



**Speaker / Author / Social Impact Advisor / Former President of Caterpillar Foundation
Director of Corporate Social Innovation, Caterpillar Inc.**



Michele L. Sullivan is a globally recognized leader and advisor in social impact, TED speaker, and author.

During her 30 year career at Caterpillar, she served as President of Caterpillar Foundation and Director, Corporate Social Innovation, Caterpillar Inc. Throughout her time

with the Foundation, Michele has transformed it from merely transactional to global and strategic. This strategy places the human need first, not as an afterthought of profit. Michele is well known for her global expertise and sustainable and collaborative approach to philanthropic investing.

Michele strongly believes monumental and sustainable change in our largest global challenges can only happen through partnerships and collaboration between public, private and non-profit entities. This strategy resulted in the Caterpillar Foundation's transformation into one of the most influential corporate foundations, and ultimately, the launch of the Foundation's collaborative impact platform known as Together.Stronger.™

Michele was honored to give a TED Talk at TEDWomen 2016, becoming the first Caterpillar employee to do so. In her talk, she speaks candidly about the challenges she has overcome in life, highlighting the importance of acceptance and helping others succeed in the face of their unique challenges.

Michele was named by Inside Philanthropy as one of the 50 most powerful women in philanthropy and also served as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She is also a member of the ONE board of directors and currently chairs the Greater Peoria Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Advisory Board. Michele earned her MBA from Bradley University.

Speaking Topics

- Inspiration/Empowerment/Motivation/Resilience
- Social Impact, Including the Power of Investing in Girls and Women
- Diversity/Inclusion
- Power of Collaboration/Partnership
- Intersectionality by Diversity and Inclusion



Recent Speaking & Thought Leadership Engagements

OCT 2022

SWE22 – Society of Women Engineers Annual Conference

Keynote address on how each of us can make an impact.

JUNE 2022

NACE – National Association of Colleges and Employers Conference

Keynote address on DEI and impact of resilience on the power of inclusion.

2021

Caterpillar (On-Going)

Speaker on Keys to Resiliency and Intersectionality & DEI

OCT 2021

EBSCO Industries

Speaker on Business Resiliency

SEP 2021

MIT

Speaker on Keys to Resiliency

2021

National Electrical Contractors Association

Speaker on “We Are All More Than You Can See: Intersectionality & Diversity”

2021

American Society of Association Executives

Keynote address on “It’s All About Perspective - Sharing Insightful Leadership Advice such as, Turning Obstacles Into Advantages”

2021

Global Resiliency Conference

Speaker on “Strategies To Enhance Resiliency”

2020

Global Resiliency Conference

Speaker on “Empowering Strategies”

FEB 2020

Savannah Book Festival

Speaker on C-SPAN live on leadership and philanthropy

JAN 2020

Michigan Farm Bureau

Speaker at annual conference for Michigan Farm Bureau Presidents on how perspectives can change lives

MAY 2019

Circular Summit, powered by Alice

Goal and business planning to accelerate growth for high-growth female founders

SEP 2018

The Atlantic Festival

Keynote address on the impact of advocacy grants

Dreamforce

Keynote address on the power of resilience

AUG 2018

Plywood Presents

Keynote address to social entrepreneurs on the strategic impact of disruptive collaboration

MAR 2018

SXSW

Principle panelist on panel of experts discussing the connection between lack of water access and poverty and the impact on women and girls; launch of the Value of Water global awareness campaign

- Hub Culture Live interview on the launch of the Foundation’s Value of Water campaign

NOV 2017

Glamour Feature

Interview with Michele in magazine feature alongside Ava Duvernay, Robin Wright, and Gayle Smith

OCT 2017

Future of the Girl Campaign Launch with Glamour

Launch of #AskLikeAGirl campaign from the stage of *Glamour’s* International Day of the Girl Celebration

SEP 2017

Global Goals Week

Speaking engagements with other influencers to raise awareness of the Foundation’s work on behalf of women around the world

- Power, Influence + Gender Dinner, Remarks alongside Robin Wright and Sue Desmond-Hellman in front of an audience of influential women and business leaders

JUL 2017

Cosmopolitan’s Women @ Work Interview

Interview with Michele and other inspirational women on advice for women entering the workforce

MAY 2017

Comcast Diversity in Tech Summit

Keynote address on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace

CAREERS & the DisABLED Magazine Awards

Michele received the annual award and provided remarks during the award ceremony

APR 2017

Brown University

Keynote address to the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs on The Role of the Private Sector and Foundations in Policy and Foreign Affairs

MAR 2017

SXSW

Panel discussion with Gary White of Water.org and Devex moderator Catherine Chaney on the importance of access to clean, sanitary water

- Live interview in the Girls’ Lounge at SXSW
- [Devex interview](#) on the power of partnership
- [Empowering Women to Raise 50 Million People Out of Poverty](#), Women Deliver Blog

NOV 2016

Women of the Year Awards

Discussed Caterpillar Foundation’s donation to *Glamour’s* nonprofit arm The Girl Project

OCT 2016

TED Talk

Asking for help is a strength, not a weakness

Glamour International Day of the Girl Celebration with Michelle Obama and Cindi Leive

Michele kicked off #WhenGirlsGraduate—a month of action dedicated to supporting girls’ education through The Girl Project

Huffington Post

[Energy Poverty and Its Human Cost](#)

SEP 2016

Global Citizen Festival

Remarks with Hugh Jackman during Central Park festival with an audience of 60,000 to launch the She Is campaign that focused on access to energy and empowering women