



June 16, 2020  
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**Academy Award-Winning Actor, Producer, and Activist Viola Davis and Education Advocate and Author Tara Westover to Headline All-Virtual Pennsylvania Conference for Women as Nation Confronts Widespread Tragedy and Unrest**  
*Early-bird tickets go on sale Wednesday for November 11th Conference*

**PHILADELPHIA** – Viola Davis, a groundbreaking actor and leading voice against systemic racism and inequality, and Tara Westover, a poignant memoirist and education advocate, will kick off an all-online [Pennsylvania Conference for Women](#) on November 11. The duo will join a lineup of world-class leaders offering inspiration and real-world tools for women as the nation confronts a tipping point in racial injustice, a global pandemic, and widespread economic hardship.

The event will be held virtually for the first time this year to balance health concerns with the heightened importance of women coming together to support each other and lead positive changes.

Tickets for the 17th annual gathering, which last year attracted more than 12,000 people, will go on sale at 9 a.m. EDT on Wednesday, June 17, at [www.paconferenceforwomen.org](http://www.paconferenceforwomen.org).

“We all are hungry for visionary wisdom during these trying times, and there is no one better than Viola Davis to help women forge a path forward right now,” said Leslie Stiles, Pennsylvania Conference for Women Board President. “She has lived a life of great courage, and inspires so many of us to work toward positive change for all.”

Davis, known for her groundbreaking roles and highly personal advocacy on behalf of underserved communities, is the first black actress to win an Oscar, Tony, and Emmy Award.

Westover, whose parents opposed public education, is an American historian and author of the New York Times best-selling book *Educated*, in which she chronicles her unique education journey from self-teaching at home to earning a doctorate.

Other confirmed speakers who will provide insights and tools to help attendees address current challenges related to diversity, leadership and emotional resilience include:

- Charmaine McClarie, communications expert and C-suite leadership coach
- Esther Wojcicki, educator and author, *How to Raise Successful People for Radical Results*
- Marcus Buckingham, global researcher on strengths and leadership at work and author of two of the best-selling business books of all time
- Susan David, author, *Emotional Agility*

The highly interactive Conference also will give attendees opportunities to engage with speakers and each other; support women-owned businesses and women in business through an online marketplace; and participate in a career pavilion and job fair.

“The Pennsylvania Conference for Women is built upon the principle of women helping women to better themselves and better our world,” said Conference Director Laurie Dalton White. “This year, our mission is more important than ever as we navigate these unprecedented times.”

The Pennsylvania Conference for Women is generously sponsored by [Bristol-Myers Squibb](#); [Target](#); [Cisco](#); [Comcast](#) [NBCUniversal](#); [GSK](#); [Johnson & Johnson](#); [PECO](#); [Qurate Retail Group](#); [WSFS Bank](#); [Merck & Co.](#); [State Street Corporation](#); [Philadelphia Foundation](#); and media sponsors, [6abc WPVI-TV](#); and [iHeartMedia](#).

The Conference also will showcase the work of Pennsylvania women who are helping other women now as part of its [Storytellers Contest](#), presented by Target and the Conferences for Women.

## **ABOUT THE PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN**

The Pennsylvania Conference for Women is part of the [Conferences for Women](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is the largest nationwide network of women's conferences whose mission includes helping to drive discussion on issues of importance to women in business and small business owners. Conferences for Women in California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Texas attract an estimated 50,000 attendees and a distinguished slate of top-tier speakers each year.

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