



VERA JONES

is a Motivational Speaker, Author, Coach, retired, 30-year TV & Radio broadcasting veteran, and Syracuse University Hall-of-Fame Scholar-Athlete. She is most widely known for her women's basketball analysis and reporting for various networks including ESPN, Fox Sports, Madison Square Garden Network, NBA-TV, and the Big Ten Network. She is also often recognized for her appearance in a 2017 Goalcast video with over 47-million views. Vera also enjoyed brief stints as a Paul Robeson Performing Arts actress and stand-up comedienne.

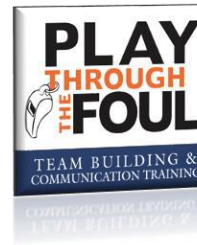
Vera is an MTI **Certified Mediator and Trainer in Workplace Conflict Resolution**. She earned her master's degree from S.U.'s prestigious Newhouse School of Communications. As **President of Vera's VoiceWorks, LLC, Founder of the Perseverance Speaker's Academy, and University of North Florida Professor of Public Speaking**, she uses her communication gifts to inspire and develop others through various keynote and training forums. Vera is honored and humbled to have become a Hall of Fame inductee with the Boys & Girls Club of America Alumni (2023) and the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO 2022).

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Vera
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The Empathy Coach



GIRLS DON'T WHISTLE?

A D.E.I.B. Countdown to Change

OVERVIEW:

Girls Don't Whistle? – With the help of the Andy Griffith Show theme song, this **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging** presentation invites participants to change their relational tunes for the better. Vera believes stimulating greater empathy and building trust are major keys for opening doors bolted by biases, fear, and ignorance. Tempering the need for honest self-introspection, Vera sheds light on why we react blindly to differentness and therefore perpetuate stigmas and negative stereotypes. Always geared towards conflict resolution, Vera brings simple solutions to an otherwise tense or difficult subject with a personal and organizational challenge. She calls it her called a **Countdown to Change**. She helps to transform teams and organizational cultures into more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplaces by giving leaders specific strategies to develop awareness, accountability, and action. *This presentation is also tailored for Women's Leadership and Empowerment.*

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

The Countdown to Change is a challenge to promote:

- **CONNECTION** – by understanding the power of sharing experiences and asking empathic questions that build trust and breakdown "Silo Mentality."
- **COMMUNICATION** – by discovering ways to have positive, proactive conversations regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, rather than reactive and defensive ones.
- **COLLABORATION** – by embracing and understanding how differences add value, and how the entire team must be accountable for creating the desired D.E.I. culture.

