WOMEN KNOW GLOBAL: A CONVERSATION WITH THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT

March 2nd, 2020

Keywords:
Chamber of Commerce, women in business, trade, cross-sector, public policy, diversity and inclusion

Synopsis:
A conversation with Suzanne Clark, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in celebration of Women's History Month. Clark is the organization's first female president in its 108-year history. The chamber was created by President Taft in 1912 and is the world's largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses. The organization's top priorities are in trade and workplace issues, including immigration, infrastructure, and workforce training. This conversation focuses on the U.S. Chamber's goals for global trade and new workforce development initiatives, Clark's career path, and the challenges and opportunities that exist for women in international business.

Panel:
• Suzanne Clark, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in conversation with
• Ritu Agarwal, Interim Dean of the Robert H. Smith School of Business

Critical Thinking and Discussion Questions:
1. What is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and what does it do?
2. What are the three main parts of President Clark's job?
3. What are the Chamber members' three main priorities for the coming year? Which of these do you think is the most important and why?
4. Explain the conversation the Chamber and its members are having about AI and the transformation of work.
5. The Chamber encourages corporate social responsibility, but its members make their own independent CSR decisions. Do you agree with this policy? Why or why not?
6. Provide some examples of what member companies are doing in terms of diversity and inclusion and name some challenges that still exist.
7. President Clark mentions “most business leaders believe that American ingenuity and education and diversity is a unique American attribute, which encourages risk taking, innovation, and entrepreneurship,” but she also mentions a number of areas of concern for America's continuation as a business powerhouse. Which of these concerns do you think is most pressing and why?

The Center for Global Business is sponsored in part by CIBE, a Title VI grant provided by the U.S. Department of Education.