Getting Your Product on the Shelf: An entrepreneur’s journey from concept to reality

**Speaker:** Chris-Tia Donaldson, CEO, *Thank God It’s Natural*

By day, Harvard graduate, Chris-Tia Donaldson provides strategic legal advice to top executives at one of the world’s largest Fortune 100 companies. By night, the lawyer-turned-businesswoman is inspiring women from the South Side of Chicago to South Africa, to adopt healthier beauty practices through Thank God It’s Natural, her line of natural products for the hair and skin, which are now available nationwide in Target stores. Under Chris-Tia’s leadership, the company plans to expand into healthy snacks, cookbooks, supplements, and fitness apparel in the near future.

Chris-Tia has been featured in major media publications such as USA Today, Marie Claire, Black Enterprise, Ebony, Heart & Soul, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, Detroit News, Boston Bay State Banner, as well, as many other outlets throughout the country. She also has appeared as a guest on ABC News, Fox News and WGN local affiliates, as an expert on African American women, beauty issues, self-esteem, healthy living and sustainable values. Her book *Thank God I’m Natural: The Ultimate Guide to Caring for Natural Hair* is a #1 Amazon bestseller, and was recently hailed the “Natural Hair Bible” by Essence Magazine.

Tap Into Your Juice

**Speaker:** Amy Hilliard, President, *Fashion Fair Cosmetics*

Amy Hilliard, a native Detroiter and honors graduate of both Howard University and the Harvard Business School, joined Johnson Publishing Company as President of Fashion Fair Cosmetics in February, 2014. Fashion Fair is the largest Black-owned cosmetics company in the world. The company began in 1973 to address the lack of cosmetic products on the market for women of color. The brand’s focus remains dedicated to offering products, services and education that address the unique complexion needs for women with deeper skin tones. The line can be found in department stores across the United States as well as in Canada, the United Kingdom, countries in Africa, the Caribbean, France and other countries around the world, as well as on online at [www.fashionfair.com](http://www.fashionfair.com).

A former buyer for Bloomingdale’s and senior marketing executive with Fortune 500 corporations, including Gillette, Pillsbury and L’Oreal, Amy Hilliard raised two young adults as a single mother and is author of *TAP INTO YOUR JUICE --Find Your Gifts, Lose Your Fears and Build Your Dreams* – a motivational book endorsed by First Lady Michelle Obama. Ms. Hilliard has been profiled in numerous publications including Fortune, Essence, The Huffington Post, Ebony, Business Week, Black Enterprise and Entrepreneur magazines, and has also been featured on CNN, AOL, NPR and other national programs.
Speaker: Junior Bridgeman

Ulysses Lee “Junior” Bridgeman, an NBA player for the Milwaukee Bucks in the 1980s, started Bridgeman Foods II, Inc. in 1988 by purchasing 5 underperforming Wendy’s Restaurants in the greater Milwaukee area. Under his leadership, the company and its affiliates enjoyed a steady pace of growth. Today, Junior’s company is one of the largest multi-brand franchises in the country and one of the largest minority-owned business enterprises in the food industry.

Bridgeman Foodservice and its affiliates, is a conglomerate that spans 18 states, with over 400 restaurants and 18,500 people. After two decades of business growth, Junior started Bridgeman Hospitality to meet the commercial and government hospitality needs.

Although Bridgeman is one of the biggest, it is about being the best. Being the best means creating a company that is based on its people. The company’s leadership has always believed in the inverted pyramid: when it comes to the day-to-day operations, customers and team members come first and leaders last.

For more information about the series and to register, please visit: http://b2bseries3.eventbrite.com