

Wichita Chamber Business Accelerator

Episode 50

Danielle Johnson

Don and Ebony: [00:00:00] Welcome to another exciting edition of the WCBA powered, of course, by Evergy. And I'm going to have to take personal knowledge that this is our 50th. Episode. Wow. So I would've lost that bet. Last 50 episodes, having you as a co-host. I just didn't.

That's the reason we are still going.

That is probably true.

A want.

Appreciate it. I want to thank everybody for listening to us. Don't forget to like us, love us, share us. Thank you for checking us out. We are truly excited here today and the house, you know, it took a hard time. To get her here. You know, we had to go through people and her peoples people to get her here.

The one and only Danielle Johnson. Welcome to the show. She's from a Habitat for Humanity, but we're going to talk about Leadership Wichita today. So welcome.

Danielle Johnson: Thank you. Thank you. And who's people?

Don and Ebony: Your people, you know, I call up, I said, can I speak to Danielle? You got an appointment? I said, no, but I get there are two or so. Welcome to the show.

Danielle Johnson: Thank you. Thank you for the invite, man. Congratulations on the 50th

Don and Ebony: Yeah, yes. What better way to kick off our 50th show then with Ms. Danielle Johnson,

Danielle Johnson: I agree. I

Don and Ebony: I think this is going to be so much fun. So they yell, you know, people know you, I've known you for a number of years. Don has known you. We've seen you, grow and mature and people know you as, you know, a catalyst in the community for a diversity equity and inclusion, affordable housing, all this things.

But this is from me looking from the outside, looking in, tell us who you are.



Danielle Johnson: Yeah. So thank you. Thank you again for the invite. You know, I've had an opportunity, to be born and raised in the best city in the country that I believe, right. Wichita, Kansas I'm from the dub, the ICT, if you will, it goes by a number of things. but now born and raised right here.

I'm a product of USD 259 schools. I'm a Shocker through and through and got my undergrad in psychology. Bachelor's there. And my master's in public administration at Wichita State as well.

Don and Ebony: High school, if I can

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. I'm south sider. South High School Titan. Yeah.

Don and Ebony: you didn't mention Southeast, continue.

Danielle Johnson: Okay. Okay. Okay. No, no. Sorry. No, no, no, no. South sider. So, yeah, a mom of three of a 16 year old, an eight year old, a two year old, a busy spouse. Brandon Johnson. Who's currently the Councilman for district one, excited to be able to move forward. in, servant leadership. That's something that has been poured into me as a, at a young age. My mom hails from Pampanga Philippines, she, is someone that has been a big push in my life to continue my education didn't have the opportunity to really excel in her education.

So she said school was what you're going to do. and then Larry Andrews is my dad, avid golfer. hails from the Birmingham, Alabama. so I always share that he taught me my history before the school system had the opportunity to do so, so very much engaged in civic civil rights, understanding servant leadership, understanding, giving back. so yeah, a little bit of their right

Don and Ebony: Woo.

Danielle Johnson: Alabama. Y'all.

Don and Ebony: Yeah. Yeah. Well that means that's. Thank you for sharing that. What year did you go through Leadership Wichita, by.

Danielle Johnson: Yes. the best year to right everybody.

Don and Ebony: I was ready to queue up and say this the second best class,

Danielle Johnson: Oh, no. Cue the Chicago Bulls music please. Leadership Wichita class of 2017.

Don and Ebony: That was a pretty good class. Pretty certain that, somehow it's going to come around to Ebony. It's going to come around

Danielle Johnson: The connections, the connections.

Don and Ebony: To turn it over to Don. Excellent. So, let's talk about, I want to talk a little bit more about Wichita Habitat for Humanity. Can you share. In a nutshell, what do you folks do over there?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, thank you for

Don and Ebony: And you just got appointed to that position. So congratulations, I already did, but doing it in front of thousands of folks, [00:05:00] congratulations.

