V05/2026

Nina Corder - the Human Leader

Formal /Legal: Dr. Shazlina Hashim-Corder

PORTFOLIO

"My story is rooted in one defining belief: meaningful connections between people create the collective power to redesign systems, and strengthen the ecosystem that shapes thriving communities".

-Nina Corder

A Story of Belonging, Systems Change, and the Power of Connection. Arriving in the United States of America from Malaysia as an *international undergraduate student* more than two decades ago, Nina experienced firsthand what it means to navigate new systems, cultures, and networks without a roadmap. That lived experience became the catalyst for a lifetime of work focused on belonging, access, and equity, not as abstract ideals, but as practical, human-centered systems that work for real people.

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT

In 2013, while conducting research in organizational leadership, Nina established Women of Toledo (Ohio) as a grassroots experiment in connection. What began as a small convening space evolved into a regional hub that elevate women's economic empowerment, workforce development, and leadership serving women and girls across race, income, age, and lived experience. The organization was built on a simple but disruptive insight: the greatest barrier facing individuals is not talent or ambition; it is disconnected systems.

Nina's work extends beyond nonprofit leadership into **policy, systems change, and global engagement.** In the City of Toledo, the community she proudly calls home, she played a key role in **advancing gender equity legislation**, including the adoption of the Pay Equity Act and CEDAW, helping ensure that women's lived experiences and economic realities are reflected in public policy and community decision-making.

Nationally and globally, she has served as a **UN Women Global Champion for Change**, a Mentor to **Global Professional Fellows** for the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division, and a delegate to the United Nations Economic and Social Council on the **Status of Women Commission**, bringing Toledo's story into global conversations while translating global frameworks back into local action.

At the center of Nina's work is a distinct leadership philosophy: **relational intelligence paired with execution rigor**. She leads by listening, convening, and building trust, then aligning people, data, and resources toward outcomes that last. This dual fluency has positioned her as both a **community builder** and a **systems architect in economic and workforce** development, while comfortable in grassroots circles and global policy rooms.

Today, Nina continues to expand her vision through HerHub Global, an AI-enabled platform designed to **map opportunity**, unlock **economic and workforce mobility**, and scale women's access to income, skills, and networks worldwide. Yet even as her work reaches across continents, her leadership remains grounded in **human rights** and the same truth that **women do not rise alone, and they should not have to.**

Nina Corder’s story extends beyond individual leadership; it reflects what becomes possible when community is designed as infrastructure, inclusion and human rights are advanced as strategic priorities, and human connection is leveraged as a catalyst for lasting systemic change.

EDUCATION

- Ed.D., Northcentral University
- M.Ed. & B.A., the University of Toledo

And Certifications.

- Certified Human Rights Advocate & Trainer, the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights (USIDHR)
- Certified Business Advisor, GrowthWheel
- Certified Negotiation Professional (CNP™), SkillFront
- Transformative Mediator, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY

US INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
CERTIFIED
HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTANT

GrowthWheel® CERTIFIED ADVISOR

BUSINESS ADVISOR CERTIFICATE FOUNDATIONS

CERTIFIED NEGOTIATION PROFESSIONAL (CNP™)

EXPERTISE

- AI-Enabled Strategic Adaptability
- Analytical & Data-Driven Orientation
- Crisis/Change Leadership & Organizational Design
- Cross-Cultural Competence
- Equity-Centered Decision-Making
- Fund Development & Resource Mobilization
- Policy & Civic Engagement Acumen
- Public Speaking & Narrative Framing
- Relational Intelligence & Trust Building
- Strategic Systems-Level Thinking

WORK EXPERIENCE

Founder (2013) and Executive Director (2015 -2026)
Women of Toledo

Growing Women of Toledo, from **a grassroots initiative into a regional hub** serving more than **12,000 women and youth,** has secured over **USD $2.2 million in grants and capital funding** to expand its community impact. She launched the Mentorship Institute to strengthen **workforce development** initiatives and created Girls Hub, a hands-on leadership and skilled trades program that empowers young women through design, entrepreneurship, and STEAM-based career exploration. Her leadership has also contributed to **advancing key gender-equity policies**, including **CEDAW (O-095-22)** and the **Pay Equity Act (O-173-19)**, while supporting regional efforts toward **Welcoming Certification** through Welcoming America for both the City and County.

