



5TH NWGN BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2022

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PANEL

- Economic independence
- Financial literacy

RECOGNIZING YOUNG PIONEERS

- Celebrating achievement
- Uplifting women and youth

LEADERSHIP PANEL

- Addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging

NEPALI WOMEN
making a difference

IMMIGRATION PANEL

- Resources and guidance for maintaining status

COLLABORATION

- Networking opportunities
- Awareness raising

DECEMBER 4, 2022

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www.nepaliwomen.org



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NEPALI WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE: *Collaborating with Inspiring Young Adults In Building Leadership and Practicing Inclusiveness*

December 4, 2022

Drexel University

Welcome to the NWGN's 5th Biennial Conference. NWGN is a not-for-profit organization established in 2002 to promote, network and support Nepali women through education, advocacy, service, and collaboration. Since 2008, NWGN has been organizing biennial conferences connecting the community, building bridges, and discussing contemporary issues to raise awareness and close the gender gap in the Nepali diaspora. This year's biennial conference theme is "Nepali Women Making a difference: Collaborating with Inspiring Young Adults In Building Leadership and Practicing Inclusiveness."

This year's biennial conference aims to put a concerted effort into highlighting trailblazing young Nepali women and men to share their stories of making a difference. We focus on young Nepali because they offer brilliant new tools and interventions for addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion. This foundational summit will be one of its kind in the United States that recognizes Nepali youth and women professionals and brings them together in one platform.

NWGN would like to thank you for joining us today to make this festive a monumental event. Your support is vital in elevating underrepresented Nepali youths within the Nepali diaspora and outside. Despite Nepali youths and women continuing to advance and achieve academically and professionally, they are rarely in the public eye. NWGN seeks to address this gap by providing a space for young achievers to share their stories of perseverance and success. Therefore, this event aims to bring Nepali professionals and other like-minded people who will help develop networking and build a community of resources in the United States.

We feel the urgency to continuously raise our voices against the



exclusiveness of Nepali women and youth in the diaspora. Therefore, NWGN has fiercely advocated for "NO MANELS" in the diaspora and raised voices to make it more inclusive. Hence, through this conference, we want to address the "exclusion of equity-deserving women and youth" and have their meaningful engagement in our community. We want the community leaders to do self-reflection on whether their organizations truly embody inclusive leadership or not.

NWGN also believes that boosting women's economic empowerment is key to achieving gender equality. Although women's access to economic opportunities has increased globally, many women in our community are still not fully equipped to participate in the economy and lack access to financial training and mentoring. Therefore, through this conference, NWGN would like to take a step toward building a financially empowered community.

At last, we are thrilled to provide this booklet and would like to thank Zen Travels for publishing it. Also, thank you to our presenters, attendees, and sponsors for making this event possible and successful. NWGN is working on building a database of Nepali professionals, and this conference is a small step toward our bigger goal. We welcome our community organizations and individuals to collaborate with us to achieve our mission and continue advocating to build an inclusive community.

Thank you!

Avima Upreti
President, NWGN (2018-2022)

Dr. Soni Thapa
Vice-President, NWGN (2018-2022)



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

NETWORKING & REFRESHMENTS: 09:00 am to 10:00 am

OPENING CEREMONY: 10:00 am to 10:30 am

1st SESSION: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

NWGN'S Young Pioneer Award Ceremony: 10:30 am to 12:10 pm

Nepali Women Making a Difference: Recognizing Young Pioneers

Sarahana Shrestha, *Assemblymember Elect, NY's District 103*, pg. 7

Dr. Rashmi Khanal, *Hematologist, PA, Fox Chase Cancer Center*, pg. 7 - 8

Amrita Deo, *Customer Experience Professional at U.S Bank*, pg. 8 - 9

Nishchal Banskota, *Founder/owner Nepal Tea Collective*, pg. 9

Dr. Prerana Shrestha, *Neuroscientist, Assistant Professor,*

Stony Brook University, pg. 9-10

Anuz Thapa, *Lead Producer, CNBC.com*, pg. 10 - 11

KEYSTONE SPEAKER: 12:10 am to 12:30 am

Dr. Iccha Basnyat, *Associate Professor, George Mason University*, pg. 13

LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

2nd SESSION: 1:30 pm to 3:15 pm

1st PANEL: 1:30 pm to 2:25 pm

Nepali Women Making a Difference: Addressing Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB)