Danielle Johnson: Thank you. I appreciate that. three months in three months in the gig, I'm following an amazing set of footsteps The Ann Fox served in that space for 10 years and had the foresight to be in the initiative that we're in now, currently, which is the rock, the block area. So I'll get into that, but really a nutshell, you don't realize how impactful the work of Habitat for Humanity is until you're on the inside right now, we're sort of we are celebrating 35 years of affordable housing in this community, from spaces like Stewart Village or Cottonwood, and some of these really amazing places where affordable housing, is within the community. And that's, that's the work truly is affordable housing. from new home ownership to home repair, to advocacy. we have just recently done a legislative build and we engage city county legislative folks in the trenches to showcase what it means to have an affordable house, to showcase what it means to look at generational wealth.

Look at our equity gaps and seeing what red has done within our communities. So all that to say, a wish to habitat for humanity, is about affordable housing and insurance. I get the education that they need to be homeowners responsible home owners, knowing how to be within the community, cutting their grass on time, knowing that you have to pay that mortgage on time. I think an oftentimes there's a misnomer that we give away homes. We've given away no homes in our communities.

Folks, the trick to our trade is 0% interest mortgage over 20 years. So, I mean, yeah. Education. folks get 40 hours of education within that sweat equity programming. They're helping to build their homes. They're helping to build the homes of others, budget support, Financial literacy which is key when we think about, long-term, finances.

And so a little bit of everything.

You don't realize what habitat does until you are in it.

Don and Ebony: Until you just explained it. And that was, that was a ton how I was trying to keep up. But, you were at WSU for awhile, correct? Why, what made you switch to be the CEO of Habitat?

Danielle Johnson: Executive Director.

Don and Ebony: okay. Same thing. what made you do that? Let's go from academia to this.

Danielle Johnson: It was time. I was at eight years with the office of diversity and inclusion had a great

Don and Ebony: Really eight years?

Danielle Johnson: Worked with students, faculty, staff, community

Don and Ebony: Ebony's getting old

Danielle Johnson: Man. Is that, is that how that, how that rolls? Okay.

Don and Ebony: Wow. Eight years.

Danielle Johnson: Ebony's seasoned

Don and Ebony: Okay. We'll go with seasoned. I liked that so eight years. Wow. Wow. So it was time. Can you help us understand without getting too personal,

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, absolutely. And, And the exciting piece is that, Wichita State and Habitat we've already started growing our relationships of they're going to be on a build here pretty soon. showcasing just that smooth transition, when my role was announced, I had my previous director And great friend, Alicia Sanchez. she was there to send me off. And Ann Fox was there to bring me in. And so that's how closely we were able to work, but yeah, when I say it was time, you know, I wasn't going. further. I don't believe in that space and when you're in student affairs there's only so many spaces to go up and everyone everyone's going to be there for a while.

University folks, stay, they love their work, they love Wichita State. And so I'm, wasn't looking to go anywhere else. Wanted to kind of move up and got my master's degree. And I saw this opportunity open up. a couple of folks reached out and said, Hey, have you thought about this? something that Amy Williams actually taught which love me some Amy Williams.

Don and Ebony: Oh yeah, I'm a fan.

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. She said all the jobs that she's ever went after she was asked. And I said that was one of my criteria is I want to be asked And and folks, they reached out and they asked me to be there. That let me know that, okay, this makes sense. I did my research. I looked at the job description and I said, this still is at the heart of equity work.

I can tangibly close gaps through housing and it made sense. And so I jumped.

Don and Ebony: Excellent. Thanks for sharing that story. let's get into Leadership Wichita. What made you apply for that? Why

Danielle Johnson: Again, you know, I think it's a common theme being asked. so hearing about the program? A lot of folks spoke about Leadership Wichita, have a lot of folks at Wichita State that actually went through the program. And so had an opportunity to hear from some of those folks. Alicia Sanchez actually went through to me being a part of that class and said, Hey, something that you should consider. some other mentors went through it and I thought, Hey, maybe this is something I should consider went ahead and applied.

And it was a great opportunity. Met a lot of amazing people. So it was really just the power of asking.

