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**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WOMENS CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 35 YEARS:
EMMY AWARD WINNING ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST – SHERYL LEE RALPH**

www.cwc-fresno.org

Fresno, CA – Registration for the 35th Central California Women’s Conference begins Tuesday, June 18, 2024. CCWC is proud to welcome Emmy® Award Winning Actress, Producer, Activist, Mother and Diva – Sheryl Lee Ralph as the lunch keynote presenter. This day of inspiration, enrichment, and growth is the largest women’s event in the region and will be held from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024 at the [Fresno Convention & Entertainment Center](https://www.fresnoconvention.com).

A staple of the entertainment industry, Ralph can currently be seen in the role of Barbara Gordon, on the Award Winning, hit comedy Series *Abbott Elementary*. Ralph’s acclaimed career spans over four decades of both stage and screen with countless award nominations as well as having won: Critics Choice Award, Independent Spirit and in 2022, an Emmy Award.

Ralph’s credits include television shows such as: *Moesha*, *Ray Donovan*, *Two Broke Girls*, *The Jeffersons*, *Designing Women* and much more. Ralph’s career credits are not limited to the small screen as she had her film debut opposite Sidney Poitier in *A Piece of Action*. She continued on to such films as: *To Sleep with Anger*, *The Distinguished Gentlemen*, and *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*.

On stage, Ralph is well known for her award-winning work, creating the role of Deena Jones in the legendary Broadway musical “*Dreamgirls*” which earned her Best Actress nods for Tony and Drama Desk Awards. In 2002, She originated the role of Muzzy Van Hossmer in “*Thoroughly*

Modern Millie” alongside Sutton Foster. She most recently appeared as Madame Horrible in “Wicked,” becoming the first African American actress to take on the classic role.

“Sheryl Lee Ralph has an amazingly warm and inspiring presence that we cannot wait to bring to the 35th Conference!” says CCWC board president, Teri Amerine. “Her zest for life and celebrating who you are today is just what we need this year!”

The theme of this year's CCWC is *Sparkle at Every Stage*. Attendees will be invited to embrace where they are today, with pride and confidence.

After being an attendee favorite last year and in keeping with the Sparkle at Every Stage theme, the morning Warm-Up Session will feature local changemakers who use their voice and passion to make a positive impact on Fresno County.

Conference attendees choose three [breakout sessions](#) to attend throughout the day from 21 options. Topics include career development, health and fitness, money and finance, relationships, courage, service and activism, and strength and change. “Each year our team really looks and listens to the needs of the community,” said Amerine. “This year’s lineup is sure to offer something for everyone. CCWC offers a day of information, networking, fun, a little ‘retail therapy’ and maybe a few surprises for the hard-working women of this Valley.”

Attendees also have the opportunity to visit the conference Marketplace and Community Corner where more than 175 businesses and nonprofits share information about their products and services. Visitors will be treated to samples, gourmet tastings, information, and shopping.

This fulfilling day will come to a close with the After Party where women enter to win prizes, relax and have a laugh with the return of another Attendee favorite – Karen Mills. Mills had the attendees roaring in laughter during her presentation in 2018. This self-proclaimed “crazy dog lady” has a straight-forward approach to the realities of life. Her smart, funny, keen observations will keep you laughing at yourself as you relate to her experiences.

Like last year, this year's event is expected to be an exceptionally early sellout. Registration begins on Tuesday, June 18, and are \$135 each. Ticket price will increase to \$150 on August 1st. Registration includes continental breakfast, all seminars, the celebrity keynote speaker luncheon and the afternoon reception. Tickets are limited to the first 3,500 attendees. Early registration is encouraged. Visit www.CCWC-Fresno.org for tickets and additional information.

The conference is made possible through the [support](#) of national and Central Valley businesses. The founding sponsor is ABC 30. Major sponsors include: Community Health Partners; State Center Community College District; Kaiser Permanente Fresno; AT&T; Bank of America; cCARE; Inspire Health Medical Group/UCSF Fresno; Fresno Acura; The Heart Group; Portfolio Advisors Inc.; Ruiz Foods; Starbucks; Trinity Fruit Company; Walmart; Fresno State; U.S. Bank; RiverPark; The Business Journal; 93.7 KISS Country; FTB Print & Mail; 101.9 La Buena; and Pepsi.

[Sponsorships](#) and [exhibit booths](#) are still available. For sponsorship information contact Karen Franz Karen@ccwc-fresno.org; for exhibit booth information contact Sonya Nagai-Menapace at Sonya@cwc-fresno.org.

More information about the [conference](#) and [speakers](#) is available at www.CCWC-Fresno.org.

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*The **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** was founded in 1988 by the late State Senator Ken L. Maddy of Fresno, Calif. The conference is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, non-political organization, and the event is designed to educate, motivate and inspire women to be the best they can be in their professional and personal lives. (Tax I.D. #77-0178140).*