Moderator: Prajolita Lamichhane, pg. 15

Panelists:

Dr. Bidya Ranjeet, *Advisor NWGN*, pg. 16

Dr. Barsha Moktan Rayamajhi, *Youth Leader*, pg. 16 - 17

Prabha Deuja, *Past President of ANS, Social-activist*, pg. 17

Amit Pratap Shah, *Community Organizer*, pg. 18



2nd PANEL: 02:30 pm to 03:15 pm

Nepali Women Making a Difference: Advocating for Economic Independence and Empowerment of Women and Youth

Moderator: Anupama Sapkota, pg. 19

Panelists:

Jessica Giri, CPA, VP, Accounting & Finance, The Real Brokerage Inc., pg. 19

Prasansa Amatya, CPA, VP of IT Governance Commerzbank, pg. 20

Benisha Bantawa Rai, Real Estate Agent/Broker, Oxford Property Group, pg. 20 - 21

Ishari Piya Shrestha, Vice President, Research & Development, i3 Pharmaceuticals, LLC, pg. 21

3rd SESSION: 3:20 pm to 03:50 pm

1st PANEL: 3:20 pm to 3:50 pm

Nepali Women Making a Difference: Empowering Community by Immigration Law and Start up by Immigrants

Moderator: Prabisha Basnet, pg. 21 - 22

Anshu Karki, Esq., Immigration Attorney, pg. 22 - 23

Niranjan Adhikary, Esq., Immigration Attorney, pg. 23

CLOSING CEREMONY: 3:50 pm to 04:30 pm



MASTER OF CEREMONY

Nimisha Timsina

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MASTER OF CEREMONY

Medhavi Pandit

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NEPALI WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE: *Recognizing Young Pioneers*

**Recipient of
NWGN YOUNG PIONEER AWARD**

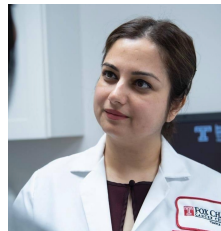
Sarahana Shrestha
*Assemblymember-elect,
NY's District 103*



Sarahana Shrestha is a Nepali-American climate organizer with the Democratic Socialists of America. She is the first Nepali-American woman to win a state assembly seat. She is the Assemblymember-elect in New York's District 103, where she ran a grassroots campaign and won the general election by 20 points after defeating the longtime incumbent in the Democratic primary. Sarahana was born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal, she lives in the Hudson Valley with her husband, Pete, and dog, Seaweed. Sarahana believes that through the New York State legislature, a model can be created for a just economy that empowers the working class and protects us from crises, such as the climate crisis. Sarahana moved to New York in 2001 as a transfer student to study Computer Graphics, and worked in that industry since graduating college in 2004. She has also dabbled in photography and creative writing. She can be reached at hi@sarahanaforassembly.com.

**Recipient of
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Dr. Rashmi Khanal
Oncologist/Hematologist



Dr. Rashmi Khanal is a hematologist/oncologist and Assistant professor at Fox Chase Cancer Center/Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Khanal works in

the Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapies department with a clinical research focus on developing newer cellular therapies for Lymphoma. Her main career interest is teaching medical students, residents, and fellows and contributing to the future of medicine. Dr. Khanal earned her MBBS degree from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. Due to her early interest in cancer, she worked as a Medical Officer at B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Center, Chitwan, Nepal. In the United States, she completed her residency in internal medicine at Jersey City Medical Center, New Jersey. Dr. Khanal has worked as Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University/Seidman Cancer Center as Assistant Professor in Cleveland, Ohio. She completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. Although she spent most of her time in Kathmandu, she has also lived in several remote parts of Nepal due to her father's job posting as a police officer. Besides being a physician/teacher/researcher, Dr. Khanal is also a proud mother of two beautiful children (Unnav and Onir). Family and community are very important to her. Love, respect, and humility are what she teaches her children. In her spare time, she loves to cook, entertain guests, is an avid reader, and loves spending time with her female tribe, indulging in all things silly. She can be reached at rashmikhanal@gmail.com.