Don and Ebony: Excellent. Excellent. That last 10 months. Oh 10 sessions.

Danielle Johnson: I was like, it did feel like I was there for

Don and Ebony: Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh. Okay. As you can see, we have a supporting folks that make sure we stay on the right track 10 sessions. So, how was your experience with that?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, it was great, great opportunities for discussion. met folks that I wouldn't have normally have met in my walk in the circles that I'm [00:10:00] a part of. So it was a great opportunity to just meet. people and learn more about our community.

I felt like Leadership Wichita did a good job of highlighting different sectors of our community and spending, you spent the day there. You spent time there.

you have lots of dialogue. and so. I really enjoyed being able to really see what's going on in our community at a broader level and meeting folks again, that I don't think I would have naturally had the opportunity to meet.

Don and Ebony: Excellent. Is there one session that was stood up higher than the others?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. You know, I really enjoy it. The education sessions, I really learning the intricacies of USD 2 5 9. And I think that that's just a popular one. Overall, I have kids in school, but I'm only focused in the schools that they're in. So not having had the opportunity to see a lot of the other schools. It was great to just see the leaders. And I met some students that I'm still really connected to, I had known about a non. prior to that, but actually seeing him moving in these spaces, seeing some of these young folks engaged at different levels was just really important. And I think it's easy to beat up on 2 5 9. It's easy to say things about the school system, when you aren't really engaged, in it. but I think that changed a lot of folks as minds to say, this is what's going on. I didn't really realize how many kids are eating.

I USD 2 5 9, right. I've never, I had never been in the food services area and all the intricacies that go into that school system makes me completely appreciate more of the job, that Alicia Thompson has, what the teachers have to do, what the school board has to do.

So, Yeah, it was just a great background.

Don and Ebony: Education. Excellent. Well, I think that's interesting that you bring that up because you know, when you, when you go into Leadership Wichita, you have a certain, you know, thought process. You have certain perceptions of how things are run and. It's really challenged. When you go into Leadership Wichita, everything that you thought you knew you really did not know.

And I think this type of program is so important for people to go through and have that deeper understanding. So in your class, Did you have an opportunity to engage in any heated conversations? Because I know, and a lot of classes that's what happens, but at the end of that heat, there's understanding and there's friendships that, that occur.

Did you have any of those types of experiences?

Danielle Johnson: We did, I would say we did throughout, you know, be it the diversity conversations, be it, the conversations. and when we visited the jails, I mean, there there were a lot of conversations and ultimately I think it ended with that, I've never thought about it from that point of view, right? Is that KLC that Kansas Leadership Center raised the heat conversation and you have to have that level of heat for that productive discussion. And we did. Now, I feel

like there were so many conversations though. when we did the SIM sock, it was just like, it is, it is. And and I also think for some of us that understand that walk in that background it's kind of like, wow, you don't get that?

And then, for folks is saying, oh, I I've never thought about privilege in this way. I've never had the opportunity to think about these conversations. I've never engaged that way. And it just kind of bridges some gaps that we have across our communities to have these real in-depth leadership conversations.

Don and Ebony: Do you think it's programs like Leadership Wichita that can kind of break down those silos and break down some of those walls? Because, you know, I know that in your work you've had a number of conversations with people, right. but you sometimes do not penetrate. Right. But when you have these exponential opportunities and, to really break down some of the dialogue that you have, it makes a difference. I think. So, what would you do? Well, I mean like, would you recommend this program to others and have you recommended it?

Danielle Johnson: I have, I have sent in a number of names as we always get the email. Right. Send them those names I encourage folks to do the program because it's important. And again, to your point, I've had a number of these tough dialogues. We had a podcast for a while called Discomforting Grace alongside Joseph Shepherd. So that is something that I do being a conversational catalyst. We're having these tough dialogues all the time. I think in that space, though, you get a good cross section of leaders that wouldn't naturally come together. The spaces I'm in, I'm invited to, the spaces that I inhabit, some of those folks are not in those spaces, naturally, And it's folks across. I had a judge. I had folks from the Sheriff's department I had folks from the city I had folks from, schools. So it's literally all these folks coming together that are movers and shakers in their area. And being able to have those conversations, they'll be able to go back and make those changes.

