

OUR TRAINERS:



Phyllis Alexander has been a champion for social justice for several decades, and civil rights professional for over twenty years working for both corporate America and city government.

Phyllis is an experienced coalition builder and trainer and credits her skills to her 28-year affiliation with the National Coalition Building Institute, an international social justice/ social change organization. Phyllis has had several roles with NCBI including senior trainer and was President of the NCBI Board of Directors from 2012-2017. In addition to facilitating NCBI workshops including their Welcoming Diversity training, Phyllis facilitates a variety of conversations ranging from courageous conversations about race, to strategic planning sessions for boards.

Phyllis has a Bachelor's of Science in Economics and later received a Master's of Science in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University.

Currently, Phyllis is a consultant with the Promise Neighborhood of the Lehigh Valley (PNLV), and is the Project Director for the Leadership Without Limits Leadership Institute. In this role, Phyllis has been practicing her "pass the baton" strategy by supporting the leadership of 22 mostly millennial students.

Phyllis recently retired as the City of Allentown's Neighborhood Coordinator. Prior to this role, Phyllis worked as the city's Director of the Bureau of Human Relations & Equal Opportunity. The Bureau was responsible for civil rights enforcement and educational programs, which encouraged acceptance and celebration of diversity in a city with a growing racially and economically diverse population.

Phyllis is an active member of her community. Her community engagement includes volunteering as a board member of the Freedom Memorial, a local non-profit dedicated to commemorating the life and continuing the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King. Phyllis is also the Vice President of the Resurrected Community Development Corporation (RCDC), a faith based non-profit dedicated to social justice. Per their vision statement, RCDC is committed to creating communities of equity, excellence and empowered residents.

Phyllis has been recognized for her community service, receiving two awards from the Allentown Human Relations Commission, an Allentown YWCA Women's Leadership Award, the Humanitarian Award from the Allentown NAACP, and a Distinguished Woman award from the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Phyllis has two daughters and lives in Allentown, PA.

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**Roberta Kearney** began her ministry working for the Pennsylvania General Assembly on criminal and social justice issues for ten years in the House of Representatives and then in the Pa Senate.

For the first seventeen years following seminary, she led discipleship ministries for all ages in large congregations. A decade ago she began serving in small congregations doing interim ministry working with congregations seeking a new pastor or doing transitional ministry helping congregations to assess their viability. She currently serves a congregation in New Brunswick, NJ with a multi-national immigrant population.

Roberta has a Bachelor's degree in Urban Affairs from Albright College, earning a Masters of Divinity from Princeton Seminary, after attending Columbia Seminary in Atlanta.

One of the initial members of SURJ, Showing Up for Racial Justice, in the Lehigh Valley Roberta feels called to engage with white people around the nature of systemic racism.

She received training from the National Coalition Building Institute.

