



Edie Hand's
WOMEN
OF TRUE GRIT™



GRIT & Grace

BREAKING BARRIERS | LEADING BOLDLY

ft. Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson, Julie Mobley, Jan Matthews, Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Edie Hand, Pammie Jimmar, Dr. Kimberly Robinson, & Sunny Brown

**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
McCandless Hall**

April 24, 2025 | 12:00PM-2:00PM





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EVENT AGENDA

Welcome & Introduction..... Dr. Catherine Wehlburg,
Athens State University President

Comedy Set..... Sunny Brown
Entertainer, Actor, Comedienne, Writer

Edie Hand Introduction..... Dr. Catherine Wehlburg,
Athens State University President

Keynote Speaker & Panelist Moderator..... Edie Hand,
Founder of Women of True Grit Franchise

- **Dr. Kimberly Robinson**, *CEO/Executive Director of U.S. Space & Rocket Center*
- **Jan Matthews**, *Founder of MTM Unsung Heroes, Unity in Community, etc.*
- **Julie Mobley**, *Coach and Practice Administrator at Cullman Internal Medicine*
- **Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson**, *NASA Langley Research Center*

Q&A and Conclusion..... Pammie Jimmar IOM, AACE, CGMS
*President/CEO of Athens-Limestone County
Chamber of Commerce*

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DR. CATHERINE WEHLBURG, President of Athens State University, received her B.S. in Psychology and her M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Florida. She was named the 39th president of Athens State University in May 2024.

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg

President
Athens State University

She has over three decades of experience in higher education and has served in several different roles prior to joining Athens State, including tenured full professor, department chair, associate dean, dean, and associate provost. She is known nationally for her scholarly and practical administrative work in teaching and learning and the assessment of learning outcomes.

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Sunny Brown

*Entertainer, Actor,
Comedienne, Writer*

Even though as a child she was always making her family laugh, and they always called her "Gracie" (a nod to the late, great comedienne Gracie Allen), **SUNNY BROWN** was a "Late Bloomer" and did not actually realize her talent for comedy until she was 47 years old. It was at this time that she had a life changing epiphany, an experience that changed the course of her life, and she took an unexpected pivot into comedy.

Since that moment of self-discovery Sunny has written the popular, long-running humor column for B-Metro Magazine, was co-winner of a stand-up comedy contest at the Stardome Comedy Club, wrote and performed with three other ladies as part of a popular all female comedy variety group "Feminine Hyjinx", co-created the musical comedy variety show "A Night at the Cascade Lounge!", and self-published a book of humor essays based on her long running column.

She has also written and performed two one-woman shows; "Confessions of a Glamorous Mind" based on her column and her newest show "An Invisible Woman ~ the disappearing act of a woman over 50!" which she is in the process of bringing back to the stage in her new cabaret show! She most recently performed in the pilot variety show "High Heels Cabaret" in Nashville and took a dramatic turn starring in the film "Allison's List".

Sunny has performed as the entertainment for many events including The Alice Awards Gala for The Nashville Women in Film and Television SWIFT Gala and for Edie Hand's "Women of True Grit" benefit show. Sunny loves making people laugh and believes that comedy has the power to bring people together and can heel. She has lent her talents for several philanthropic organizations. Please visit www.itsreallysunny.com to learn more and make sure to follow her on Instagram @itsreallysunny.

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Edie Hand

Founder
"Women of True Grit"

EDIE HAND is a businesswoman, speaker, media personality, filmmaker, international author, and Mom. She has authored and been a part of authoring over twenty-five books.

Edie is the founder of the "Women of True Grit" franchise that encourages women to share their stories of how they navigated through hard things to find beautiful situations. Edie has partnered with NBC/WAFF 48 Gray Television of Huntsville, ABC 33/40 Sinclair television of Birmingham, Alabama and Alabama Public Television to bring heartfelt and educational stories to help women and students not feel alone as they face the seasons of life. Stay tuned for "Women of True Grit Pearls of Hope" programming on Tuscaloosa's Town Square Media's Christian and country radio stations. Available now through Edie Hand Foundation and Alabama Sports Foundation of Montgomery is the "Grit:101 For Teens" program. Additionally, there are programs for college students and community leaders.

