



Soon-Young Yoon

Soon-Young Yoon Bringing together people, businesses, and resources to affect solutions and improve functioning are the values added by Ms. Deborah Barnett. As a recognized leader in the community and a certified life and business coach, Deborah has honed her unique abilities to forge interpersonal and business relationships. She harnesses the skills she acquired from spending over 30 years in community development and banking. She is purposefully prepared to assume the roles of speaker, coach, motivator, and networker. She has an undeniable ability to assess, manage, and execute bringing together the right combinations of people and resources to benefit business endeavors. Her network consists of professionals, business owners, and resources that span banking, education, government, health care, law, fine arts, non-profit organizations, and more at a local, state, and national level. Through her consulting company, N-SYNC, LLC, she has been instrumental in collaborating with the City of Toledo – Department of Neighborhoods, Toledo Public Schools, Promedica, The University of Toledo, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce. After serving her community for 36 years with The Huntington Bank, she set her sights on operating her small business but continues to be sought after as a resource, a consultant, a speaker, a motivator, and an event consultant.

Deborah uses her professional contacts and business acumen to ensure that businesses are represented at the table when opportunities are presented. She has positioned herself to be a respected voice among community leaders. is a Korean-American advocate for women's human rights and author of "Citizen of the World -- Soon-Young and the UN". She currently serves as a United Nations representative of the International Alliance of Women and Chair of the Board, of the Women's Environment and Development Organization.

She has worked with UNICEF in Southeast Asia and the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia in New Delhi. She is a board member of the International Advisory Council at the Harvard AIDS Initiative, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and the International Foundation for Ewha Womans University. She has worked as a senior consultant for the WHO on women and tobacco issues and supports the innovation lab for NCDs.[1] She is the main representative of the International Alliance of Women to the United Nations ECOSOC. In that capacity, she was Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York from 2011 to 2015 during which the committee launched the Cities for CEDAW campaign. In 2014, she received the CEDAW award for International Comity from the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women in San Francisco.

She is co-editor with Jonathan Samet of the WHO monograph, "Gender, Women and the Tobacco Epidemic" and a former columnist for the Earth Times newspaper. She has published essays about her life, working with the UN, and feminist views on global issues in her book, "Citizen of the World--Soon-Young and the UN" (published by Ewha Womans University Press, August 2021). In 2021, she was appointed to the Advisory Board on Gender Equality of the UN President of the 76th General Assembly, H. E. Ambassador Abdulla Shahid of the Maldives.

Yoon holds a bachelor's degree with honors in French literature, a PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan, and a certificate in computer graphics from the Pratt Institute of the Arts. She is married to Richard M. Smith, former Editor-in-Chief and President of Newsweek and current President of the Pinkerton Foundation.