Those appropriate changes within their, communities, within the organizations. some of those folks have the power to make those changes. So talking to someone that has the power to make changes a lot better than just any random dialogue, like someone has to be able to pull the trigger, to make change, and you have to be in the room, to have those conversations with those folks. And then it'll make cultural shifts within organizations. And I think Leadership Wichita has done that and has a potential to continue to do that.

Don and Ebony: Can I ask some real quick, you've been having these tough conversations. Are there, are they able to be done civilized? I mean, cause it [00:15:00] seemed like any topic that comes up now, people just go far this way or this way. Is there, is there a good conversation or is it just no, I mean, what's going on now and tough dialogue.

Danielle Johnson: For sure. We're hyperpolarized at this point, folks are Very much. This is where I stand and I'm not going anywhere else. However, I do also think there are a large group of people that are saying, okay, I'm uncomfortable, but I want to learn more. And I think that when you set the tone correctly, and you come off of defensive and just say, okay, I don't understand this. I want to learn more. I want to be open-minded to the dialogue. Things can move along. and, And it's going in saying, this is who I am. This is my stance. However, I'm going to listen across this channel, whatever it is I'm going to take the time to, step back and listen.

Maybe I need a moment to process, but I'm going to, engage in this dialogue. And I I would say there are more folks engaging in these uncomfortable dialogue. We just don't hear about that. It's easier to push the polarization than folks. Most of us are right in the middle, trying to continue to be personable, have these educated conversations.

I would say there's more of those, but we just don't get to hear from that.

Don and Ebony: Okay, thank you. Sorry. No, I think that's perfect because you have to be courageous in a way, you know, to be willing, to listen and get in these uncomfortable conversations and be willing to hear different perspectives. And, that's one of the things that I really appreciate about Leadership Wichita, because you don't really, if, unless you are intentional about having those conversations, you can be siloed and just continue to live your life as you in your bubble.

Right. And not really pay attention to these outside real-world issues. So you spoke a little bit earlier about, you know, USD 2 5 9, and you being a product of USD 2 5 9. Thriving and doing great things, but sometimes we get a bad rap about USD 2 5 9. And if you going behind the doors of that and seeing the intricacies, what one thing do you think that you would share with the community, of the work that you saw through Leadership Wichita?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. You know, I would say before you make commentary about something, make sure that you've went behind the scenes. How do you have an opportunity to talk about a system that you really don't know anything about, oftentimes we're on the other side of the veil or we're watching the show, but we don't see everything going on in the background. so did we strip everything down and get the understanding? Did we talk to folks before we moved forward, did we just read the headline and didn't read the story?

And I think that's oftentimes what we do is we go with what everyone else is saying. but we didn't pull back the veil and ask the question like. this is so super simplistic, but realizing that folks have to make decisions at four or five in the morning to say whether or not you move forward with school, because of the weather, someone is up so your child can get to school.

I've never thought about that. but You know how much I've complained though about, oh, they couldn't have done this earlier.

Why are they just now telling me well, it's deeper than that. That simple of a decision, everything that goes into that piece. And so I think it's important for us to realize. have a good understanding of how things work before we are just throwing our commentary around, beating up on someone and we just don't know.

Don and Ebony: Yeah. And it's that connection. I think that, that this program really brings, those things to light, right? Because it creates community through shared experience and we've all shared some of these experiences, but our perspective is a little bit different. Right. so I I'm, I'm also curious, The connections that you mentioned earlier, you've made some connections with people that you might not have otherwise had an opportunity to cross those paths.

Can you like talk to us a little bit about those connections?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. So I think about art right. There were some folks I went in that were my friends already. Robert Mooney, Jonathan Long again, top class, top class. I can't

Don and Ebony: All right.