She was the CEO of a full-service ad company, Hand 'N Hand Advertising, in Birmingham and Daphne, Alabama for over thirty years. In recent years she partnered with her Hollywood actor/businessman son, Linc Hand, to form Hand N Hand Entertainment to continue her writing for film, television, radio, and podcasts. Edie also founded the Edie Hand Foundation over fifteen years ago in memory of her three, young Blackburn brothers to help pay life forward with acts of kindness to others with broken hearts. Edie is a four-time Cancer survivor and understands living with chronic illness, but always finds the grit to keep moving onward and upward. She learned how to turn hard things into beautiful situations.

She also comes from a wonderful family heritage of songwriting, acting, and music from the Hood-Hacker-Presley Family. Her legendary cousin was Elvis Presley and she learned firsthand about paying life forward through charities in one's community. Edie Hand (formerly Edith Blackburn Hand) is an alumnus of the University of North Alabama. She and her friend George Lindsey founded scholarships for students pursuing a career in theater or communications. Edie lives near Birmingham, Alabama but her heart is in Hollywood, California with her only son actor, Linc Hand, and his singer/songwriter wife Victoria Renee Hand.

To learn more about Edie, her books, the charities she supports, and her speaking topics visit her websites:

EdieHand.com | HnHEntertainment.biz

www.womanoftruegrit.org | EdieHandFoundation.org

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Dr. Kimberly Robinson

CEO & Executive Director
U.S. Space & Rocket Center

DR. KIMBERLY ROBINSON is the CEO and Executive Director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Home of Space Camp. The Rocket Center is Alabama's leading paid tourist attraction, the official visitor center for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and one of the largest Smithsonian affiliates in the U.S.

Since Dr. Robinson's arrival in 2021, operating revenues and margins have significantly increased. The staff has rebounded from a COVID low of 97 to over 1000 for the 2024 summer camp season. The Center recently opened the Space Camp Operations Center, a \$20M facility and the first new building in 16 years. Site preparation has now started for the next building, the \$22M Inspiration4 Skills Training Complex for Space Camp.

Dr. Robinson is a strong advocate for STEM education and workforce development. She holds a doctorate in Industrial and Systems Engineering and Engineering Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Vanderbilt University. She has taught at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and at Oakwood University as a NASA Administrator's Fellow. During her three decades at NASA, Dr. Robinson held critical leadership positions for the moon exploration program Artemis, as Payload Mission Manager and Strategic Communications Manager. She also worked as the Utilization Manager for Advanced Exploration Systems and the Project Integration Manager for the Constellation Program's Ares I-X rocket, a benchmark in rapid innovation. Her NASA awards include the Exceptional Achievement Medal, a Silver Group Achievement Medal, and the Astronaut Corps' Silver Snoopy. She and her husband live in North Alabama and have three children.

Dr. Robinson is a community leader and receives frequent recognition for her professional work.

- A New Leash on Life Board President
- Alabama Women's Hall of Fame Board Member
- Business Council of Alabama Board Member
- Committee of 100
- International Women's Forum -Alabama
- Leadership Alabama (LA Class XXXII)
- Leadership Greater Huntsville (L37)
- Oakwood University Business Advisory Council
- LaunchTech STEM VP Award
- UAH Alumni of Achievement Award
- Woman of True Grit ALICE Award
- Yellowhammer Women of Impact Award

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Jannifer “Jan” Matthews

Founder

*MTM Unsung Heroes,
Unity in Community, Let’s
Move Athens, etc.*

JANNIFER MATTHEWS, known by many as “Jan,” is the embodiment of resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to her community and profession. A woman of compassion, she carved out an impactful career at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in the Office of Procurement, where she broke barriers, led with purpose, and paved the way for future generations.

With over 35 years of experience in Acquisition, Jan served in critical and diverse roles, including Simplified Acquisition Specialist, Contract Specialist/Officer, Sustainability Manager, Procurement Management Reviewer Team, Grants Specialist, Cooperative Agreement Specialist, Source Evaluation Board Facilitator, Acquisition Forecast Facilitator, and Unsolicited Proposals Facilitator. Her leadership and expertise also extended to workforce development, where she played a key role as the Career Manager for the Office of Procurement.

