



IT'S NOT JUST DINNER

IMPACT REPORT 2022-2024

EMPOWERING SUPPLY CHAINS & RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS



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INJD are owned by
It's Not Just Dinner,
a 501(c)(3) organization.

OUR MISSION

INJD is dedicated to the professional development of business owners from all backgrounds. This organization provides a space for building genuine relationships before, during and after 'dinner' that extend connection onto the trade show floor and into everyday life. Through MEDIC—mentorship, education, development, information, community—INJD continues to provide an environment where suppliers and practitioners can learn to leverage certification while discovering different ways to effectively navigate the 'buy/sell' universe.

2022-2024
OUR IMPACT

23
SCHOLARSHIP
DONATIONS

20
WBEs WALKED
TRADE SHOW FLOORS
WITH MENTORS

11
BOARD
SPONSORED
"NO-SELL
ALLOWED"
DINNERS

1,100
GUESTS LEARNED TO
LEVERAGE CERTIFICATION

16
EMPOWERED
WBEs THROUGH INJD
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

6
KNOW BEFORE YOU
GO'S SUPPORTED 38 WBEs
TO PREPARE FOR
CONFERENCES



INJD — OUR JOURNEY

In 2016, overwhelmed at a national conference, two Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) went to dinner. Through a communal need to leverage certification, and properly navigate conferences, the two hostesses became five. With corporate mentorship, the five dinner hostesses became known for the warm invitations to, 'dinner,' which turned into regularly creating inclusive environments. Over time, other professionals who sought companionship and a genuine community joined them for dinner. These moments became a designated time to uplift others with various certifications, as well as the supplier diversity practitioners that supported the events. These dinner gatherings began to occur consistently at national conferences, demonstrating a greater need on all sides of certification—for mentorship, education, development, information, and community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, corporations, Regional Partner Organizations, suppliers, and certifying organizations turned to the virtual INJD events to keep the meet and greet channels open. This generated a new type of loyalty, momentum and permanence for INJD.

In August 2022, INJD officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and a collegial alliance determined to inspire throughout supply chains to increase diversification.

Shortly after, the INJD Board officially voted to create the INJD Scholarship Fund. Today, INJD has a commitment to award scholarships to 2-4 certified women and/or minority business entrepreneurs for first-time attendance at national trade shows and conferences specific to WBENC and/or NMSDC, welcoming entrepreneurs, along with donors, mentors, board & committee members, into the MEDIC ecosystem.

Through continued support from the INJD Board, donors, event committees, and community partners, INJD has moved into a space of hosting regular events to support women and minority business owners, as well as corporate supplier diversity and supply chain professionals, empowering a diverse certified network.

INJD — OUR PLANS

2025 AND BEYOND

- Committed Strategic Planning
- More Corporate Practitioner Support
- Expanding the INJD Scholarship Value
- Offerings for All Applicants
- Expand Reach Through Partners
- Focused Fundraising

FUNDING & EVENTS

- WBENC National Annual Conference and Trade Show
- NMSDC Annual Conference and Exchange



INJD — OUR DONORS

Since 2020 we've continued to support the transformation and trajectory of supply chain professionals and businesses— thanks to those who donate the necessary time, treasures, and talents that help propel those within the INJD network.

OUR DONORS



WE COULDN'T DO THIS
WITHOUT SUPPORT!

LEARN MORE ABOUT
DONATING TO INJD



itsnotjustdinner.org



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linkedin.com/company/it-s-not-just-dinner

INJD — OUR M/WBE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



"My mentor has been an amazing supporter since the very beginning; her energy and attention given to help me maximize the conference has been nothing short of outstanding. It really has been an eye opening experience to become a part of this network and community with so many credible business owners, corporate buyers and other WBEs."

