



Jennet Robinson Alterman
Executive Director
Center for Women

Biographical Sketch

Jennet Robinson Alterman, a native of Charleston, is the Executive Director of the Center for Women. Ms. Alterman has worked in television broadcasting, state and federal government and the non-profit sector.

Degrees

(Honorary) Doctor of Humane Letters, College of Charleston, 2008
Bachelor of Arts, Mary Baldwin College, 1973

Professional Training

“Women and Power” Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, Boston, MA, May 2010
Women’s Executive Seminar, Aspen Institute, Aspen, CO, August 2007

Honors, Keynotes and Featured Presentations

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, US Assoc for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, 2011
Ashley Hall Alumnae Association Award for Community Service, 2010
SKIRT! Magazine 10 Women of Distinction, 2004
Women of Distinction Award, Lowcountry Girl Scouts, 2003
Young Career Woman of the Year, S.C. Business and Professional Women’s Federation, 1986

Keynote Speaker, College of Charleston Graduation 2008

Keynote Speaker, Ashley Hall Graduation 2008

Keynote Speaker, Charleston Southern University, Women’s History Month Program, 2006

Featured Speaker, the Links Annual Statewide Meeting, 2006

Keynote Speaker, Freshman Convocation, College of Charleston 2005

Keynote Speaker, Domestic Violence Awareness Day, 2005

Keynote Speaker, Charleston Women in International Trade Annual Banquet 2003

Featured speaker at international aid conferences in Washington, D.C.; Chiang Mai, Thailand;

Quito, Ecuador; Nairobi, Kenya; and Yaounde, Cameroon , 1990- 1995

Distinguished Lecturer, Ashley Hall Leadership Series 1989

Jennet Robinson Alterman has been the Executive Director of the Center for Women, a non-profit organization serving the Charleston Region, since 2001. The Center for Women’s mission is “Helping women succeed. Every day.” and celebrated its 20th anniversary last year. Under her leadership, the Center for Women has grown from less than 50 members to over 1,000 members. She is responsible for a staff of five employees and 225 volunteers. This year, Ms. Alterman was awarded the *Woman Entrepreneur of the Year* by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) for her work in developing programs that support and enable small business ownership by women.

Jennet Robinson Alterman, *Biographical Sketch continued*

In 2010, the Center for Women conducted 110 programs and events reached over 6000 women in the Lowcountry. The current focus of the Center for Women is:

- Helping women find new or better jobs through job counseling and training workshops
- Helping women start and be successful as small business owners
- Piloting a \$1,000 “microloan” program to assist women-owned, small businesses
- Training and inspiring women to leadership positions in business and civic affairs

Under her leadership, the Center for Women has received numerous grants and awards, including the Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management from the S.C. Association of Non-Profit Organizations in 2005, Oprah’s Angel Network Grant from Oprah Winfrey in 2006, the Family Circle Cup Tennis Tournament’s official *Charity of Choice* for 5 years (2006 to 2010), the 2009 Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce’s *1773 Award* for excellence in the Public/Non-Profit Sector and the People Against Rape’s Outstanding Victim Service Program in 2009.

Ms. Alterman is the Vice President of the Spaulding Paolozzi Foundation Board of Directors and serves on the following boards: Trident Urban League, Trident Workforce Investment Board, and Charleston County Housing Authority. Additionally, she participates on the Advisory Council of Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding, the Advisory Board of the Junior League and the Advisory Council of the Lowcountry Graduate Center.

In her earlier career, Ms. Alterman served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Afghanistan, Peace Corps Country Director in Swaziland and was the Interagency Coordinator for Peace Corps worldwide in Washington D.C., working on projects in over 40 countries. She was responsible for worldwide programs on Micro-Enterprise Development and Women in Development and Environmental Education.

In the 1980’s, Ms. Alterman worked in South Carolina state government as the Development and Training Director and the Public Relations Director for the SC State Budget and Control Board. She was Press Secretary (1980-83) for Nancy Stevenson, Lt Governor, one of only 3 women ever elected to state-wide office in South Carolina. Upon college graduation, Ms. Alterman began her career in Charleston as a television and radio news reporter/anchor.