Jan’s impact reaches far beyond her professional career. She championed diversity and inclusion as a Moderator for NASA’s Annual HBCU/MSI Partnership Meeting, leading critical conversations about integrating HBCU/MSI proteges into government contracting and advancing NASA’s 1 percent goal for HBCU/MSIs. Jan’s passion for education, service, and advocacy led her to found MTM Educational Enrichment, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Athens, Alabama. With a heart for mentorship and an unshakable will to uplift, Jan and her MTM Family have awarded over 200 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 to deserving students in Athens/Limestone County, spanning both public and private schools under the title of, “MTM Unsung Heroes”.

Never one to watch her community struggle, Jan took action when a local nonprofit that provided weatherization services shut its doors. Instead of waiting for someone else to fill the gap, she and the MTM Family stepped in—funding and launching their own Weatherization Program to support Senior Citizens, Veterans, Single Parents, and Underserved Community Members. A natural visionary, Jan pioneered Unity in the Community and the Let’s Move Athens initiative under Mayor William R. Marks, built on the four foundational pillars of Fitness, Faith, Finance, and Family. Her dedication to community-building continues to change lives, strengthen families, and create pathways for success.

Jan’s leadership and commitment to advocacy have placed her at the table where decisions are made. She has served on the boards of Athens Main Street, NAACP Executive Board, Church Financial Board of Pleasant Grove Church (PG), Athens City Youth Commission (Judge), United Cerebral Palsy Board of Huntsville (Appointed Member), She is also an active financial member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she serves as Co-Chair of Membership for the Central North Alumnae Association. Additionally, she is a Mother’s Board Member at Pleasant Grove Church, ensuring the welfare and spiritual nurturing of the congregation. She is a Board Member of the Athens Family Resource Center ensuring community needs are met.

Jan’s tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. She has received numerous awards and accolades, including the 2023 Community Hero Award, bestowed upon her by the Athens/Limestone County Chamber of Commerce. She was also selected to serve on the board of Athens/Limestone’s first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Business Alliance (DEIBA) to bridge the gap for Minority Business Owners within the Chamber of Commerce. A woman of unshakable faith, Jan is married to Gary Matthews, and together, they share the joys of raising four children and two grandchildren. As former Foster/Adoptive Mother and dedicated Mentor, she continues to pour into the lives of those around her, embodying service, perseverance, and grace.

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Julie Mobley

**Coach & Practice
Administrator**
Cullman Internal Medicine

JULIE E. MOBLEY is a keynote speaker and corporate leadership coach. Julie is also the Practice Administrator for Cullman Internal Medicine, located in North Alabama. With over twenty years in the healthcare industry, she has honed her expertise in growing successful businesses, building strong teams, and driving corporate leadership. Julie is passionate about helping others achieve their health, personal, and professional goals.

Julie received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Data Analytics from Louisiana State University Shreveport. She is also a Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE) and a Certified Professional Coder (CPC). She and her husband live in Jasper, Alabama and have one adult daughter. In her spare time Julie enjoys reading, hiking, and fishing with her dad.

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**Dr. Shelia
Nash-Stevenson**

*NASA Langley
Research Center*

DR. SHELIA NASH-STEVENSON made history in 1994 when she became the first African American female in Alabama to earn a Ph.D. degree in physics. She was among the first African Americans to receive a Ph.D. in physics from Alabama A&M University and one of less than 20 African American females to hold a Ph.D. in physics in the entire United States at that time.

Dr. Nash-Stevenson is currently employed with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center as a Physical Scientist Acquisition Manager with the Science Office for Mission Assessments. Dr. Nash-Stevenson has co-authored several papers in the area of Laser Upconversion and holds a patent for an Optical Fiber Holder. She has served on dissertation and thesis committees, and she also mentors graduate and undergraduate students at Alabama A&M University. In addition to being a charter member of both the City of Madison Board of Education and the Madison Rotary Club, Dr. Nash-

Stevenson is also a member of Leadership Alabama, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Association, Alabama A&M University Youth Motivation Task Force Advisory Board, Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Greater Huntsville Chapter (AL) The Links, Incorporated and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

She was named to the Alabama A&M University Alumni Hall of Fame in 2021, the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2022 and selected as a 2022 This is Alabama Women Who Shape the State Honoree.

