

Season Highlights

Reflections from Lassiter & Associates

— Winter 2019 —

A Gala to Remember

Congratulations! Under the theme of *The Power of Black Business*, The Presidents' RoundTable (PRT) and the PRT Reach Foundation celebrated their 35th anniversary in November with a scholarship awards gala. Together, PRT and Lassiter surpassed the fundraising goal, raised funds for academic scholarships, and honored leading entrepreneurs.

Not only did over 300 guests have a great time, they also contributed to the advancement of youth and minority entrepreneurship while networking with a wide range of business and political leaders, from the CEO of Whiting Turner, Tim Regan, to Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh. The Lassiter team was pleased to serve as the event producer and fundraiser. Looking forward to 2019!



"The Power of Black Business" live interview at PRT's 2018 gala: Robert L. Wallace, CEO and founder of BITHGROUP Technologies, Maria Beckett, founder of Maricom Systems, Inc., and Eddie C. Brown, founder, chairman, and CEO of Brown Capital Management, discuss their history with entrepreneurship and with PRT.

Welcome!

Lassiter & Associates is proud to serve premier construction company **Mahogany, Inc.** and nonprofit organization **Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC).**

We are delighted to welcome **Christopher Sifford** as managing director to the Lassiter team. Chris brings extensive nonprofit management and leadership, volunteer management, and fundraising expertise.

"More curious than afraid"

The Lassiter team attended the NEA Foundation's *Keeping the Promise of Public Education* Symposium, where we heard sixteen stories on how important public education is to a society and the impact it makes on youth. Speakers of all ages and from different regions of the United States attended the symposium. Among them was author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who also gave a captivating live interview. We were struck by her comment that "students will teach you how to teach them." We also heard from teachers, who told us about the importance of art education, how to teach peace, and designing education around what students can do, not what they can't.

But students are not the only ones we need to teach. To keep the promise of public education, "we need to be more curious than afraid." We need to have the courage to teach each other, but more importantly, to teach ourselves: to recognize what we do not know and to continually seek knowledge. Let's Keep the Promise of Public Education—share your story at <https://www.neafoundationyearbook.org/the-yearbook/>! Our CEO, Valeria Lassiter, is proud to serve on the NEA Foundation Board of Directors.

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