



## Jessika Portney, MA, ACC

Jessika Portney is an executive and leadership coach who is passionate about empowering women. She has worked in the field of leadership development for over a decade, supporting leaders of all backgrounds and tenures. In addition to her work with private clients, Jessika coaches and facilitates leadership development training programs for non-profit organizations and government agencies. Her approach to leadership has been informed by the cross-cultural experiences she's sought out: pursuing a graduate degree and teaching English in Rome, facilitating Fulbright fellowships for mid-career leaders from 90 different countries, and implementing USAID projects for Egyptian women pursuing a STEM education.

Clients value Jessika's deep curiosity about the human experience and ability to create a warm environment for them to be vulnerable and dig deep. She became a coach to honor these gifts and create space for those who want to do similar transformational work. Jessika finds true joy in partnering with clients to embrace their superpowers and manifest their potential.

### Education

Jessika obtained an M.A. in Government and Politics with a concentration in International Relations and a certificate in Diplomacy and International Law from St. John's University in Rome, Italy. She received a B.A. dual degree in Communication and Italian Language & Literature from the University of Maryland, College Park. Jessika received her Teaching English as Foreign Language Certificate from TEFL International Tuscany in Florence, Italy.

### Experience

Jessika began her career by living and teaching English in Italy, a country and language she has always been drawn towards. After returning to the U.S., she was able to parlay her background intercultural exchange and teaching into the field of international education. Jessika worked on the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a year-long Fulbright leadership development program for professionals from developing countries in civil sector and government roles. It was during this professional experience that Jessika understood the powerful connection between educational exchange programming and leadership development. She returned to Italy to complete her master's studies. Upon completion of her degree, she worked on USAID portfolio of domestic and international scholarship and leadership training programs on topics including STEM, women's issues, and international development. Before launching her own coaching practice, Jessika oversaw leadership programs at the Brookings Institution, directly serving the development federal civil servants. She was fortunate enough to design and facilitate the Executive Fellowship and Women's Leadership cohort programs.

Jessika now serves as a facilitator and coach for the Partnership for Public Service organization. She is a recommended coach for Women in Government Relations professional society.

### Certifications

Jessika earned her certificate in coaching from the Flow Coaching Institute in Toronto, Canada. She is an ACC certified coach and a member of the International Coach Federation (ICF).

### Accomplishments

Jessika delivers workshops and keynote speeches on a variety of leadership topics, most often to audiences of emerging or established women leaders. Most recently she served as a panelist for the Women's Equality Summit hosted by 50/50 Leadership.