Danielle Johnson: Just wanna, I just wanna, I want to plug that. But Paul Lavender, I never had an opportunity to meet with him. He was in the class, Amy Feimer, who I most recently got to catch up with, and she was showing me Hunter Health Clinic, and I'm, I'm calling her to say, you know, how do I learn a little bit more about this ed thing? She's an executive director there. So able to talk to folks that are already in the trenches have been doing this work for years that are now mentors are mine friends of mine. Folks that I can just reach out to and say, we're having a shared experience you've been here much longer than I, we met through Leadership Wichita. So it's those pieces. And those relationships that we probably wouldn't have gotten together because Leadership Wichita brought us together.

Don and Ebony: Friends, we are going to take a few minutes to hear words from our sponsor, and we'll be back to hear from Ms. Danielle Johnson, Leadership Wichita participant of 2017, an okay year, and Executive Director of the Wichita Habitat for Humanity.[00:20:00]

Welcome back friends. We're here hearing from Ms. Danielle Johnson. Who's the Executive Director of Wichita Habitat for Humanity, and one of our Leadership Wichita graduates having a wonderful conversation about her experience through Leadership Wichita, and how it's informed her decision-making and has, you know, impacted her, community, giving and her community.

You like that?

Danielle Johnson: I liked that. That was good. That, that redeemed you from that okay class comment prior to the break, I'm going to bring that back.

Don and Ebony: Well, I I'm curious, you know, you've, you've applied skills that you've learned from participating in the class, in your, daily living. What about in your volunteer positions? Have you used any of the things that you've learned from Leadership Wichita during that.

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. You know, the connections for sure. Being able to reach out to some of my classmates and say, Hey, what are some organizations? What are some spaces that, you all are navigating in that we should be giving to? I do not like recreating a wheel, which is how is resource rich and so instead of just creating something else, using those connections to say, Hey Jeff, what's going on?

Hey, Brad, what's going on? What can we be doing better? What are you connected to? I think about during the class timeframe we all got behind the Boys and Girls Club and we were able to do cookies and do stuff as a group. And so that as an existing member, that was a part of that space and Chandler, we went and supported one of our initiatives.

And so right there, I think that's the power of Leadership Wichita, continuing the relationship and reaching out and supporting what's already there to strengthen what we have.

Don and Ebony: Why should local businesses organizations nominate folks for L W?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, this is the resource that we have. it's been around for many years and it's an opportunity to get, The folks that work for you engaged at a higher level within the community, the networks that can happen, the people and the opportunities that you can commit to in that space. And it helps to tell the story, be it talking about what's

happening in USD 259 what's happening with our business developers. What's happening within the community. It's just an opportunity to be well-versed. And I think that our businesses and organizations should tip, definitely take advantage of the resource that we have to create more opportunities within our community.

Don and Ebony: We've been here. I won't say a long time because you haven't been here long. You've been around

Danielle Johnson: Yeah.

Don and Ebony: a long enough to realize what do you see as Wichita's greatest opportunity?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, that's a really great question. I mean, there's no shortage of opportunities within our community, right? We keep talking about this thing called inclusion and equity, and I think there's opportunities for us to really look at how we keep our young, diverse and talented within our community, how we can, how we keep our talented within our community. We have no shortage of universities. We have no shortage of community colleges. How are we engaging and keeping those folks right here, those that are educated right here at home.

How are we getting them through our talent pipeline? we have opportunities to continue to work alongside USD 259. That is tomorrow's leaders are, there are leaders that are now actually. So how are we engaging there? I think. there's opportunities for collaboration. we just saw that with what, the community foundation and Kansas health foundation and United Way coming together saying we want to fund the cause. Yeah.

So how do we share those resources? Within our communities to ensure that we are pouring into our own.

And there are no shortage of organizations doing everyday work, And so how do we get the funding in the hands of those? When we talk equity, how are we getting the funding in the hands of those that are making the impact in our community. And that's where we're at.

Resource sharing, resource building our minority business opportunities, ensuring that they're getting an equitable chance to be at the table.