**Recipient of
NWGN YOUNG PIONEER AWARD**

Amrita Deo
Computer Engineer



Amrita is a Computer Engineer by profession. She is a creative and business-minded Customer Service professional with over 15 years of experience in CX survey and Quality Assurance Consulting functions across a variety of industry segments. Amrita graduated from Nepal Engineering College in 2003. Since then she has worked globally for multiple Fortune 500 companies including Accenture, London Stock Exchange, Pfizer, and U.S. Bank. Amrita's latest adventure - based out of the Bay Area, she works at one of the top 5 banks in the U.S. She works closely with the Chief Customer Officer and the Chief Digital Officer to define Digital and Omni Channel Customer Experience Strategy at the bank. She pursues her passion for continuous learning and is doing her MBA from the Kelley School of Business. Amrita is also a mom of a teenage daughter, Aanya and an eight-year-old wannabe teenager Ishanvi. Never falls short of trying new things, her latest hobby is Mixology with an Asian twist.

**Recipient of
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Nishchal Banskota
Social Entrepreneur



Nishchal Banskota is a 2nd generation tea producer and the founder of Nepal Tea Collective, which directly brings certified organic teas from Nepal to the American market. His vision is to create a tech-enabled transparent tea trade that bridges the gap between the primary producers and consumers. Nepal Tea Collective is on a mission to lift one million farmers out of poverty by selling their freshest, delicious organic teas directly to consumers worldwide. He serves on the Board of Directors of the European Specialty Tea Association. His innovative work has been featured in major publications, including the New York Times and Forbes, and he has been a regular speaker at various tea festivals. He is a young leader for the European Union Development Days and an active advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Nishchal came to the United States to pursue an undergraduate degree at Colby-Sawyer College in NH. Although he initially wanted to become a CPA, four years of liberal arts college completely shifted his global perspective. He pursued his dream of merging a business degree with his passion for social impact. When not working for Nepal Tea Collective, Nishchal is usually immersed in the global stock markets or reading non-fiction - always with a cup of tea! He lives in New York City with his wife. He can be reached at nish@nepalteacollective.com.

**Recipient of
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Dr. Prerana Shrestha
Neuroscientist



Prerana Shrestha is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Behavior at Stony Brook University in the Renaissance School of Medicine. She is a recipient of several accolades – recently, she was named the Molecular and Cellular Cognition Society (MCCS) Scholar, Sloan Research Fellow, Kavli Fellow and Scialog Fellow. Further back in 1999, Prerana received the Ratna Vidya Padak for excelling at Nepal’s SLC exams. Prerana grew up in Kathmandu, in a family of photographers. Prerana joined Bates College in

Maine for her undergraduate degree, majoring in Biological Chemistry. She joined The Rockefeller University as a PhD student and decided to delve deeper into mouse genetics & behavior. Alongside her dissertation research, Prerana was developing a protein synthesis inhibitor that could be genetically encoded and drug-inducible. When she started as a postdoctoral researcher at NYU, she applied this chemogenetic tool to decipher the protein synthesis requirement in learning and memory. Prerana is a mother of two wonderful children and enjoys raising her kids with her husband. She has been an advocate for the less privileged in her capacity as a Board Director of Help Nepal Network US. She is also a founding board member of the International Nepali Biomedical Society which provides a platform for connecting researchers of Nepali origin worldwide. As a faculty at Stony Brook, she serves on the Advisory Committee of Turner fellowship, a graduate fellowship program for eligible underrepresented students. In her free time, Prerana enjoys running, traveling, and listening to music. She can be reached at prerana.shrestha@stonybrook.edu.

