

'You are more than your resume'

March 05, 2018 3:30 PM Marianna Barry
mbarry1@tulane.edu



Alumna Lisa Jackson, vice president of environment, policy and social initiatives at Apple, delivers the keynote address to more than 250 attendees at the 2018 Women Making Waves conference. (Photo by Cheryl Gerber)

Alumna Lisa Jackson, vice president of environment, policy and social initiatives at Apple, delivered the keynote speech Saturday during the fourth annual Women Making Waves conference presented by Tulane's Office of Alumni Career Services, a department of Tulane's Office of Alumni Relations.

Jackson spoke to more than 250 attendees about her own path of resilience in line with the conference theme "Building Success Through Resilience."

A recurring theme in Jackson's speech was the importance of creating a network of family, friends and co-workers who support you. This also means being a source of support for others, she said.

As a mother of two sons, Jackson spoke about her experience building a career while being a parent. The two experiences, she said, were mutually beneficial.

"One of the better trainings for management that I had was motherhood," said Jackson. "Aspects of parenthood such as conflict resolution and patience can easily be applied to the boardroom."

Jackson grew up in New Orleans' Ninth Ward, attended St. Mary's Dominican High School, graduated from Tulane and earned a graduate degree in engineering from Princeton University. She then went on to become administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency before landing at Apple, where she oversees the company's environmental initiatives, reporting directly to CEO Tim Cook.

"It never occurred to me that I couldn't be a doctor or an engineer," said Jackson, who was fortunate to receive positive influences from the women in her family. "It never occurred to me that I wasn't going to go to college and get a degree, or an advanced degree because I was surrounded by women who expected that of me."

Jackson was among the first members of her family to attend college, and she acknowledges, "that was a result of resilience and power. These women never stated what was possible, but they also had that look in their eye saying 'I'm not interested in you stopping where I am.'"

Jackson ended her keynote with an call to action, challenging attendees to forge their own paths. "There's a humanity and a history to you that if you let it guide you will take you to some pretty amazing places. There is no one else that possesses what you have inside you right now. Remember that when you walk in a room, you are much more than the resume that brought you into that room."

"One of the better trainings for management that I had was motherhood."

Lisa Jackson, Tulane alumna