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# WE-Zine



PROGRESS, DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX



Dear %%FirstName%%,

When we talk about Black women in entrepreneurship, we're not talking about a trend, we're talking about a truth. Black women have been leading, building, creating, and innovating long before there were buzzwords or hashtags for it. And what we're doing at the **Women's Entrepreneurship Hub (WE Hub)** is simply making that brilliance visible—reminding women that **yes, you belong here.**

Our 2025 SHEsolidarity event was a powerful example of that. From the moment doors opened, there was a sense of connection in the room with women finding their voices, sharing their stories, exchanging ideas, and realizing they're not alone in this journey. One attendee shared, **"Most of the women looked like me and understood the challenges we face as minority female entrepreneurs."** Another wrote, **"Seeing women who come from the same background as me made me feel like I truly belong in the entrepreneurial world."**

That's the heart of the WE Hub. Whether someone is launching a product, side hustle, or community service, we meet them where they are and remind them that entrepreneurship doesn't have to look one way. It's not about how big your idea is or how polished your website looks. It's about believing in your vision and finding the support to move it forward.

We also know entrepreneurship can feel isolating, especially for women who don't see themselves reflected in mainstream narratives. That's why events like SHEsolidarity matter. Because they center joy, healing, sisterhood, and solidarity alongside strategy.

At SHEsolidarity, we heard dreams and pitches, yes, but we also heard laughter, saw hugs exchanged, and watched connections spark into possibility. That's how transformation begins: not always in big, flashy moments, but in spaces where **women feel seen, welcomed, and inspired to keep going.**

**To every Black woman entrepreneur in our community: we see you. We celebrate you. Not just during Black Business Month in August, but all year long. And we're here to keep walking with you, every step of the way.**

In Solidarity,

Raven Hargest  
WE Hub Manager

## "She Says" with DeAnna Taylor

*She Says*

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The WE Hub is crucial for women to gain emotional support for their businesses. It allows them to talk through their needs in a safe environment, without having to



safe environment, without having to navigate it solo. And more women entrepreneurs, especially Women of Color entrepreneurs, need to know about it.

“

*DeAnna Taylor*



If you want to change the world, you must prioritize rest. Need proof? Just ask DeAnna Taylor. Not long after learning she was expecting her fourth child, DeAnna reached her breaking point from juggling multiple responsibilities and realized something needed to change. From there, she began outsourcing help from the people closest to her and advocating for her needs so that she could get the rest she not only needed but deserved. After seeing the benefits of incorporating more rest and self-care into her life, she launched **Mom Care Oasis**, a company designed to help overwhelmed and burned-out mothers prioritize their own wellness, both at home and at work. Following the success of Mom Care Oasis, and after receiving a recommendation from a friend, DeAnna expanded her brand to include senior-level executives and founders, later creating **MCO Executive Wellness**. There, she provides services in the areas of executive and life coaching, wellness workshops, and teambuilding retreats, all designed to improve leadership using wellness strategies.

The Founder and Executive Rest Coach (and WE Hub user!) represents the idea that in order to love the life you're working hard for, you have to prioritize rest. Saying, "The same way we need water, is the same way that we need rest. The more leaders, founders, and decision makers understand the power of rest and self-care and its relationship with creativity, productivity, and relationship building, the better the world will be." And you know what... she couldn't be more right.

In this month's "**She Says,**" we talk with DeAnna Taylor about why she prefers work-life harmony over work-life balance, what she loved about our recent SHESolidarity event, why the **Women's Entrepreneurship Hub (WE Hub)** is important for Black women entrepreneurs, and how she's unafraid of failure.

[Read More](#)

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## What WE Are Talking About

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[Read Our Healthcare Career Pathways Report](#)



# NAVIGATING THE MAZE: Challenges in Healthcare Career Advancement

— Standard Report —

Women make up the majority of workers in the healthcare industry. Many are employed in lower-paid entry-level roles, and despite efforts by educators, advocates, service providers and funders to increase their mobility into high-quality "good" jobs, workers often struggle to make that transition.

To better understand the reasons why, Women Employed recently led a research project to investigate the career pathways of women healthcare workers who started in entry-level, low-paid roles in Chicago, with a particular interest in Women of Color. We are proud to release our research findings in our new report, "[Navigating the Maze: Challenges in Healthcare Career Advancement.](#)"

## DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

In this report, we outline what we learned about what these workers experience throughout their journey from education and training to hiring and promotion, and provide recommendations for healthcare employers, education and training providers, and other stakeholders to address the barriers that thwart their goal of long-term economic mobility.

To read more Women Employed research reports and policy briefs, visit <https://womenemployed.org/resources/research-reports-and-policy-briefs/>.

## Don't Let Anyone Take Away Your Right to Vote!



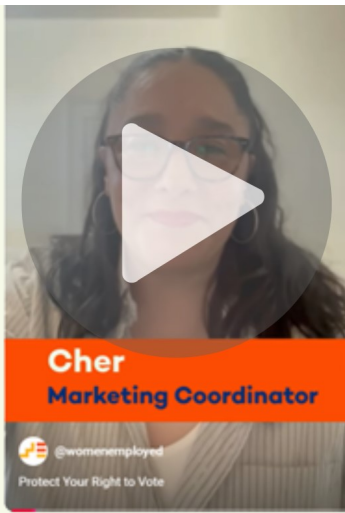
Yesterday, August 26th, was Women's Equality Day, the 105th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted some women the right to vote. Unfortunately, for millions of Women of Color, gaining the right to vote would take several more decades.