**Recipient of
NWGN YOUNG PIONEER AWARD**

Anuz Thapa
Journalist



Anuz Thapa is a multimedia journalist based in New York City. He is currently working as a Lead Producer for CNBC.com. Thapa specializes in multimedia storytelling, including Virtual Reality - 360 videos. In 2014, he moved to the U.S. to pursue his Master's degree in International Reporting from Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. In the US, he interned and freelanced for news outlets like New York Daily News, Metropolis Magazine, Voices of NY, SupChina, and The Real Deal. In 2018, he joined TheStreet as a Video Producer and became recognized for his one-person-band skill for telling multimedia stories. While in Nepal, after completing his Master's degree in development communication from Tribhuvan University, he started working for a radio station as a News Anchor. Later he joined News 24 Television as a News Anchor and Program Producer. During his five-year stint at News 24, his coverage of LGBTQ issues, dowry practice, etc., got him national attention. He also worked with BBC Media Action as a Radio Program Producer covering the April 2015 Earthquake. He and his wife, Dipika Shrestha, recently completed the first season of a podcast, "At The End of The Day.", which is a career guide to the recently arriving young immigrants in the United

States. Thapa lives with his wife and a 2-year-old son in New York City. Both duos love reading books, watching documentaries, traveling, photography, and creating multimedia content during their leisure time. He can be reached at anuzthapa@hotmail.com.



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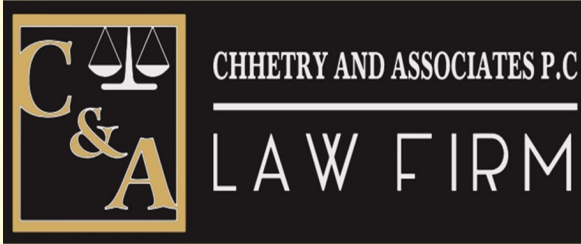
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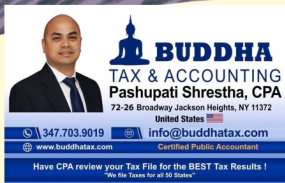


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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Iccha Basnyat

*Associate Professor,
George Mason University (GMU)*

Dr. Iccha Basnyat is an Associate Professor of Global Health Communication in the Global Affairs Program with a joint appointment in the Department of Communication at GMU. She is a strong advocate of social change and justice-based work for marginalized and vulnerable populations, especially women. Her primary area of research examines the intersections of gender, culture and health inequalities focused on South and SouthEast Asia. Specifically, she explores issues of access to health care, structural violence, stigma, social support, power, gender roles, race/class injustices and inequalities surrounding health and health risks of marginalized and vulnerable women. As a secondary area of research, she examines how individuals seek and exchange health information and how it is disseminated to the public. She has close to 40 peer-reviewed publications in leading disciplinary journals. She also co-edited an upcoming five-volume encyclopedia on global health communication, which brought together international contributors to address various recent and emerging topics. She serves on numerous editorial boards of leading disciplinary journals, including being an associate editor of a disciplinary journal. Dr. Basnyat was elected the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair for the health communication division of the National Communication Association. She has also been appointed to numerous leadership roles in both International and National Communication Associations. WHO recently invited her to join their advisory council in the health learnings unit. She received her BA from the University of Utah, an MPH from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and a PhD from Purdue University. She held a faculty position at the National University of Singapore. Most recently, she was also a faculty member at James Madison University as a tenured faculty. Currently, Dr. Basnyat lives in Virginia with her husband and two children. She and her family enjoy traveling, exploring new places, trying new food, meeting people from diverse backgrounds and learning about different cultures. She can be reached at ibasnyat@gmu.edu.



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Panel Discussion
NEPALI WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
*Addressing Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)*

