

## Learn from HER

"Chart your map with multiple routes, and build in the time and resources to meander, stretch, and explore. Let your curiosity lead you; chance encounters and experiences enrich our professional and personal lives."

—Ami Donor Co-owner, National Women's Soccer League Boston

**Early Detection Saves Lives** 



#### Meet the She Suite - Alison Connor

# Mousekeeper and Fempreneur

When it comes to her healthcare career, Alison Connor, MHA, is not "wasting" her talents. With an academic background in fine arts and hospitality, she brings a unique and customer-first vision to healthcare that benefits patients and associates. Alison started her post-graduate training as a

housekeeping intern at Walt
Disney World (fun fact: she was
a "Mousekeeper"). While at
Disney, Alison acquired

invaluable experience working for a Fortune 500 company world-renowned for their

customer experience and completed leadership courses through the Disney Institute. This foundation enabled her to transition from hotel housekeeping to hospital operations successfully.

Her initial management role as an Operations Manager in a healthcare facility's Environmental Services (EVS) department quickly expanded to encompass patient transport and linen services. Recognizing her burgeoning passion for the healthcare sector, Alison advanced her career by enrolling in a Master's program in Healthcare Administration at the University of Cincinnati in 2019.

During her master's studies, Alison leveraged her comprehensive understanding of healthcare facility operations to drive meaningful change. Her capstone project examined medical waste's environmental and economic impacts, revealing inefficiencies and identifying untapped opportunities within the industry. This research laid the groundwork for what would eventually become Greenway Innovations.

In April 2022, Alison realized her vision by co-founding Greenway Innovations, a company committed to transparency, consistency, cost savings, and

# **Leadership Corner**

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."—Henry Ford

This quote has been a guiding light for the She Suite over the past month. It powerfully reminds us that challenges and resistance can often be the catalysts that propel us forward, much like an airplane uses the opposing force of wind to take off.

Sometimes, preservation is the name of the game when we are a leader and things are moving in the wrong direction on the trend graph. As a leader, we need to step back and ask the following questions:

- 1. Are you building your team with intentionality?
- 2. Are you focused on your team's culture and developing their leadership skills?
- 3. Are you working yourself out of a job?
- 4. Develop your team to make decisions that support the mission of the organization.

The next time you say, "I need self-preservation as a leader," walk into the wind and see what clarity you can gain to move forward.



environmental stewardship in medical waste management. The company has established itself as a trusted partner for healthcare providers across Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Greenway's reusable container program and data-driven approach reduce clients' costs and align with their sustainability goals, demonstrating that operational efficiency and environmental care can coexist harmoniously.

Reflecting on her journey, Alison attributes her early career experiences to shaping her leadership style and dedication to excellence. Her tenure as an Environmental Services manager emphasized the importance of collaboration, innovation, and meticulous attention to detail—skills instrumental to her success as a business owner.

Today, Greenway Innovations epitomizes Alison's vision: a healthcare industry where waste management supports operational needs and environmental health. Her story illustrates how passion, education, and practical experience can converge to engender lasting, meaningful change.

## The She Suite Book Club

The Confidence Code by Katty Kay & Claire Shipman

The Confidence Code by Katty Kay and Clarie Shipman provides easy-to-practice steps to help leaders build confidence. It teaches leaders how to address issues and takes them on a confidence-building journey, from imposter syndrome to not striving for perfectionism, which will limit their success.

How does confidence support leadership? Self-confidence is necessary for leaders to take risks and accomplish the set goals. Kay and Shipman remind us that competence does not equal confidence, and vice versa; confidence is confused with competence. Competence is a leader's ability to perform a task, while confidence is a leader's belief in their ability to accomplish a task. Often, female leaders have competence but lack confidence and hold back when they should step up.

As you read this book, remember that confidence is a skill you develop over time, so practice often to enhance your confidence.