

# **ROI-NJ presents the ROI Influencers: Women in Business 2023**



It's 2023. And it's time to realize: The future is female — and the future already is here.

We're tired of hearing from people who say they can't find women to run their company, sit on their board, take a top leadership role or even simply be on a panel of thought leaders. It's shameful. And, once again, with the release of the 2023 ROI Influencers: Women in Business, we're proving that the state is overflowing with qualified female leaders who are ready, willing and eager to do all of the above.

Just scroll through our list of honorees, take in their accomplishments and ask yourself: Wouldn't they be good candidates for any and all roles at a company where smarts, work ethic and leadership are required?

You'll be glad you did.

Now, get to work. And welcome to the future.

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# AACCNJ's Mobile Academy "I Am" Youth Leadership Program Featured in NJBIZ



Twenty-five Paterson STEAM High School students recently participated in a two-part, four-hour financial literacy session presented by Kearny Bank, with Jacqueline Gibbs, Kearny Bank's first vice president / fair lending officer, and Larry Ford, assistant vice president / retail relationships manager at the bank's Ocean Grove branch, serving as primary presenters. The event was conducted in conjunction with the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) as part of the organization's "I AM" Youth Leadership Program. Here, Gibbs (standing, third from right) and Ford (standing, second from right) pose with other participants in the recent financial literacy presentation.

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## From Food Pantry to Urban Farming: Food Justice Lessons from Camden



Pastor Keith Davis December 8, 2022 How can a community reduce food insecurity? For over 30 years, the Camden Dream Center, which I direct, has addressed food insecurity through a food pantry, which works in in partnership with the Food Bank of South Jersey to serve well over 1,000 families per year in Camden and its vicinity.

Food pantry work is important. But the Center aspires to do more—to advance economic empowerment in an environmentally sustainable way. One strategy for achieving that vision is to support urban agriculture and community agency, giving people the chance to produce their own food.

#### Advancing urban agriculture in Camden

How do you move from dependency on charitable food to cultivating your own food? It's not easy, the process requires a drastic shift in mindset among those involved. In particular, increasing Black youth involvement in farming requires that we first erase the connotation that farming has for many Black youth of slavery and sharecropping.



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