MODERATOR

Prajolita Lamichhane

*LLM student at American University,
Washington College of Law (AUWCL)*



Prajolita Lamichhane is a lawyer from Nepal and international development professional working as a consultant at the World Bank. She is pursuing her LL.M. in International Legal Studies with a specialization in Gender, International and Comparative Law at the AUWCL. She is involved in organizing academic and social events to foster the diverse LLM international community. She is a recipient of the Global Talent Scholarship at AUWCL and currently serves as VP of the LLM Board. Prajolita is passionate about disentangling the legal and policy hurdles that could help women take a leadership role in solving socio-economic issues. Before moving to Washington D.C., in 2019, she worked on gender equality and human rights issues in Nepal. She received the Presidential Education Award from the Honorable President of Nepal. She has been working as a Board member of the US Board, Women LEAD Nepal, an NGO that helps young Nepali women with the skills, support, and opportunities to become leaders and change-makers. Her interest lies in human rights, gender, LGBTQIA rights, international law, and policy research. She also contributed to Nepal's sixth Shadow Report on the CEDAW. Her forthcoming publication includes 'Gender Integration in the Blue Economy Portfolio: Review of Experiences and Future Opportunities, World Bank, 2022. She can be reached at prajolitalamichhane@gmail.com.

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Dipak Sapkota, Social Activist

Mahesh Regmi, Social Activist

PANELIST

Dr. Bidya Ranjeet
Social Activist, NWGN Advisor



Dr. Bidya Ranjeet recently retired from the University of Connecticut, where she served as the Director of the UConn McNair Scholars and the Center for Academic Programs. In Nepal, Bidya co-founded Indreni Elementary School, Kathmandu, where she was the Principal. Bidya has made significant contributions to the University's mission of promoting diversity through her collaboration with other campus departments and developing innovative programming to aid in the retention and graduation of low-income and first-generation students. Her commitment to students extends beyond just ensuring their success at the University; she is also the primary force behind the creation of the UConn SSS Education Abroad Programs. Bidya has served as President of the Asian American Faculty and Staff Association at the University and the President of NWGN, and the Senior VP of the NRN-NCC USA. Her involvement in these organizations, and her tireless advocacy on behalf of advancing the interests of underrepresented groups within her local and worldwide South Asian communities, have provided countless people with opportunities to learn, grow, and improve their lives. She co-authored a chapter, "Creating Study Abroad Opportunities for First-Generation College Students," in The Handbook of Practice and Research in Study Abroad. She has authored two anthologies, Body Evidence and Living our Religion. She is also one of the first Nepali women living in America to shed light on issues confronting women of South Asian heritage. Currently, she lives in Connecticut with her husband. She spread her positive energy by supporting community organizations, uplifting women, and mentoring youths. She can be reached at bidya.ranjeet@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Dr. Barsha Mokhtan Rayamajhi
Pediatric Dentist



Dr. Barsha Mokhtan Rayamajhi is a Pediatric dentist by profession and an aspiring young leader of a South Asian Community. She is active in community

organizations and represents the Nepali diaspora in county and state activities. She served as the first youth coordinator of the NRN-NCC USA in 2014 and later became the regional youth coordinator for NRN Americas. She is actively involved in other national and international Nepali-American Non-profit organizations. She also has helped NWGN organize the 5th Biennial conference and is our Local event coordinator. She received her dental degree from Temple University Maurice Kornberg School of Dentistry and completed her pediatric residency at Temple University Hospital. She has organized multiple oral health camps in remote villages of Nepal and intends to do them regularly in the future. Barsha is a fierce advocate of diversity and inclusiveness and has been raising her voice to give a meaningful representation of youth in the diaspora. She was born and raised in Nepal and currently resides in Philadelphia, PA, with her husband and a fur baby. She also enjoys traveling with her husband and exploring new places, cultures, and cuisine. She can be reached at bmoktandmd@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Prabha Deuja

Past President of American Nepalese Society (ANS), Community Leader



Prabha Bhattarai is the Past President of America Nepal Society (ANS), the oldest Nepali Non-Profit organization in the United States. She came to the U.S when she was 15 years old and attended high school and college in the D.C Metro area. Prabha joined ANS in 1987 and worked in various capacities to give back to her community and connect with her roots. For the last 30 years, she has served the Nepali community by volunteering with organizations such as the D.C Soup Kitchen or participating in ANS's community activities. She is also the founder of the Tender Hearts Foundation and Nepali Pathshala, Vice President of her local HOA, part of the Multicultural Advisory Council Community for Fairfax County, and an Honorary Public Relations Representative for the Nepal Tourism Board. Prabha is the recipient of the President's Lifetime Achievement Award 2021, awarded by United States President Donald Trump. Prabha resides in Virginia with her husband, a daughter, and a fur baby, Penny. She likes to hike and volunteer with Fairfax County and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. She can be reached at kumar.prabha.deuja@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Amit Pratap Shah
*Social Entrepreneur, Community
Organizer*