*Lanetra King, FACHE, Founder and CEO of Watch Me EXCEL
INJD First Time Attendance Conference Awardee Scholarship Winner, 2023.*

AWARDEE CLASS OF NMSDC 2022 - NEW ORLEANS

LaFarris L Risby, CFLE, Founder and President of Loving Arms Enterprises

Nancy Gard, Founder and CEO of NFAqua

Junita Flowers, Founder and CEO of Junita's Jar

AWARDEE CLASS OF NMSDC 2023 - BALTIMORE

Idara Otu, OYL, Founder of NÖK CHOC

Jessica Childress, Managing Attorney of The Childress Firm PLLC

Teresa Ging, Founder and CEO of Sugar Bliss

AWARDEE CLASS OF WBENC 2023- NASHVILLE

Lanetra King, Founder and CEO of Watch Me EXCEL

Jennifer Brown, CEO of CJ Essentials

Tatiana Freeman, Founder and CEO of Nosh Posh

Loree Mulay Weisman, Founder, President and CEO of Mulay's Sausage

AWARDEE CLASS OF WBENC 2024 - DENVER

Tamara Lincoln, Owner of Lincoln Stone Paper

Tammy Becker, President and CEO of Green Current Solutions

Cherron Castillo, Owner and Chief Seed Sower, Fruitful Training

Anna Cobb, Owner of Rejuvenation

INJD — OUR SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Some of the most valuable aspects of our scholarship(s) are the non-financial components that come with them:

- The 'It's Not Just Dinner Know Before You Go' (INJD-KBYG), preparing attendees to make the most of the conference
- A close-knit community, built before and during dinner, to lean into before ever hitting the conference
- A trade show floor mentor that supports the WBE/MWBE in developing an 11-second elevator pitch, mapping out and navigating the trade show experience, and facilitating introductions
- Two tickets to the It's Not Just Dinner event, where they can pitch their company to all attendees
- A feature in WeUSA Magazine
- An exclusive event attendee contact list - all attendees agree to give 30 minutes of their time after the conference upon request by the awardees

“ Whether you were a recipient, or you came back for a second or third time, you could tell, everyone cared about what was happening. Everyone was included. **”**



LaFarris Risby
Founder of Loving Arms Enterprises

INJD FOUNDERS, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We recognize and celebrate those steering our organization towards impactful achievements and goals. Thank you to those whose contributions are constantly strengthening supply chains at a regional and national level. Learn more about participating, creating connections, and thriving inside the INJD network.

FOUNDERS BOARD

Laurette Rondenet, Founder, Board Member
Jaime Syring, Founder, Board Treasurer
Rachel Bowling, Founder, Board Secretary
Brooke Foley, Founder, Board Chair
Kelly Kolar-Eyman, Founder, Board Member

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD CHAMPIONING INJD

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Cyndi Baldwin, Secretary
Caitlin Delan, Treasurer
Tyrone Burkes, Board Member

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Jaime Syring, CEO at Trans International LLC
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Tyler Drennan, Sales Executive at Commercial Packaging
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Natalie Chantal McGrady, Global Supplier Diversity Lead at Cargill
John Taylor, Sr. Director Supplier Outreach at Medtronic
Ricardo Barrientos, Vice President Of Business Development at BETT-A-WAY Supply Chain Solutions
Meg Cook, Co-Founder, Owner, and President of Painters USA, Inc.
Kathy Russell, CEO of Specialty Plant Services (SPS)
Sandeep Nain, President and CEO of SNTial Technologies, Inc.

COMMITTEES BRINGING MEDIC TO LIFE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Jaime Syring, Treasurer

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Karli Gamma
Brooke Foley

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Deb Adams

ANALYTICS COMMITTEE

Ricardo Barrientos, Chair
Sandeep Nain

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Kathy Russell
Meg Cook
Jaime Syring
Kamela Forbes-Matheson
John Taylor
Kelly Kolar-Eyman
Brooke Foley
Carly Nanberg
Audrey Eyman

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Natalie Chantal McGrady
Jaime Syring
Brooke Foley
Carly Nanberg
Cyndi Baldwin

EVENT COMMITTEE

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Sam Doerfler
Carolyn Trokan
Paul Zeleski

WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!
LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN DONATE TO INJD.



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