Principal Owner, Lemon Lime Company
2015 – Present

Leads the social enterprise agency in delivering **operational consulting and skills training globally**, while launching Lemon Lime Lab to create income-generating opportunities for women living in poverty across developing nations. Nina's belief is that addressing the **workforce and workplace development** will eradicate domestic and global poverty. The philosophy - "one job, one person at a time". She also founded **HerHub Global**, an AI-driven economic mobility platform that integrates network mapping, digital learning, and market access to unlock income, skills, and scalable opportunity pathways for women across global markets.

Chief Operating Officer
SO NOW Professional Network for Women
2013 -2016

Provided **operational leadership** for a multi-chapter women's professional network, overseeing strategy, coordination, and growth across regional hubs. Directed execution of the flagship monthly luncheons and annual awards programs serving 300–500+ attendees, while **strengthening cross-chapter alignment to expand engagement** in Midwest areas - Sylvania, Perrysburg, Lima, and surrounding communities.

Client Services & Operations

- Global Relocation Consultant, Destination Services
- Front of House Manager, Food & Beverage Industry
- Hospitality Services & Hotel Management
- Tourism Coordinator

Training & Team Leadership

- Manager, Fast Food and Retails
- Workshop Facilitator & Trainer

Sales, Marketing & Financial Services

- Retail Banking
- Telemarketing & Sales Consultant
- Marketing Strategies

OTHER EXPERIENCES

GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT

- Consultant in the area of Human Rights, SDG and Social Progress Imperative, traveled to more than 30 countries around the world and worked/station in four different continents.
- Commission on the Status of Women, 68th, International Alliance of Women (UN Economic and Social Council -ECOSOC)
- Instructor, World Academy for the Future of Women, Global Interactions - NGO with Consultative Status with the United Nations (Katarina University, Kenya)
- Facilitator, U.S. Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL) Open World Program (Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary)
- Global Champion for Change (UN Women - Empower Women initiative)
- Collaborator & Speaker, The Helló Margit! All-Arts Cultural Festival and Women in Change Festival (Női Váltó Fesztivál), Budapest II District Municipality (Hungary)
- Mentor, U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Program, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Global Leaders Division (Hungary, Albania, China, Mongolia)

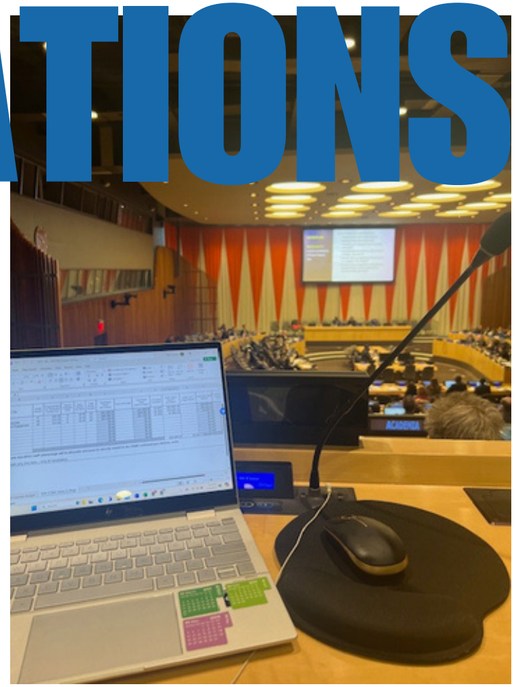
UNITED NATIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Open Forum: The Social Progress Index realizing the promise of the SDGs
By Dr. Nina Corder

Economic growth, without concern for social progress or environmental sustainability, has left millions behind in societies that neither provide for their basic needs nor give them the opportunity to fulfill their potential. The Sustainable Development Goals are a promise to build a fairer, more sustainable world. That promise will only be fulfilled if countries pursue social as well as economic progress.