Mr. Amit Pratap Shah (AP Shah), originally from eastern Nepal, is a multi-dynamic personality in Asian American community. Shah belongs to a marginalized community and is an energetic public health professional, social entrepreneur, and community organizer. He graduated from Kathmandu University and held a successful healthcare career of almost two decades while working at Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, Columbia University Medical Center, and NYU Langone Health. Shah is passionately involved in civic engagement activities and collaboratively works with government agencies, businesses, and civic leaders. He has played a prominent role in promoting and preserving Nepali heritage and culture in the USA through social entrepreneurial ventures, including the Nepalese American Festival, Miss Nepal US, Mithila Art & Culture Center, AHG Community Health Center, and ApanCare Foundation. By doing so, Shah brings fellow community members together to preserve Nepali identity, integration, and empowerment of Nepali Americans. His community leadership efforts and services have been recognized and awarded by many government organizations and elected officials, including the NY State Assembly, the York City Council and the Governor of NY state, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Nebraska State. He also received the U.S. President Volunteer Service Award 2022 and the Gold Medal for his outstanding leadership. Shah lives with his wife and two children in New York city. He can be reached at nyamit2007@gmail.com.



Panel Discussion
NEPALI WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
*Advocating for Economic Independence and
Empowerment of Women and Youth*

MODERATOR

Anupama Sapkota *Senior Project Manager*



Anupama Sapkota is a Senior Project Manager at 90 NORTH, an IPG Health Company. She is passionate about giving back to her community and can be found volunteering at many events that support the Nepalese diaspora. Anupama earned her Bachelor's degree from the Stevens Institute of Technology in 2017. She has been working in the healthcare and health-tech sphere for the past five years. Anupama currently focuses on software-based solutions for players in the pharmaceutical industry. Anupama lives in New Jersey, USA. She moved to the United States in 2006 with her family and has a loving family of her parents, a younger sister, a younger brother and a small dog. In her free time, Anupama loves to watch the latest tennis or soccer matches, bake yummy treats or play with her dog. She can be reached at anupama.sapkota@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Jessica Giri, CPA *Vice President, Accounting & Finance, The Real Brokerage Inc.*



Jessica Giri is a CPA and a successful executive in Finance and Accounting. She currently works as a VP of Finance for The Real Brokerage Inc, a publicly traded real estate brokerage firm where she oversees all aspects of Finance and Accounting. She joined Rabobank in 2011, where she worked in several areas of finance and accounting. Jessica started working for UBS NY in 2018. She was part of their regulatory reporting department, managing programs to ensure that the bank complies with the Federal Reserve guidelines. At UBS, Jessica also worked as a Financial Controller in the Wealth Management Division, overseeing business processes and system implementations. Jessica then joined Real Brokerage Inc as a Group Controller in 2021 and helped the startup go public in NASDAQ. Real Brokerage has grown nine times in revenue and has thrived despite the downturn in the housing market. Jessica is passionate about helping women grow into executive roles. She believes in work-life balance, setting aside time to focus on physical and mental well-being, and constantly promoting bringing your whole self to work. Currently, Jessica lives in New Jersey. She can be reached at jgiri549@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Prasansa Amatya, CPA
Vice-President for IT Governance
Commerzbank



Prasansa Amatya was born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal. She moved to the United States and earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Connecticut. Prasansa specializes in IT Governance and has worked for over a decade in the corporate industry. She started her career as a financial auditor in a public accounting firm. Currently, she is the Head of IT Governance Americas for Commerzbank AG. Prasansa firmly believes that learning is a lifelong journey, and with a great work ethic, perseverance, and resilience, one can achieve a great deal. Being a woman in technology, she values diversity and inclusion in the workplace. As an immigrant, she never forgets the roots of where she came from and the sacrifices her parents have made. The most valuable life lessons that have helped her in her career path are never letting a job title define you, staying true to yourself, disregarding negativity, and, most importantly, always staying humble. She is a proud mom to an 8-month-old baby boy. Cooking is her passion, and she considers the process very therapeutic. In her free time, she loves making cuisines from around the world and traveling to new places with her husband and two dogs. She can be reached at pamatya002@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Bhenisha Bantawa Rai
Real Estate Agent / Broker, Oxford
Property Group



