

DONNICA HAWES-SAUNDERS

AUTHENTIC.

COURAGEOUS.

IMPACTFUL.

Donnica Hawes-Saunders is recognized as a mission-driven, collaborative relationship builder who delivers transformational results at the intersection of business imperatives, social impact, and communications. She is a political and social impact strategist that helps organizations in highly regulated industries improve and enhance their reputation. With over a decade of experience in the private sector and on Capitol Hill, Donnica connects public policy and organizational priorities with an emphasis on politically astute, coalition-based communications and strategic partnerships.

Donnica's corporate career has included leading global and U.S. public affairs and external communications outreach at Philip Morris International (PMI) where she conceptualized, developed, and directed over thirty original partnerships across six intersections: policy, media, NGOs, academic, sustainability, and diversity and inclusion, elevating PMI's brand and despite multi-billion-dollar resistance efforts within the industry. At Heineken USA, she developed federal legislative strategy that resulted in two years of federal excise tax relief for the company, saving approximately thirteen million dollars annually, and built social impact partnerships to promote brand reputation through corporate social responsibility and diversity, equity, and inclusion programming.

While on Capitol Hill, Donnica drafted and advanced legislation including bills to improve responses to victims of child sex trafficking (P.L. 114-22) and established amendment language in the 2014 Farm Bill Conference Report designating a historically black college (HBCU) as an 1890 Land Grant University, thereby increasing access to federal funds. Before working in the U.S. Congress, Donnica established a legal background through a unique combination of corporate law, litigation, negotiation, and persuasive communication training.

Donnica is a published author on topics around corporate culture, sustainability, and diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as a keynote speaker in the U.S. and globally. She has been awarded "Yahoo Finance EMpower 100 Global Future Leaders & Top 20 Highest Achieving Changemakers" for her strategy, execution, and advocacy in global corporate diversity, equity, and inclusion; is an Executive Leadership Council Fellow for her work opening channels of opportunity for Black executives to positively impact business and communities; and named one of the Top Lobbyists and Influencers in D.C. by Lawyers of Color magazine.



Donnica received the PRISM International Diversity Impact Award for creating and institutionalizing HBCU programming at global organizations and was nominated and awarded membership in the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), a network of global elected officials and policy experts. She currently serves on the board of the Atlas Performing Arts Center, a historic performing arts venue in Washington, D.C., is on the Influencer Council of Running Start, an organization that trains young women to run for political office, and is an ambassador for the Smithsonian National African American Museum of History and Culture (NAAMHC).

Donnica holds a J. D. from the University of Dayton School of Law, and received a B.A., magna cum laude, in Sociology and Anthropology from Spelman College.