Our supplier diversity. So there's a lot. and then affordable housing. Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't say, what are we doing to ensure that we have affordable housing stock. We want to attract talent to our city. Where are they going to live? And, and that's something that we really have an opportunity to grow in.

Don and Ebony: Tell me, remember, what was your, what were you doing at WSU?

diversity and inclusion. So I was the Assistant Director there and I did, worked alongside students. So retaining them, ensuring that they felt like that was their home away from home. Lots of training, lots of conversation, [00:25:00] facilitation, and, and really, yeah. Working alongside students, faculty, staff, community members.

Don and Ebony: So I'd be interested. What can we do in the DE&I space that can move the needle now? I mean, that, that it has to take a long process. What can we do to move the needle now and whatever form of DE&I, I'd just like your answers.

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, I would say putting tangible goals in place, doing climate studies, looking at, how, your organizations, how do the people in your organizations feel what is going on in your organizations? How are reporting structures, what does discrimination look like? In your organizations? What are the gaps? So doing an assessment And when you say that you lack diversity, well, what facet of diversity? Just by very definition diversity always exists, but are you women heavy and you don't have men in the field, are you looking for more people of color in the field? So what are those pieces and then where do you recruit? How are you looking at your talent pipeline? So I think there's some tangible things. And then how do you measure those things? Cause oftentimes we talk about DE&I is just the conversation, You have to move past the conversation and then put in the policy. what policies are lacking there? What does your discrimination or an instance say? What are those things that are the barriers and how are you addressing those barriers, but that's numbers and it's data and it's not just dialogue.

Don and Ebony: Having the conversation is great. And it goes back to the principles of Leadership Wichita, right, connecting, exposing, you know, and countering the experiences and perspectives, and then challenging, you know, the challenging piece provoking courageous conversations and open hearts and minds, but then it goes to the empowering, right. And the action piece.

Danielle Johnson: Right.

Don and Ebony: I think now I

Danielle Johnson: I'm ready to give I'm ready to give

And that's, that's important. so thank you for mentioning that. You, you talked about, Wichita being, you know, resource rich, what leadership resources would you recommend?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah, so definitely Leadership Wichita, right? Key plug, key plug to plug. Got to get that in there. and then we have other classes, right? Advance Kansas. There's these different opportunities to get engaged that way. No shortage of. I mean, if you're a podcast person if you're a Ted talk person, I love Ted talks.

I'm a big fan of Mellody Hobson. She is not local, but someone that is in the lane in DE&I, but also, economics and ensuring that, you know, your financial basis is and those sorts of things. And so I think we have really good. access when you think about your internet opportunities, right? Google, but even outside of that we have community members that put on great programming. Kansas Leadership Center. and they're oftentimes doing those grants so where you're not needing to pay, right? You have those scholarship opportunities. And so tapping into that. Wichita State, no shortage of courses and opportunities in that space for leadership.

Don and Ebony: And you're right. Leadership Wichita is amazing, right? We're asking you to do a police ride along or go behind USD 2 5 9 door. The firearms simulation act this principal for a day. I mean, that's amazing.

Danielle Johnson: yeah,

Don and Ebony: Yup. Yup. That's one of those things.

Danielle Johnson: Behind the veil

Don and Ebony: Yeah. Real it's life-changing I tell you, and it's done that way by design.

What leader has influenced you the most? Would you say?

Danielle Johnson: Yeah. That's a really hard question. I've had a multitude. Leaders folks, elders within our community? I would say right at this time, given the space that I'm in Ann Fox as someone that is really serving as a mentor to me, ensuring that I even know what I'm doing right. Cause when they hired me, they knew that housing is not necessarily my background right.

Construction, but advocacy is connection and networking. And so those skills that they felt like they could grow and grew in me.

I have the opportunity to learn a lot of those skills from the Ann Fox, if you will. no shortage of elders, Pamaline Kling-Burns, as someone who taught me about health determinants of health, before it became a buzzword, within our own community, right?

