



**DEANNA BECKET** is an author, entrepreneur, professional keynote speaker, and Life, Leadership, and Health and Freedom Coach. She mentors her clients in the areas of health, mind freedom, peace, faith, parenting, and homeschooling. Deanna guides small business owners, women, and moms to cultivate excellent character for massive confidence, courage and peace.

Originally from North Dakota, Deanna spent her last semester of college in Melbourne, Australia and graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from North Dakota State University, Fargo. She married her husband, Chris, in 1996 and has lived in the Black Hills of South Dakota ever since. They have homeschooled both of their children through high school. She has a Master's in Laundry and a self-proclaimed Ph.D. in M.O.M.!

Her new book, *Cultivating Your Character: Creating Leadership Habits to Master Your Life*, offers a plan; an easy to incorporate, step by step practice that you can begin immediately. Deanna's wish is to share a game plan that springs from a sense of purpose honed in a life lived in the prairies of North and South Dakota. Her love of life and peace is always in the forefront. She believes that the habits of peace of mind and choosing to seek a life of peaceful purpose can be practiced simply and daily.

Her wish is for you to choose life. Choose PEACE. Seek and run after it until it overtakes you.

---



**DUSTIN BAERTSCH** is the Construction Careers Coordinator for the AGC of South Dakota. He has been in this position just over two years. Prior to joining AGC of South Dakota he worked as an Admissions Counselor at Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City, SD. While at AGC he has been able to combine his background in construction and pair it with his experience in working with the states K-12 schools to help promote the many benefits a career in construction can provide.



**MICHAELANN AGORANOS**, Principal at Constructing Opportunity, LLC brings 25 years of experience in the A/E/C industry. She has held positions in both the design and construction arenas, including Project Manager, Regional Construction Manager, Studio Lead for a team of Architects and Engineers, and Global Construction Support for the McDonald's Corporation in the Restaurant Development Department.

For the past three years Michaelann has led Leadership Development and skill-based training for the Restaurant Development function of the McDonald's Corporation. She is passionate about growing and developing others, especially other women in the industry. This passion led to the co-founding of her own business, Constructing Opportunity, LLC in 2016.

Michaelann recently participated on an Architecture, Engineering & Construction panel at the Society for marketing Professional Services (SMPS) annual conference. She has held leadership roles as Chairperson for McDonald's Women in Development Network, Regional Co-Chair for the McDonald's Women's Leadership Network, and was an active member of the Working Mother's Council. Michaelann also served as a volunteer and board member of the Chicago non-profit organization Archi-treasures, which is an arts-based community development organization that empowers individuals to shape their communities through building public spaces.

Michaelann is currently chapter Secretary and a Board Member for the Chicago Metro (#325) chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), Block Kids Chair for 2016 & 2017, on the chapter Mentoring committee and currently a Mentor, and has also served as a Mentor for the LEAD Program of Women Unlimited, Inc. She holds a BA in Architectural Studies, and an MBA in Global Management.



**LEAH BRAUN** is principal of Harney Business Group. They provide customized consulting, training and coaching to small and medium sized businesses, organizations and individuals to help them reach the next level. She coaches clients through a variety of professional and personal issues and conducts seminars and retreats in topics ranging from customer service to work-and-life balance. Leah retired from the South Dakota National Guard at the rank of Master Sergeant after 22 years of military service, where she began to hone her passion for working with people. Leah has a teaching degree from BHSU and a Master of Science in Administrative Studies with an emphasis in Counseling from USD. Leah is a Certified Professional Coach, credentialed through the International Coach Federation.

A career highlight for Leah was being awarded the 'Friend of Small Business Award' by the SD CEO in May of this year. Leah was also recently graduated from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program.

When Leah isn't working in Harney Business Group, she's working in the other family business – Twilight First Aid & Safety. When she's not working, she can be found hiking and biking the trails of South Dakota, gardening, cooking or hanging out with her husband and three kids.



**PEGGY NEWQUIST** is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Construction Engineering and Management. She also holds a Master's Degree in Construction Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is currently a principal/owner of Constructing Opportunity, LLC a soft skills training company geared to the A/E/C industry. Prior to founding her company, Peggy held the position of Construction Planning Lead for The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She has the distinction of being the first woman engineer hired by Walsh Construction Company and the first woman project manager to be hired by Matocha Associates.

Prior to joining the Federal Reserve Bank in September 2014 Peggy had a 20+ year career with McDonald's Corporation which began in 1992 as a Construction Project Manager in the Chicago South Region, building new and remodeling existing restaurants in the Chicago metro area. During her 5 years, there she was recognized with the Rookie of the Year award and the Directors Award of Excellence. Peggy was promoted to Home Office in 1998 as the Training Manager – Construction for Site Development and was promoted to Training Director in 2000, while in this role, she was recognized with the Women's Leadership Network (WLN) Leadership Award. Peggy moved to the Midwest Division as the Development Director, a position she continued when the Midwest became part of the Central Division, as a Division director she worked with regional real estate and construction staff on achieving their restaurant development plans. She was promoted to the Central Division Development Officer in 2004. Peggy joined the Worldwide Development team in 2008 and was responsible for global support of training, strategic sourcing and construction standards. While at McDonald's Peggy is most proud of creating the Development Leadership Program, which was designed to mentor high potential development staff through a year-long program of workshops and business case assignments. She is a 2011 graduate of the prestigious LAMP (Leadership at McDonald's Program) program.

Peggy has been a member of NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) for more than 20 years and was awarded their Woman of the Year award in 1998. She is the current NAWIC national PD&E Chair and serves as a trustee for the NAWIC Education Foundation. She serves on the Purdue University Construction Engineering School Industry Advisory Board and leads a mentoring program for women students in the construction engineering program.

Peggy has been a volunteer mentor for Women Unlimited for the past four years and a volunteer for Susan G. Komen for the Cure for several years.



*“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.” —Holly Hoffman from *Your Winner Within**

Born and raised in Eureka, South Dakota, Holly Hoffman was the last remaining member of the Espada Tribe and the last woman standing on Season 21 of CBS’ hit reality show “Survivor Nicaragua”. Through that experience, and others throughout her life, Holly was inspired to share her message of positivity, determination and confidence with business leaders, teachers, and students across the nation.

## **HOLLY HOFFMAN**

A professional motivational speaker and the author of *Your Winner Within*, Holly acknowledges that life is made up of challenges, and we are oftentimes faced with situations that seem insurmountable. But within each of us is an ability to focus our thoughts, emotions, and energy to succeed—if only we have the knowledge, tools, and discipline to do so.

Holly’s writing and speaking not only offer encouragement and optimism but a roadmap for self-discovery and spiritual enlightenment. Her methods—the ones she uses every day in her own life—are intuitive, honest, and adaptable to nearly any situation. Readers and audience members alike walk away inspired to light the fire of successful living within themselves.

Today, Holly is a member of the National Speaker’s Association and travels across the country, speaking to schools and universities, healthcare organizations, women’s organizations, community leaders and business professionals. In her seventh years of speaking, she has traveled to 30 states and over 170 high schools. Holly inspires her audiences to take opportunities and focus on attitude, determination, confidence, desire, faith, and perseverance.

[@HollyHoffmanS21](#)

[HollyHoffman.org](#)