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**THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP WELCOMES
MARLISSA HUDSON TO THE WOMEN OF COLOR CONNECTING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

*Women of Color Connecting Leverages the Power of Relationship Capital to Help More
Women of Color Entrepreneurs Grow, Scale and Build Wealth through Entrepreneurship*

Newark, NJ, February 11, 2021 — The Institute For Entrepreneurial Leadership (IFEL) announced today that Marlissa Hudson has joined the Women Of Color Connecting (WOCCON) Leadership Council. [Women of Color Connecting](#) is an IFEL initiative focused on leveraging the power of relationship capital to help more women of color entrepreneurs grow, scale, and create wealth from their businesses.

“Marlissa is an incredible champion for Women of Color and through her corporate and artistic experiences she brings an amazing perspective to the Women of Color Connecting Leadership Council,” says IFEL CEO Jill Johnson. “We are absolutely thrilled that Marlissa is joining us to collaborate and share her considerable wisdom and insights to help more Women of Color entrepreneurs move forward faster through their journey.”

Marlissa is the Principal and Founder of [Red Tent Consulting, LLC](#), a firm dedicated to driving resources and optimizing strategy on behalf of dynamic organizations. Her career spans over 10 years of successful collaborations in both the nonprofit and private sectors, including niches in corporate engagement, major gifts, and proposal development. With a background in grant writing, she has also secured funding for organizations ranging from large national nonprofits to overseas travel and performance opportunities. As an artist, Marlissa has performed with dozens of organizations, including the Saint Louis Symphony, Baltimore Pops Symphony, National Gallery, and National Philharmonic. She has also been featured as a soloist at Carnegie Hall and premiered the works of several modern composers. Acknowledging the strong connection between the skills needed for performance and fundraising, she opted to form a consultancy to affect positive change beyond the stage and is passionate about using her talents, resources and privilege to help Black women thrive.

Marlissa states, "I remember reading that the wealth gap between White and Black families is roughly 10:1; when Black people are entrepreneurs the numbers drop to roughly 3:1. I joined WOCCON to help create more successful entrepreneurs and to leverage my current success as a consultant and entrepreneur to help other Black women create wealth. Our stability is a bellwether for the success and health of our entire community. Jill has created an organization key to a quantum leap for the wealth of Women of Color; I am grateful for the opportunity to convene with this group of dynamic women to lift the dreams and talents of fellow entrepreneurs."

Marlissa graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in music and sociology and received her Master of Music from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. She resides in Reston, Virginia.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

Founded in 2002, the [Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership](https://www.weareifel.org) (IFEL) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that supports economic development through entrepreneurship. We are experts in creating and implementing small business programming in support of larger economic development objectives. Our mission is to eradicate the systemic barriers that prevent entrepreneurs of color from being able to access the knowledge, networks, and capital required for business success. Visit us at <https://www.weareifel.org>

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