She's been at Sedgwick County, really trying to educate folks around that. And again, no shortage of elders, no shortage of folks through, even in my sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority incorporated, had the opportunity to work alongside, right. Hello, have an opportunity. to work alongside

Don and Ebony: ain't saying a word saying a word.

Danielle Johnson: With the length and, again, really amazing community, my parents of course, my spouse who has a level head, a level heart can go into a number of spaces and I'm like, ooh, I can learn how to do that. He is, he has that in him. And that's something where I grow to turn it down a little bit. can always grow and learn in that space.

Don and Ebony: My very last question. As we begin to wrap up, is there was a movie about your life.

Who would play you?

Danielle Johnson: Oh my gosh.

Don and Ebony: What would the name of the movie be like? I'm just curious.

Danielle Johnson: Oh no. Ooh. Why would you do

Don and Ebony: I know it's a lot.[00:30:00]

Danielle Johnson: What a movie about my life who would play? I don't know. I'm going to give it to Taraji P Henson. Cause I feel like she's got just that right amount of turn-up in that right amount, of sense to just bring it together.

Don and Ebony: I agree.

Danielle Johnson: P Henson. I can see that. And then, oh, what would, what would the title be?

Staying strong through adversity.

Don and Ebony: I like

Danielle Johnson: Staying strong through adversity.

Don and Ebony: I like. That's powerful.

Danielle Johnson: a good one.

Don and Ebony: Thank you for sharing. Yeah. Excellent. Well, kudos for the folks on the search committee for habitat to realize yeah. Transferable skills, they know about housing and about construction, but that those transferable leadership skills that pick you up. That's thinking outside the box.

That's what we used to say. You know, back in the day. I don't know what y'all say now, but they're going outside the box, man. How are you with a hammer and a drill now?

Danielle Johnson: You know, now?

I will say I've spent some summers with my dad working on rental properties. So I had a little bit of that, but learning like trusses and all the other technical pieces that was not in the pockets.

Don and Ebony: All good. We're so glad that you're there. And, and I hope Ann is enjoying her retirement.

Danielle Johnson: Yes. As she should be.

Don and Ebony: She's definitely good people. Let's do some word association. I give you one word. You gave me one word back. It's not wrong because it's your word. Okay. Here we go. Leader.

Danielle Johnson: Danielle

Don and Ebony: I love it. I love it. I love it. This is a softball, college

Danielle Johnson: Wichita State, go Shocks

Don and Ebony: Failure

Danielle Johnson: Failure.

Some of the dishes I've cooked. I know that that's not a word association, but

Don and Ebony: I don't know it personally, but that's real, that's funny.

Wichita

Danielle Johnson: Wichita, home

Don and Ebony: Vacation.

Danielle Johnson: Beach, somebodies beach.

Don and Ebony: Okay. Hero or she-ro.

Danielle Johnson: My parents.

Don and Ebony: Okay. Chamber

Danielle Johnson: Right now, Ricki Ellison. That's what I think of.

Don and Ebony: through Ricki I'm going to have to call her Dr.

Danielle Johnson: Yes, here pretty soon. Ooh.

Don and Ebony: Okay. Fun.

Danielle Johnson: A vacation would be fun right now, actually.

Don and Ebony: Hey, vacation at the beach, apparently last but not least, beverage.

Danielle Johnson: Uncle Nearest.

Don and Ebony: Ah, delicious.

Danielle Johnson: Yes.

Don and Ebony: Yeah, I must be too old. I have no clue what that

Danielle Johnson: I drink a drink.

Don and Ebony: have to go. That's real, Uncle Nearest. We're going to have to Google that. Thank you, Danielle. Good to see you.

Danielle Johnson: Thank you.

Don and Ebony: We appreciate you coming by today and spending a few minutes to have this conversation. Thank you so much.

Danielle Johnson: And thank you for having me and happy 50.

Don and Ebony: Yes. Happy 50th. All right, friends. Thank you. Please like us. Share us with your friends. And if you've enjoyed this podcast so far, please share with someone who you think would find value in it. Have a good one till next time.