

Profiles in Diversity Journal®

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CELEBRATING



YEARS

OF

Women Worth Watching®

The 2012 Company And Executive Award Winners Are...

Profiles in Diversity Journal®

*Gilda Spencer, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company • Karen Sledge, Harris Corporation • Darlene R. Slaughter, Fannie Mae
Laura J. Soave, Chrysler Group LLC • Paulette Thabault, MinuteClinic • Marie-Helene Sicard, Sodexo • Nikki Lewis Simon, Greenberg Traurig
Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Schiff Hardin, LLP • Shari Slate, Cisco Systems, Inc. • Carin Stutz, Brinker International*



| 10TH ANNUAL

Women Worth Watching®

Shari Slate

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Throughout my career, I've relied on one guiding principle to shape my outlook, my life goals, and my contributions to my family, my community, and my company. *Dream big.*

This is my mother's mantra, and now it is mine as well. Two compelling words that remind me to push beyond the predictable and explore new ways of making a profound difference.

Within the realm of inclusion and diversity, I am in awe of the progress we have made. My mother is a testament to what it takes to break down barriers and create a new level of consciousness about what is possible. As a woman of color, born in an era in which her options could have seemed limited, she chose to dream big.

She graduated from medical school while

married and with two babies in tow (one was me!) and became a surgeon. Together, with her family, her colleagues, and her community, she not only dreamed, she *did*. The difference that she has made in the world is profound not only to her patients but also to the countless individuals who have been inspired by her passion and courage. Like me.

My big dream as an inclusion leader is to evolve the conversation around diversity and inclusion beyond the notion that it is simply the right thing to do – beyond the traditional objectives of compliance – and towards a focus on the tangible *value* that inclusion creates. It's a conversation that has both roots and wings, grounded in what we already have been taught about

inclusion by courageous individuals like my mother and given flight by what we imagine will be possible when we can fully realize the potential of diverse mind sets, skills, experiences and perspectives.

What's your big dream? My advice is to *collaborate*. Find other people who dream big and work on fulfilling your dreams together. Work across boundaries and engage others who have different strengths and skills than you do. *Be a sponge*. Absorb everything they have to teach you. *And give back*; your unique strengths and skills can make all the difference in the fulfillment of someone else's dream. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Don't go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

“ Find other people who dream big and work on fulfilling your dreams together. ”



TITLE:
Chief Inclusion and Collaboration
Strategist, The Americas

EDUCATION:
BA, Mills College

FIRST JOB: Sales Representative,
Eastman Kodak

WHAT I'M READING: *My Life on
the Manor*, by Hailey Slate;
Wired; *Fast Company*

MY PHILOSOPHY:
Dream big, collaborate, be a
sponge, give back, leave a trail so
others can follow in your footsteps.

FAMILY: Married, two kids; close
to my parents, sisters, aunts and
uncles; many mentors

INTERESTS: Travel, innovation,
food, culture, history

FAVORITE CHARITY:
Hailey's Birthday Angels

COMPANY:
Cisco Systems, Inc.

HEADQUARTERS:
San Jose, California

WEBSITE:
www.cisco.com

BUSINESS: Networking

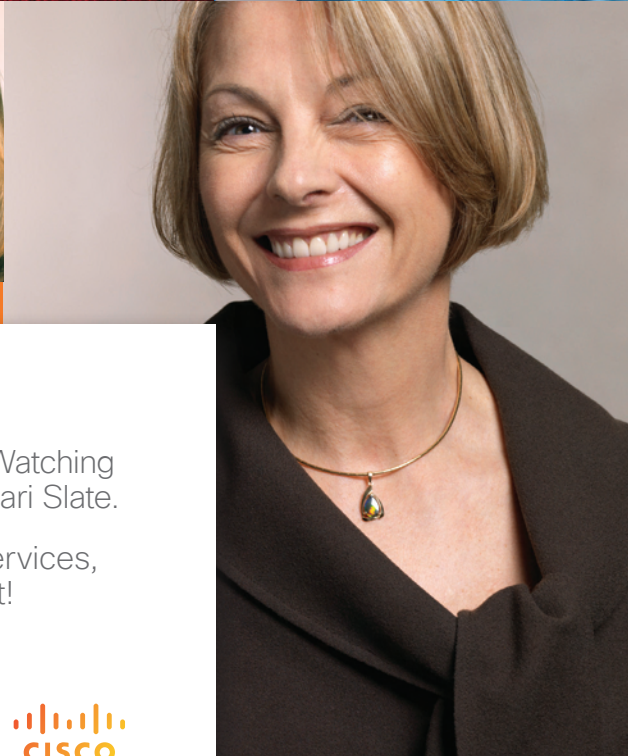
REVENUES: \$40 billion

EMPLOYEES: 73,408





Together we Togeth



succeed.

Cisco congratulates all Women Worth Watching award recipients along with our own Shari Slate.

Cisco is hiring in the areas of Sales, Services, Finance, Engineering and Development! Find out more at www.cisco.com

Together we are the human network.

www.cisco.com/go/diversity