Dr. Nash-Stevenson is an active member of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama where she serves as a trustee, an usher and a greeter. She is married to Mr. Kirby Stevenson and is the proud mother of Kecenia (Brandon) Wright, Keegan Stevenson, and Andreas (Quanda) Stevenson, and very proud grandmother of Grayson Wright. She resides in Madison, Alabama.

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Pammie Jimmar

IOM, AACE, CGMS

President/CEO

*Athens-Limestone County
Chamber of Commerce*

PAMMIE JIMMAR IOM, AACE, CGMS is a dynamic, results-oriented leader with over 29 years of experience in professional leadership. With a proven track record of driving revenue growth and implementing sustainable, impactful programs, she is committed to fostering the continued success and growth of both the Athens-Limestone County Chamber of Commerce and the Athens-Limestone County Tourism Association.

Before joining the Athens-Limestone Chamber, Pammie served as the Vice President of Small Business and Events at the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce for a decade, where she became a passionate advocate for small business growth. Her dedication to helping entrepreneurs succeed is a cornerstone of her leadership approach.

A proud graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute of Organization Management, Pammie actively serves on numerous boards and committees. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and chairs

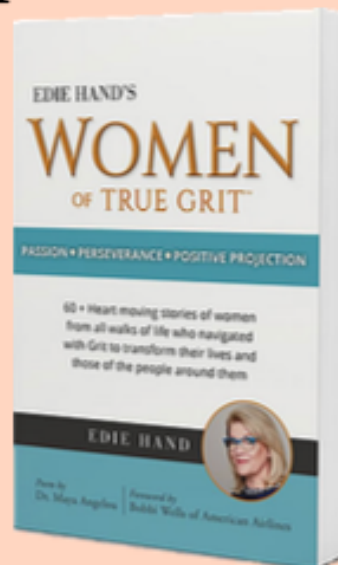
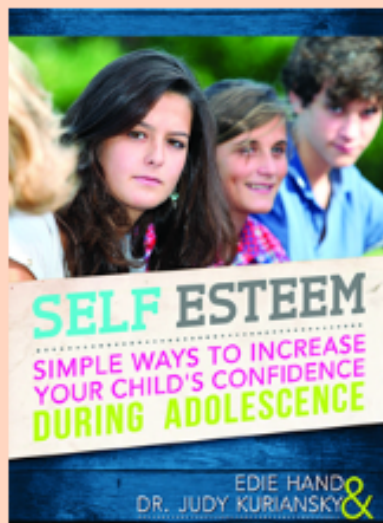
the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute Board of Trustees as Chair-Elect. Additionally, Pammie contributes to the growth of the region as a member of the Alabama Small Business Development Council, the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, and the College of Business Board of Visitors at Athens State University, among many others.

Pammie's leadership extends to local and state organizations, having earned recognition as a graduate of Leadership Huntsville, Athens-Limestone Leadership, and Leadership Alabama Class XXXIII. Her dedication to education and community involvement has earned her the MTM Educational Enrichment Proclamation Award, and she continues to serve on boards such as the Athens-Limestone Hospital Foundation and the Limestone Economic Development Association.

When she's not working tirelessly to support the growth of Athens-Limestone County, Pammie enjoys traveling, attending Broadway shows, playing golf, and spending quality time with her two sons, Kevin and Dallas, as well as her mother. With a heart full of passion for helping entrepreneurs turn their dreams into reality, Pammie Jimmar is a proud advocate for small businesses and a dedicated champion of her community.

Edie Hand's
WOMEN
OF TRUE GRIT™

“The way I see it is We are a True Grit sisterhood to give a hand up to others through Pearls of Hope!” *Edie Hand*



Pearls on, Swords Up!



Learning to listen to others voices can help you
make choices for better tomorrows.

Grit: 101

These are the strings that form our unique pearls of life.



White
Purity of Faith
and Second Chances



Red
Passion
Show respect for others



Pink
Happiness



Green
Finances/freedom to find peace



Silver
Wisdom



Blue
Courage/Allowing to trust



Black
A Path through Grief



Gold
Self-Esteem/Endurance



Purple
Leadership/Creativity to
find better choices



Teal
Total Wellness for
mind and body