

“Lela Panagides is a highly qualified HR professional-very knowledgeable on subjects related to people and organization capability; she is a strategic thinker with great ability to execute with excellence.”

-Elisa Furusho, HR Director, Microsoft Brazil

As the CEO of Leap Into Leadership, **Lela Panagides**, provides clients with cutting-edge, real world solutions that solve organizational challenges. Leap Into Leadership elevates performance while maintaining a collective conscience. She has been called a, “difference maker” and *The Springfield Business Journal* agreed when they named her “One of the most influential women” for her innovative work in 2013.

Equipped with a B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M.B.A. from Indiana University Kelly School of Business, Lela Panagides currently consults for some of the most admired global companies. Ms. Panagides has a gift for orchestrating her range of expertise in management, leadership, education and development to incite financial growth and organizational change. As a former Microsoft Executive, her responsibilities included; identifying and recruiting high-potential employees, ensuring effective employee development, succession planning, manager effectiveness, and executive on-boarding and coaching. During her tenure as a management consultant with Price Waterhouse (later PricewaterhouseCoopers) and then Ernst & Young, Ms. Panagides, works with clients, employees, managers, and executives in the areas of talent management, development, coaching, and strategic planning. She is certified in a number of assessment tools including; Hogan Assessment, Hermann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI), the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), Leadership Strategies Facilitator, and Lominger Leadership Architect.

An activist in her own right, she has worked in the area of diversity and inclusion to increase women in leadership positions. Ms. Panagides gives of her time and talents from serving as Vice President of the NAACP or working with various non-profit and

government organizations that help historically excluded groups. Her work empowers both girls and women through access encouragement through leadership experiences. Whether she is creating a mentoring program for minorities within the business community or working with at-risk female high school students, Ms. Panagides invigorates the plight of injustice.

Global invitations request her to speak at conferences, educational institutions, and professional association meetings. She is an accomplished speaker and educator. In 2012, Ms. Panagides developed training on unconscious bias, which she presented at governmental, university, and law enforcement organizations. With a social conscience orientation, Lela Panagides invites you to serve the greater good of your company and the human experience at large.