At this Open Forum, you will learn how The Social Progress Index captures outcomes related to all 17 SDGs in a simple but rigorous framework designed for aggregation, making it an invaluable proxy measure of SDG performance, particularly for areas where official indicators do not yet exist.



RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- **Women Making Change Honoree**, the JCPenney Corporation (2024)
- **Woman on the Rise**, the YWCA Northwest Ohio (2024)
- **Distinguished Alumni Award**, the University of Toledo, Judith Herb College of Education (2024)
- **Women Who SHINE**, the Sisters of Notre Dame of the U.S. (2023)
- Toledo **Jefferson Award** for Public Service, Washington, D.C. Representative (2021)
- Ernest M. Pon **Human Rights Award**, the National Association for Ethnic Studies (2021)

GOVERNMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Past President**, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Toledo Branch.
- **Co-Chair,** Workforce Economic Development Committee, Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (Welcome TLC), supported Toledo's recognition as a **Certified Welcoming City & County**.
- **Mayoral Appointee** & **Commissioner Member**, City of Toledo – Human Relations Commission and Gender Equity Commission (CEDAW)
- **Member**, White House Council on Women & Girls (Obama Administration 2016)
- **Task Force Committee** on various citywide (Toledo, Ohio) initiatives advocating gender equity, including the successful passage of CEDAW (O-095-22) and the Pay Equity Act (O-173-19).

MEDIA FEATURED

AS SEEN ON

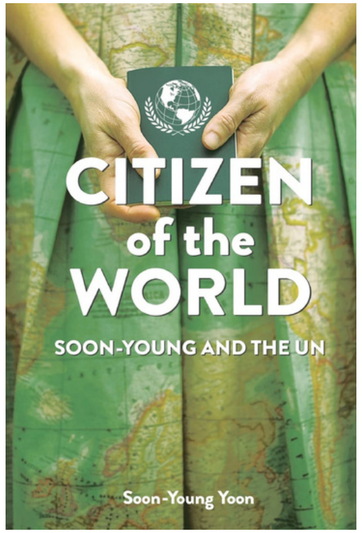
- The Sojourner's Truth, **Unlocking Women's Potential**: Women of Toledo, July 18, 2024
- The Blade, **YWCA says three women leaders 'On the Rise'**, July 12, 2024
- International Women's News, Special Edition: **Poverty, Women Lead the Peace**, Vol1:120 No.2, 2024
- CanvasRebel, **STORIES & INSIGHTS, Meet Nina Corder**, December 18, 2023
- Voyage Ohio, **Exploring Life & Business with Nina Corder** of Inclusive for Women, January 19, 2023
- © Apple Inc, **Creating a Better Life through a Diverse and Expansive Network** by Third Generation Networking Podcast - Debby & Greg Peters, April 2, 2022
- © Mature Living, **MProfiles: Nina Corder** by Lisa Alleman, March 31, 2022
- © Toledo City Paper, **2019 Big Ideas**
- © ToledoParent.com, **Moms Who Do It at Home** by Erin Schoen Marsh, September 21, 2020

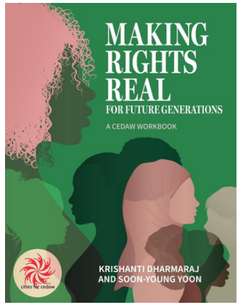
Women of Toledo on media under Corder's Leadership

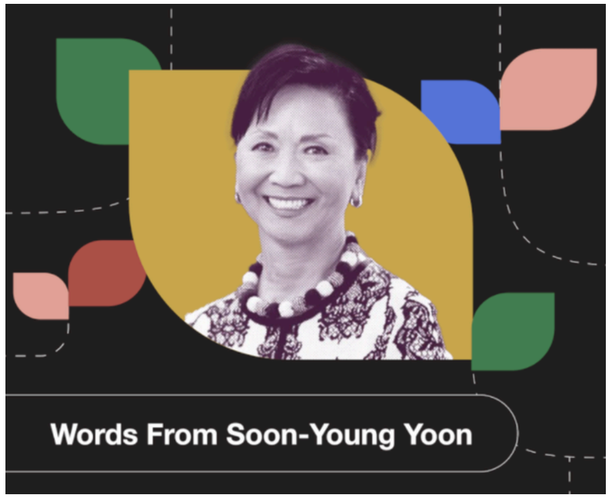
TESTIMONIALS

> *If you want an energetic, dedicated, **experienced leader of women's human rights**, you can count on Nina Corder. She has been **a pillar of the international feminist and women's movement with grass-roots instincts**, contributing to the welfare of women and girls around the world.*

