

## **MYECHIA MINTER-JORDAN**

PRESIDENT AND CEO, THE DIMOCK CENTER, ROXBURY

## What gives you the most hope for women as leaders in the workplace?

My own daughters [aged 8 and 10] are seeing a different world, a world that includes role models who weren't there when I was their age. They're seeing women who look like them in positions of power — Michelle Obama, friends of mine who are accomplished in their own right. My daughters don't express any limits on how they see the world, and that's exciting and energizing.

# What myth about women in the workplace needs to be corrected?

The myth about women as emotional creatures is a negative thing. In fact, having a higher level of emotional intelligence is beneficial: It allows you to understand different perspectives on an issue, see how important decisions impact various constituents, and read the unspoken communications that occur in meetings.

## LINDA SALLOP

PRESIDENT AND CEO, ATLANTIC CHARTER INSURANCE CO., BOSTON

### What's your advice for young women?

The best advice for anybody is to never say can't. Say yes to every opportunity. Be open to everything. Even if you're too busy or don't know how to do it, take on the challenge. You will find a way to do it. Guys always raise their hands and say, "I'll do it, I'll do it." Women need to be the same way at every chance they get.

# What one change would make the most difference for women's workplace equality?

To stop putting things in terms of gender. If women do that, they will always be boxed in. Calling women aggressive still happens, but you'll never get away from people who are jealous or threatened. Pay no attention. Don't counter it; don't try to be less aggressive, because you weren't being aggressive in the first place. You were just being professional.





## SANDRA COTTERELL

CEO, CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER, DORCHESTER

### What's your advice for young women?

I wasn't given advice so much as encouragement, and it gave me the confidence to take on different leadership roles. So my advice to young women is to seek out and surround yourself with role models and people who are supportive, people who say: "You got this. You can do it."

## What gives you the most hope for women as leaders in the workplace?

More women attending college and entering the workplace gives me hope, because it means more of us are working collectively not only to be mentors to the next generation but to support and provide resources to one another.

# What myth about women in the workplace needs to be corrected?

That we cannot perform as well as our male counterparts. There are still people who feel like men are more goal-oriented, more focused, more driven. But when we put our minds to it, we are just as capable.

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