



Deirdre Joy Smith

Deirdre Joy Smith is the founder, CEO and visionary behind **POWER: Opening Doors for Women®**. She has received numerous awards including the Chicago Foundation for Women Impact Award, the “Women on the Rise” Award, and the “Women Making History” Award.

Prior to founding **POWER**, Deirdre was the Midwest Finance Director for the Democratic National Committee. She subsequently became principal of DJS Consulting LLC, a political and nonprofit fundraising firm. Deirdre has lived and worked abroad in the Netherlands and Turkey. Her career has included domestic and international trade experience at the U.S. Department of Commerce. She has also worked with Women in International Security, a nonprofit organization at the University of Maryland’s Center for International and Security Affairs.

Deirdre is a member of the Chicago Executives’ Club, where she sits on the Talent Development and International committees. She is a member of the Chicago Global Council of Affairs and the Board of Trustees for WTTW, Chicago’s PBS television station.

She is a board member of the Thirty Percent Coalition, a national organization committed to the goal of women holding 30% of board seats across public companies. She is a former board and executive committee member for the Chicago Foundation for Women, Working in the Schools, and Athena International.

Deirdre is a graduate of KPMG’s Executive Leadership Institute for Women for senior-level executives. She received a Bachelor of Science from Purdue University and studied at the London School of Economics and Obirin University in Machida, Japan.