Bhenisha Bantawa Rai, originally from the Eastern Part of Nepal, is a New York real estate professional with a proven track record of success and satisfied clients. She has over eight years of residential real estate experience. Knowing the local area intimately, staying current with market trends, and personalized service are her traits and techniques which have won her numerous awards. While in Nepal, she participated in women empowerment programs which focused on environmental conservation and women's education. After completing a Bachelor's Degree from Everest College in 2009, Kathmandu, she

went to the UK to pursue her master's degree in Business Administration at the University of London. She moved to NY City in 2012, and earned her NY real estate License. Besides real estate, in future, she wants to continue her father's non-profit organization in Nepal. She wants to guide Nepali youths and immigrants about real estate careers and train them to be financially independent through her knowledge and experience. She can be reached at bhenisha.bantawa@gmail.com.

PANELIST

Ishari Piya Shrestha

Vice President, Research & Development, i3 Pharmaceuticals, LLC



Ishari Piya Shrestha is an Entrepreneur. She is a Co-Founder and the Vice President of Research and Development of i3 Pharmaceuticals, LLC. Ishari is a formulation scientist and develops generic medicines, like tablets, capsules, etc. Prior to that, she was a member and the Senior VP of Product Development at Sigmapharm Laboratories, LLC. She has 20+ years of experience in R&D and has successfully developed, submitted, validated, and launched several unique generic and paragraph IV drug products. Ishari holds an M.S. degree in Industrial Pharmacy from the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy of Long Island University and a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the University of Sind, Pakistan. Ishari resides in the Philadelphia area with her husband and son. She likes to read, travel, cook and watch sports in her free time. She can be reached at piyai@hotmail.com.



Panel Discussion

**NEPALI WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
*Empowering the Community on Immigration Law
and Start-Ups by Immigrants***

MODERATOR

Prabisha Basnet

*LLM Student at Georgetown
University Law Center*



Prabisha Basnet is an attorney from Nepal is currently pursuing her LL.M. degree at Georgetown University Law Center, focusing on International Trade and Arbitration law. She is the recipient of the Dory Mayer Endowed Scholarship, the merit-based scholarship given to LL.M students. She is actively engaged in the LL.M. Committee of Georgetown Law as the Treasurer, which organizes events for the LL.M. students. She completed her undergraduate in law from Kathmandu University School of Law in 2019 and practiced law. While in Nepal, she has worked on foreign investment, trade, arbitration, and labor issues with domestic and multinational companies. She intends to appear for the bar examination here in the US. Her interest lies in issues intersecting between international trade and arbitration law. She believes that focusing on cross-cutting issues, specifically with technology, is important as it is inevitable that these areas will shape the upcoming policy aspect globally. She likes to travel and learn about new cultures during her leisure time. She came to the United States in 2022 and currently resides in Maryland. She can be reached at prabishabasnet@gmail.com.

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Anshu Karki is an Immigration attorney who focuses on family and employment-based immigration. She is the founder of the Law Office of Anshu Karki, LLC, in Maryland. An immigrant herself, she is focused on getting results for her clients. She uses her experience and legal knowledge to be a fierce advocate for her clients. She completed her undergraduate degree from Towson University and law school from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Her leadership positions in the legal field include serving as the chair-elect of the section council of the Immigration Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. She is also an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Anshu has devoted her time to pro bono service through the Immigration Justice Campaign and Catholic Charities. Due to her dedication to her clients, her peers selected her as a Super Lawyer, Rising Star in MD and DC from 2021 to the present- an honor given only to 2.5% of attorneys in any state. She can be reached at anshu@anshukarkilaw.com.

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