

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH AND IMPROVEDGE



THE IMPROVISATIONAL LEADER

Join us for an interactive session with **ImprovEdge**. Improvisers think on their feet and manage well in risky situations. We say YES to each other's contributions and embrace the diversity of the ensemble by trusting each other to contribute. During this workshop, you will explore specific actions that will elevate your ability to influence, gain buy-in, and have better communication skills in any setting with a myriad of distractions and challenges. These behaviors, in turn, build confidence and trust with teams and clients. Everything that we do is supported by research and applied to the work that you do every day. You will use the skills of professional improvisers to chart your own course for how you communicate, collaborate, and prepare for the unexpected.

ImprovEdge is a government certified Women's Business Enterprise and helps companies transform behavior through interactive business training with an improv twist. Their client list includes NBCUniversal, JPMorgan Chase, Juniper Networks, Gilead Sciences, AstraZeneca, NASA, US Department of Defense, Worthington Industries, and International Trade Administration to name a few. For more information, visit us at improvedge.com.

About your facilitators:



April Olt, Senior Director of Content and Talent. As the Senior Director of Content and Talent and leveraging more than 15 years in the professional development industry, April leads the design and delivery of all ImprovEdge client experiences.

She received her B.F.A. in Theatre Performance from Illinois Wesleyan University and her M.F.A. in Directing/Dramaturgy from Roosevelt University in Chicago. April has worked with theatre companies and

creative artists as a coach, director, producer, and dramaturg in NYC, Chicago, Columbus, and LA where she currently resides.

As an educator and award-winning director, she teaches and directs productions for high schools and theatres across the country. She has created specialty workshops and camps for children and youth to promote confidence, inclusivity, and collaboration. Along with designing and facilitating workshops for clients on five continents, April has designed and taught courses in theatre, humanities and composition at Ohio Dominican University, Sinclair Community College, and Central Ohio Technical College.



Dionysia Williams, Executive Facilitator. For more than 12 years, Dionysia has been facilitating the exploration of where art and business meet. As an experienced presentation and presence coach, she regularly works with groups and one-on-one to help professionals build confidence and effectiveness in verbal communications. Her work spans industries – legal to pharma, media to government – and recent engagements include Bricker & Eckler, International Trade Administration, AstraZeneca, Cardinal Health and NBCUniversal. In addition, she is a Broadway dancer, singer, and actor.

A proud graduate of Wright State University, Williams has toured across the country and internationally (China, Europe) performing in Broadway musicals. She is currently the Associate Artistic Director of the Short North Stage, a professional theatre company in Columbus, Ohio. Williams is an expert in landing parts, jobs and handling interviews and has taught master classes around the country.



Cary Mitchell, Facilitator. Cary is an educator and visual/performing artist based in Columbus, OH. In addition to his professional acting career, Cary developed and led arts-based professional development workshops for Fortune 500 companies, served as volunteer chair and talent liaison for NYC Heritage of Pride, and was a certified NY Sightseeing Guide.

Cary earned his BFA in Music Theatre from Elon University. Based in Columbus since 2019, Cary earned his MA in Art Education from The Ohio State University, where he serves on the faculty and is working toward his PhD. Cary is also Director of Theatre at Grandview Heights High School and on staff at Short North Stage in Columbus.