



Based on ongoing discussions with women of color (**primarily with African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Native-American women**), across the country whose opinions we valued, we learned that all of us felt it was critical for us as women to share our successes, triumphs and yes, our failures with our peers and younger women coming along behind us.

Thus, we developed a unique concept and forum to facilitate the collaboration, networking, mentoring, sharing, development and training of women and girls of color. While our personal and professional goals are perhaps the same as other women, our career challenges, family pressures, social obstacles and life stresses, as women of color are very different. **2016 marks our 14th Anniversary!**

Several major programs/activities have been or, are being developed to address these concerns:

-The Women of Color Foundation is a 501c3, tax-exempt foundation organized in 2005, to foster networking and to provide personal and professional development, education and training to all women of color. Our predecessor organization was under the name of [women of color events.com](http://womenofcolorevents.com) which began hosting the executive retreats in 2003.

-“Connections, Community and Career: A Personal and Professional Development Retreat for Women of Color,” (an **annual** 3-day training retreat for executive women and college students of all colors held in Cleveland, OH, 2003-2015; Columbus, OH, 2006-2015; Cincinnati, OH in 2007 and 2008; and Chicago, Illinois in 2007 and 2009)

-Women of Color Leadership Development & Training Institute (an **annual** 1-day leadership development and training conference targeting a broader cross-section of women and girls of color, held in November each year in Cleveland, Ohio from 2006-2015)

-The ISIS Awards Luncheon (an annual event celebrating **Women of Color** and honoring: a “**Woman of the Year,**” a “**Professional Woman of the Year,**” a “**Young Professional Woman of the Year,**” and a “**Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones Courage Award**” during the Institute), held 2006-2015.

-The WomenSpeak™ Collaborative (a consortium of local, regional and national organizations focusing on the needs and concerns of, and programs benefiting women and girls of color)

--Women’s Prison Outreach Initiative (A ground breaking, unique collaboration with the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) in Marysville, Ohio. The ORW is the 4th largest women’s prisons in the United States.

-Women’s Entrepreneurial Program (An entrepreneurial program designed to develop local women-owned businesses)

-Annual Speaking of Women! A Quarterly Dialogue Series for Women in Leadership (In partnership with American Greetings Corporation), the 1st annual series was held on March 15, May 17, September 13, and November 8, 2012; the 2nd annual series was held on March 14, June 13, September 12 and November 7, 2013; the 3rd annual series was held June 12, and November 6, 2014; and the 4th annual series, March 24, June 11 and September 10, 2015.

-Women’s EmployMEnt Project (A women’s employment initiative funded by The Honor Project Trust in 2014)

-CL Magazine (A quarterly career & lifestyle magazine for women and girls of all colors, launched in the 1st quarter of 2015) www.CL-Magazine.com