



Leona Christy

Founder and CEO



Leona founded Catalyst:Ed in 2015 because she saw the need for an entity that would connect leaders to the expertise, knowledge, and resources they needed to build high-performing, innovative, and equitable teams. As a recent immigrant with no access to networks of power and wealth, Leona had to overcome several barriers as she sought to launch and grow the organization to its national presence. Her experiences have fueled her drive to remove barriers to access, knowledge, and opportunity for all leaders. Leona's professional experience includes 20+ in strategy development, scaling up organizations, and leading high-performing teams. As a founding team member at Safal Partners, a management consulting firm, she conceptualized and led large-scale projects with the Federal Department of Education, foundations, non-profits, and school districts. Prior to Safal, Leona led Pratham USA, a nonprofit organization focused on ensuring education access and quality for children in developing countries, from start-up to scale. Previously, she has worked with the World Bank and Unilever. Leona has an MPP from Duke University, an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, and a BA from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi.