

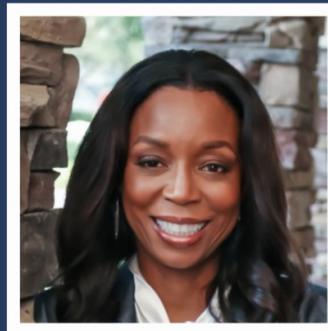
EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN AWARDEES NEWSLETTER

BY LARRAINE SEGIL

March 1, 2022

Featuring:

*Melanie Williams,
Senior Vice President,
Frontier Communications*



Here we are, already in March of 2022, with so much uncertainty continuing to govern our lives and the world. **Melanie Williams**, Senior Vice President, Operations at Frontier Communications, leads a team of more than 1,600 employees and knows well the responsibility, challenges, and opportunities of dealing with uncertainty and change.

In addition to her stellar career at Frontier and previously at Verizon, where she was the President of Verizon Florida, Melanie is an Exceptional Woman Awardee (EWA), designated by the Exceptional Woman Awardee Foundation (exceptionalwomenawardees.com). I started the EWA Foundation as a peer-to-peer community of women

executives to support and mentor each other. My goal with this newsletter is to showcase these phenomenal women and share their experiences and wisdom with you. Leaders like Melanie inspire me, and I know you'll feel the same!

Melanie has a philosophy that guides both her personal and professional life:

Live today, reflect tonight, and start again tomorrow.

To accompany that philosophy, Melanie shares some tenets that have kept her grounded, successful, and evolving.

Perseverance matters.

"To help support my family, I went to a fast-food restaurant and said to the manager, 'Hi, I'm 13 years old. I'd like to work.' And he returned with a look of disbelief as to say are you kidding me? You are just a kid. He said to come back next week. The following week I took our local public transportation and went right back to the fast-food restaurant and announced, 'I'm back again, it's next week.' To his surprise, may I add, very surprised, he asked that I come back in two weeks and we would determine next steps. You can probably predict my actions, I returned in two weeks. The manager turned to me and said, 'You are not going away.'

"Finally, he said to me, 'Come back and talk to me when you turn 14.' And guess where I was on my 14th birthday? I went into that fast-food restaurant to claim the job that I was promised. My exact words were, 'I am 14 now and I'd like the job that you promised me.' I learned at 14 to never accept no for an answer.

"At that very moment, I learned a life lesson that I continue to carry with me. Perseverance matters!"

Learn every day.

"No matter the position or role, I commit to learn every day. If it means taking a class, going back to school, spending time with people in their area of focus, whatever it takes to learn more about the business, our community and how this connection can enhance lives is a critical aspect of who I am and the importance of paying it forward. Every day provides me an opportunity to give to others as a result of what others gave to me."

Realizing that change is a universal constant, let's keep Melanie's philosophy in mind to **learn from today and continue making progress tomorrow.**

Hear more great insights from Melanie by watching the full [EWA Live program](#) on our YouTube channel.

And don't miss our next LinkedIn Live program. I'd love for you to join us and ask lots of questions! I'll send details soon.

Until next time,

Lorraine

Founder, Chair, & CEO
Exceptional Women Awardees Foundation

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