

Women's Business Readers Choose The Top 10 Executive Coaches

Each month, Women's Business asks readers for nominations to create a Top 10 list in a particular category. In this issue we present the region's top executive coaches. Following are the dynamic professionals who provide the top-notch guidance that readers rely on for their personal and professional development.



Bonnie Gorbaty

Bonnie Gorbaty Inner Resources Newton

"Bonnie's enthusiasm and her professionalism have assisted not only me but many others in reaching a higher level in our leadership and management abilities. Her guidance and thought-provoking questions have opened my eyes to my strengths and many of my weaknesses. I participate in a CEO forum she facilitates and I am also in her new leadership mentoring program. I know this year-long quest with Bonnie as my coach will help me not only be a better leader but also a better person."

— Michelle Drolet, CEO,
CONQWEST Inc.



Susan Hodgkinson

Susan Hodgkinson The Personal Brand Company Duxbury

"The work I have done with Susan has helped me to clarify my own career aspirations and assisted me in mapping a plan to achieve them. I have found her to be personable, articulate and on the money with her insight and advice. I have received a major promotion since I began working with Susan, and I credit her with helping me position myself in the best possible light."

— Wendy Yang,
Senior Vice President,
The Keds Company



Joanna Nikka

Joanna Nikka ND Partners Bedford

"Joanna brings to the table a sophistication and breadth of advice that is distinctive. More specifically, she is mature and insightful in her perspective, which is a result of her wide range of industry experience. She is effective at framing management dilemmas in actionable terms based on facing similar issues herself. She suggests effective, pragmatic coaching and developmental interventions that work because they are grounded in business reality."

— Maliz E. Beams,
Senior Managing Director/Head of
TIAA-CREF Wealth Management



Andrea Novakowski

Andrea Novakowski Coach Andrea Ashland

"Andrea stepped in and helped me take control of my business when I and the business felt out of control. It was an overall, total coaching. At eight months I felt established and focused on the areas that created the most stress in my life. Now Andrea calls "just to check in," which only strengthens our working relationship – and knowing that whatever hurdle comes up, I am a call away from getting the help and direction I need."

— Debra Beck, Principal,
Beck Designs



Ginny Rehberg

Ginny Rehberg Rehberg Management Group Newton

"Ginny is the best return on my investment in a long time. Her coaching has given me the negotiating and interpersonal skills that I have been able to take with me in my various finance roles as well as apply to many different circumstances. Ginny is supportive throughout. She knows when to challenge, when to be compassionate, when to enable and when to elicit action. She makes the process as easy as it can reasonably be."

— Paolo Castelli; VP, Finance;
Concentra



Mel Robbins

Mel Robbins, Esq. The Handel Group Sherborn

"Mel's results are amazing. In one year, she redirected Six Red Marbles' sales efforts and helped us triple our revenues. She coached our relationships back to good health – we are more honest communicators and have eliminated nine-plus years of skeletons. She has encouraged us to lead the lives we couldn't even imagine. And she's done it all with style, humor and a swift kick in the pants."

— Yvonne Simon, EVP/Founder,
Six Red Marbles



Joycelyn Snell

Joycelyn Snell Professional Career Solutions Boston

"I have worked with Joycelyn over a 12-year time period. Her excellent advice has given me the confidence to move from a senior VP position within a major academic teaching hospital to the presidency of my own consulting firm and now to a relocation of my company to Miami. With her strategic coaching and guidance, I have successfully met enormous challenges in my career and business. She is a gifted advisor who brings many finely honed skills to her coaching work."

— Susan Galler, President,
The Galler Group



Annie Stevens

Annie Stevens ClearRock Boston

"I have used Annie Stevens to coach top executives for more than 15 years, and she is amazing. She is able to win the trust of the toughest cases and has the ability to help them confront the areas where they need to change without alienating them. Her outstanding traits are her honesty, her skill in speaking the truth without being hurtful, and her ability to enable people to change destructive behavior."

— Lisa Zankman;
SVP, Human Resources;
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



Kit Williams

Kit Williams Hemsley Fraser Training Group Waltham

"Katherine (Kit) Williams' combination of business savvy and keen interpersonal and organizational insight was the perfect blend for what I needed. She can quickly identify issues, provide the right mix of tough-love feedback, and coach toward realistic and positive outcomes. Her extensive background in leadership and organizational development means she has an array of immediate resources that enrich the coaching process."

— Joanne Handy,
President and CEO,
Visiting Nurse Association of Boston



Nancy Yahanda

Nancy Yahanda YAHANDA group Boston

"For nearly 15 years I have called upon Nancy to coach a variety of executives – those who were in need of some remedial help and those who were being fast tracked for more senior positions. In every situation her clients described her as extremely insightful, approachable and results oriented. She "tells it like it is" in a very respectful manner. Nancy also gets high marks from other HR executives in a variety of industries."

— Tom Webber;
VP, Human Resources;
The Gillette Company