Right now, there are dangerous threats to our right to vote, and it's time we ring the alarm! Proposed bills like the SAVE Act and promises from the administration to ban mail-in ballots and voting machines could strip voting rights away from millions of Americans. There's even a proposal to [abolish the 19th Amendment!](#)

**Don't let anyone take away your right to vote!**

Make sure you are registered: <https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/>

And then, vote in **EVERY** election—federal, state, and local. General elections and midterms. **We can't afford not to!**



## Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Equal Pay Day is TOMORROW, August 28th!



**This Thursday, August 28th (TOMORROW), is Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Women's Equal Pay Day.** Please join **Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)**, **Equal Pay Today**, and partners across the country for a **social media storm** on August 28 at 2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT to raise awareness of how NHPI women experience wage gaps and the impact on communities.

**Our friends from EPIC have created this toolkit for our use:**  
<http://empoweredpi.org/nhpi-equal-payday-2025>.

For every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men working full time, year-round in 2023, NHPI women, working full time, year-round were only paid 65 cents. And when looking at all NHPI women earners (full-time, part-time, and part-year/seasonal), they bring home a mere 61 cents for every dollar earned by white men. For some communities, the pay disparities are even worse. The biggest wage gaps experienced by NHPI women are hidden in data that aggregates all AANHPI people together. When each of our populations is represented statistically, a more complex truth emerges. That's why we need to speak out not just for pay equity, but for better, disaggregated data to help us understand the full picture.

[DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT](#)

## Rally With WE on Labor Day!



Members of the WE Team will rally and march this Labor Day to support workers' rights throughout the U.S. and across the world, and we invite you to join us!

- **Date:** Monday, September 1, 2025 (Labor Day)
- **Time:** Rally starts at 11:00 a.m.
- **Where:** Haymarket Memorial, 151 N. Desplaines St, Chicago
- **Meet Up With WE:** The Women Employed crew will meet at 10:30 a.m. at Open Books, 651 W. Lake Street, Chicago, and walk to the march together!
- **RSVP:** <https://forms.gle/vvtrcn8MF9hQDz558>

To for information about the rally, visit:

<https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/806237/>

**Questions?** Email WE's Director of Advocacy and Policy, Sarah Labadie at [slabadie@womenemployed.org](mailto:slabadie@womenemployed.org).

## Join the Advocacy and Marketing Council Fall Kick-Off Social



Greetings Women Employed Councils!

### It's time to get social!

We invite you to join us for our joint Marketing and Advocacy Council Fall Kick-Off Social on Wednesday, September 17th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. This in-person-only gathering will focus on community building, an update on FY 26 priorities, our Salary Transparency public education campaign, and more!

**Registration is required. Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, September 15th.**

**Questions?** Contact Women Employed, Communications Coordinator, Racquel C. Fullman at [rfullman@womenemployed.org](mailto:rfullman@womenemployed.org).

**We look forward to an engaging experience with you all as we close out summer and head into fall!**

[RSVP HERE](#)

## Calling All Illinois Colleges: Register for ASPIRE's September 12th Webinar



This fall, our ASPIRE Project will host three webinars as part of a preview of our Developmental Academy, set to begin in January 2026. The previews will consist of three webinars (September, October, and November), with each webinar connecting to one of three tracks tied to the academy: Developmental Education Reform Act (DERA) information and technical assistance, college mentorship, and Racial Equity and Inclusion work.

Join Women Employed and [Almy Education](#) for the first webinar on Friday, September 12th at 1:00 p.m. CT. Led by ASPIRE math consultant Dr. Kathleen Almy, this webinar will provide an inside look at how Illinois institutions are transforming developmental education to better serve students. There, we'll share lessons learned from the first phase of DERA implementation, highlight what's working, as well as what still needs attention. We will also explore campuses' levels of interest in joining a future version of this type of cohort. If you work in higher education in Illinois, come discuss what supports and services your institution needs to continue advancing equity and student success work statewide.

- **Date:** Friday, September 12, 2025
- **Time:** 1:00-2:00 pm CST
- [Click here to register](#)

## Resources

[Salary Transparency is Now the Law in Illinois](#)

[You Deserve Fair Pay](#)

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## Events

[Labor Day Rally](#)

[ASPIRE Webinar](#)

[Advocacy and Marketing Council Fall Kick-off Social](#)

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## On the Blog

[Where in the World is Women Employed?](#)

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## WE in the News

['Attack on women's rights': Trump administration's impact on women's health examined at Joliet event](#)

Shaw Local

[Commentary: Donald Trump's cuts are costing Black women their jobs](#)

The Pantagraph

[Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton to Host Standing Up for Illinois: Protecting Women Roundtable In Joliet](#)

WJOL

[Illinois Playbook](#)

Politico

[Lt. Gov. Stratton to visit Joliet to address Trump administration policies on women's health](#)

Shaw Local

[Government job cuts take a bite out of Chicago's economy](#)

Crain's Chicago Business

[SHESolidarity 2025: Uplifting Black and Latina women entrepreneurs in Chicago](#)

Fox 32

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## What We're Reading

[Wage growth is sinking for poorest workers](#)

The Hill

[Working Students Face New Challenges in a Shifting Policy Landscape](#)

Higher Education Today

[Suspending monthly economic reports would be really bad for women of color](#)

The 19th

[Parenting Students Already Overcome the Odds to Succeed in College, The Republican Budget Bill Is Going to Make it Harder](#)

New America

[GOP Megabill Makes It Harder for People to Provide Care for Each Other](#)

The Century Foundation

[Many home care workers are immigrants. Now, some are afraid to go to work.](#)

WBEZ

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