Dr. Soon-Young Yoon
NGO Representative to the UN, Author, Feminist
Founder and co-director, Cities for CEDAW History and Futures Project.
***Author*, "Citizen of the World: Soon-Young and the UN"**







The mission of Cities for CEDAW is to foster gender justice and strengthen the rights of women and girls, in all their diversity, through local adoption and implementation of the principles outlined in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In 2022, the City of Toledo joined as one of the Cities of CEDAW when the City Council voted and signed **CEDAW**, also known as the Bill of Rights for Women (globally) REF: O-095-22 Enacting a new Toledo Municipal Code Chapter 183.

Under **Nina Corder's leadership**, the Class 2024 Girls Hub of Young Women of Toledo's '**A Seat at the Table**' project, with the support of **Soon Young Yoon**, had an opportunity to be showcased as part of The City of CEDAW 10th Anniversary and Onward to Beijing +30, our Action Day for A Culture of Peace on September 21, United Nations, NY.

Visit the virtual gallery here:

TESTIMONIALS

*Nina has been a dedicated member of the City of Toledo Human Relations Committee, serving on its **Executive Committee** for nearly six years. Throughout her tenure, she has provided **steady leadership and strategic direction**, helping to strengthen the commission's impact and effectiveness.*

*Her **attention to detail,** combined with **a systems-level approach to problem-solving**, has been instrumental in shaping the commission's work. Nina has a remarkable ability to bring people together around a common purpose, and her skill in breaking down silos has **fostered stronger collaboration** across stakeholders.*

Caryn Maloney, Commissioner of Civic Engagement, Office of Community Services for the City of Toledo

TOL City of Toledo

CITY OF TOLEDO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

TESTIMONIALS

*“I have had the honor of working alongside Nina Corder through Women of Toledo and the Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (TLC) initiative at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. Nina is a **responsive and reliable leader** who has partnered with me on various projects focused on immigrant integration. Her long-term vision enables her to **strategize effectively** in the short term to reach shared goals. Nina’s deep care for the community is evident in her drive and unwavering **commitment to achieving results**. Our region is undoubtedly better for having her in it. For more context on her community work, you can visit the "Herstory" page.*

Mely Arribas-Douglas, Welcome TLC Specialist
Toledo Lucas County Public Library

TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

welcomeTLC
ADVANCING AN INCLUSIVE AND GLOBAL TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY

TESTIMONIALS

*"I have worked with Nina Corder for more than 10 years in many different capacities as **one of our recognized community leaders** and as a great **Ambassador** of our area and **US mentor on global programs**.*

*Nina **leads with both heart and intention**—she brings **integrity, empathy**, and a **genuine commitment** to uplifting others in everything she does. Thousands of women and young girls benefited directly from her leadership in our community and many around the world!*

*Her leadership style is **thoughtful** and **inclusive**, with a natural ability to bring people together and create spaces where ideas truly flourish both locally and globally. She has a strong instinct for curating experiences that feel both purposeful and engaging. She has the vision and drive to make a lasting impact in any conference or community she supports. She is a **huge asset** of Toledo, Northwest Ohio"!*

Dr Elizabeth Balint, World Affairs Council of Northwest Ohio
Project Manager

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL of NORTHWEST OHIO

TESTIMONIALS

*Nina Corder, is one of the **most remarkable** women I have ever had the privilege of knowing. She built Women of Toledo from a dream and a research project into a movement that has touched nearly 10,000 women across cultures and countries, appointed by the United Nations as a Global Champion for Change, and she did all of it without ever once seeking the spotlight she deserves. That is **Nina's character**. She genuinely believes women are better together, and she has given her entire platform, her resources and her life's work to prove it.*

- Angela Lucas, co-founder of TolHouse, Earth Coffeehouse, Lucille's Jazz Lounge & Made With Purpose

TOLHOUSE

TESTIMONIALS

Organized and Efficient

"We are feeling a little all over the place when we relocated in the US, because of Nina's expertise and understand all tasks needs to happen, we are now settled into the new community".

