

WFWP Chandler, Arizona's Women's Empowerment Luncheon

Glenda Lambert
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The City of Chandler's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division invited Chandler women to its inaugural Women's Empowerment Luncheon on Friday, May 12, 2023. A total of 120 women who either serve the Chandler community or live and/or work in Chandler attended the luncheon held at the Chandler Center for the Arts in Chandler, Arizona. WFWP collaborates with other like-minded organizations uplifting women's role in society. WFWP Arizona Chairwoman, Rhia Nkulu, participated in the panel discussion and five WFWP members attended the event.

The luncheon featured Steph "The Hammer" Roach as the keynote speaker. Ms. Roach is an author, adaptive athlete and entrepreneur who shared her experiences and perspectives as someone who has turned her life's adversities into her greatest potential. From being born with cerebral palsy and given very slim chances of making it out of the hospital alive, to having to fight cancer later in life, she's no stranger to overcoming life's hurdles. She shared her moving story to alter one's perspective and to use the tools in our possession to triumph over any challenges life may bring.

The keynote speech was followed by an esteemed panel of female leaders and champions from the Chandler community who discussed and reflected on their experiences in both their personal and professional lives. Panelists include:

- Christine Ellis, Councilmember, City of Chandler
- Rhia Nkulu, radio talk show host and WFWP Arizona Chairwoman
- Sarina Ryczek, business owner and Founder, SAGE186, LLC
- Kelly Schwab, Attorney, City of Chandler
- Patti Serrano, Board Member, Chandler Unified School District



Glenda Lambert of WFWP Arizona explained her experience at the event:

"The atmosphere was incredibly supportive and nurturing. Surrounded by women from diverse backgrounds, I felt a strong sense of camaraderie and unity. Simply being in the presence of so many inspiring women was uplifting in itself.

Hearing from women who have overcome obstacles and achieved success in their respective fields was eye-opening. Their stories of resilience, determination, and breaking barriers resonated deeply within me. Witnessing their achievements showed me that anything is possible with the right mindset and unwavering dedication. Attending the women's luncheon has instilled in me a strong sense of confidence, motivation and purpose. It reminded me of the incredible strength and capabilities we possess as women and the importance of supporting and uplifting one another."