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# SPEAKER BIO

## **Rita J. Cowans, CIA, CISA, VP of Internal Audit, FedEx**



As Vice President of Internal Audit at FedEx Services, Rita J. Cowans brings a disciplined and success-oriented approach to the audit process. Rita is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the audit activities for FedEx U.S Domestic Operations for Express, Freight, Ground, Logistics, and Audit Special Projects Fraud Investigations. Her firm commitment to excellence has earned her FedEx Five Star Awards (the company's highest honor) and Internal Audit All-Star Team Awards.

In addition to earning a B.B.A. degree from the University of Memphis, Rita's credentials include the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). She holds memberships in the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), the Information System Audit and Control Association, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the International Aviation Women's Association. She also serves on the Board for the IIA Memphis Chapter and is the current Chairperson for Benedict College School of Business Advisory Board, a HBCU. Rita is a graduate of Leadership Memphis Executive Class.

She actively supports Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at FedEx by ensuring that the Internal Audit department reflects the FedEx People-First philosophy. In addition, she serves on the FedEx Services Executive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee. Rita has been recognized by Diversity Woman Magazine as the "Elite 100" Black Women Leaders Changing the Face of Corporate America.

Rita's community involvement includes United Way, Toys 4 Tots, Operation Feed, the March of Dimes, and the FedEx Family House. She also participates with recruitment and development activities at various universities. As a professional mentor, Rita has been featured in the "Century 21 Accounting Textbook" for high school students and is an Executive mentor for the Burroughs Foundation. Rita is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.