D. Micheal
Assignee with IOR

Flexible and Committed

"I am so relieved to have Nina part of our Leadership and operating support. She is multi-talented, efficient, and committed to any assignments that need execution."

Client A (NDA)
President, Company A

Creative & Resourceful

"Nina with Women of Toledo and her team brought together some very special women for the #breaktheglass program to tell their stories! Nothing more powerful than sharing your story, you never know whom you may influence and help."

K.Bills
Program's Participant

LETTER TO NINA

Dear Nina,

One of the first things that stood out to me about you was your ***ability to create genuine belonging*** *..... So often, spaces that are labeled "inclusive" still feel limited in perspective or representation. But what you created felt different. It felt intentional.* ***It felt welcoming. It felt human.***

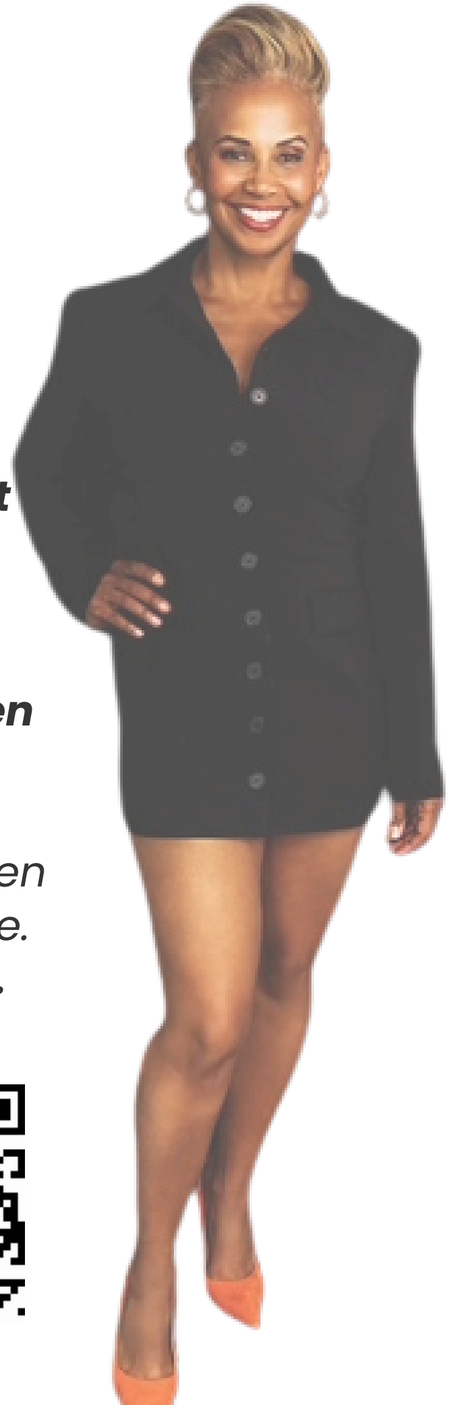
Beyond your ***heart for people****, I've always* ***admired your strategic mind and your commitment to excellence****. You are* ***deeply process-oriented, thoughtful, and data-driven*** *in a way that brings clarity and structure to vision.*

What I admire most, however, is your ***unwavering commitment to people****, especially women and young leaders. You mentor, encourage, and pour into others with authenticity and care.* ***You don't simply build organizations; you build connection, confidence, and community.***

With love and respect,

Diana Patton
Authentic Power Strategist™
Founder, Rise Advocates® Movement and
CEO of the Rise with Diana Consultancy

DIANA PATTON



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LET'S WORK *together*