solutions tailored to the needs of leaders and the worlds in which they function.

She engages clients through dynamic and experiential learning experiences and 1:1 executive coaching. Ms. Bendixen delivers customized leadership solutions that address the unique needs of each clients' culture and current strategy. Her expertise lies in engaging clients through multifaceted learning experiences that help leaders develop in areas of organizational performance, team leadership and strategy. Through these experiences, clients expand their self-awareness as leaders, developing and putting into practice their leadership style.

Ms. Bendixen spent many years at the world-renowned Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) as both a researcher and facilitator before unleashing her entrepreneurial spirit and starting her own leadership and development consulting firm, which is based in Colorado Springs, CO.

Ms. Bendixen spent many years at the world-renowned Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) as both a researcher and facilitator before unleashing her entrepreneurial spirit and starting her own leadership and development consulting firm which is based in Colorado Springs, CO. Whilst at CCL, Shannon led a variety of organizational research projects including topics focused on (not limited to): senior women in leadership roles, challenges experienced within the C-Suite, millennial leaders, and change management.

As a qualitative researcher who focused on specific populations of leaders, Ms. Bendixen can link the science of leadership to the impact on people, their personal values, successes, and setbacks.

Ms. Bendixen's extensive experience has included: helping attorneys and law firms understand how to lead and work together in a multi-generational workforce; developing vertical development knowledge in 2000+ leaders at one of America's leading retailers, making recommendations to one of the top ten largest (\$35B) privately held companies on how to attract and retain women for important senior management roles and supported culture change for a large non-profit organization that included leadership development for 200 employees.

Ms. Bendixen has managed partnerships with researchers at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (South Africa), Claremont Graduate University, the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, and the University of Colorado

at Colorado Springs. Ms. Bendixen's research has been presented at professional conferences and in academic journals including the Academy of Management and Advancing Women in Leadership. She is the lead author on the research whitepaper Change-Capable Leadership: The Real Power Propelling Successful Change.

Ms. Bendixen earned her MA in Leadership Development and Organizational Communication from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs after earning her BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is a certified CCL Executive Coach and is also certified on the CCL Assessment Suite, the Change Style Indicator, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Workplace Big 5, the FIRO-B®, the Challenge of Change Profile, the Organization Workshop™ and the 4MAT® design methodology.

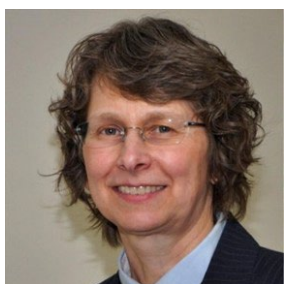


Emily Jackson

Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee
Chief Legal Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Emily Jackson is the Chief Legal Officer for the Metro Water Recovery in Denver, CO. Metro operates two wastewater treatment plants, a fifty-five-thousand-acre farm and extensive collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of over 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area. Prior to taking the position at Metro, Ms. Jackson worked for the Colorado Attorney General's Office and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Jackson sits as Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Legal Affairs Committee. She holds a BA from the University of Colorado and a JD from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. Ms. Jackson is a member of the CO bar.



Leisa Thompson

NACWA Board Member
General Manager
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
Saint Paul, MN

Leisa Thompson is the General Manager of Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (ES), overseeing nearly 700 employees. ES is responsible for operating and maintaining the wastewater collection and treatment system across the seven-county Twin Cities metro region. The organization works with numerous partners to monitor water quality in local lakes, streams, and rivers, and leads regional water supply planning. The ES system includes nine treatment plants that process approximately 250 million gallons of wastewater daily,

serving nearly 3 million residents across 111 communities. Wastewater is conveyed to treatment facilities through over 600 miles of large interceptor sewer pipes that collect flow from municipal sewers.

With more than 35 years of experience at ES, Ms. Thompson has held various positions, beginning as a manager of the laboratory and advancing through key roles in operations. She currently serves on the Board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and chairs its Nominating Committee. Ms. Thompson holds an MBA from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and a BS in Medical Technology (Clinical Science) from Winona State University in Winona, MN.