



AN EVENING WITH *Admiral Michelle J. Howard*

We are delighted to announce that Admiral Michelle Howard (Retired) will be our special guest speaker on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Murtha Center for Public Service and National Competitiveness on the Pitt-Johnstown campus.

A ground-breaking leader during her 35-year career in the U.S. Navy, Michelle Howard was the first female to achieve the rank of four-star admiral and the first woman to be appointed to the position of vice-chief of naval operations (the second highest rank in the Navy). She was also the first African-American woman to reach the rank of three-star and four stars in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and the first African-American woman to command a ship in the Navy. A veteran of operations that included NATO peacekeeping, Indonesia tsunami relief, Desert Storm, and Iraqi Freedom, she was thrust into the international spotlight in 2009 as leader of the counter-piracy task force that rescued civilian Captain Richard Phillips from Somali pirates. The rescue was later depicted in the film *Captain Phillips*.

Admiral Howard is a former visiting professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, where she focused on the cyber domain and associated issues in strategy and policy. The appointment highlighted a distinguished career in national defense within the areas of operations, readiness, and strategic planning.

Admiral Howard led Sailors and Marines multiple times in her career as the commander of a ship, an expeditionary task force, and a naval theater. This culminated in her final post as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa, in which she simultaneously led NATO's Allied Joint Force Command Naples with oversight of missions from the Western Balkans to Iraq. Admiral Howard is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. She is the first woman graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy to become an admiral.

On Admiral Howard's appointment to the IBM board, IBM CEO Ginni Rometty said in a statement, 'Admiral Howard is a groundbreaking leader with a distinguished career in military service. Her leadership skills, international perspective, and extensive experience with cybersecurity and information technology will make her a great addition to the IBM Board.'

A gifted speaker, Admiral Howard instantly connects with audiences with warmth and humor. Her keynotes address leadership, cybersecurity, diversity, innovation, and team building. To each, she lends experience gained from three decades on the front lines and the highest levels of national defense. Bringing the empowering insights of an African-American woman who spent her career shattering glass ceilings and breaking new ground, she continues to motivate others with her highly inspirational presence.

Admiral Howard will speak about cybersecurity, security challenges in the world, challenges in the global environment, and strategies to address those challenges.

This event is FREE to the public!

We hope you can join us!