



LET'S MEET CATHY HARRIS

International Credentialing Task Force Leader – Professional Certifications

Cathy Harris is an Executive Assistant to the CEO of Discovery Invest and has been with Discovery for over 18 years. She has almost 40 years' experience in the Executive PA profession, having commenced her career as an Office professional way back in 1980. With a Diploma in Accounting, and certificates in various secretarial disciplines, Cathy's experience and expertise in the administrative profession has gained her international recognition. Nominated South Africa's National Secretary of the Year for 2006/2007, Cathy used the opportunity to continue her involvement with various Secretarial initiatives including mentorship, training initiatives within her organization, training and facilitating nationally and globally, and is recognized as the expert in creating internal networks for PA's and assistants within their organizations.

Cathy is the founder and Director of the Platinum Assistant Network – South Africa; a registered not for gain, Assistants network aimed at providing resources and training initiatives to both local and international assistants. For ten years, Cathy headed up the Office Professionals of South Africa (OPSA) National Awards and initiated and formulated all the assignments required for the South African certification designations. She is the past President of the OPSA Leadership Institute, and also held the position of Director of OPSA before pursuing her own dream of creating the Platinum Assistant Network – South Africa.

www.platinumassistsa.org.za

1. Which Task Force are you working with/leading?

Wendy Rapana and I are working on the International Credentialing Task Force, as well as working on administrative levels and the appropriate titles with Andrew Jardine, an expert in this field.

2. What inspired you to support the WASummit?

I am huge believer that education and upskilling should be ongoing throughout your career, and after compiling and being a major contributor for the South African Certification accreditations for Office Professionals, I was approached by [Lucy Brazier](#) who extended an invitation to me to participate in WASummit, as she believed that I would add great value. I thank her with much gratitude for the opportunity for me to give back not just nationally, but globally to my peers.

3. What do you see as the key aspects of your involvement with the WASummit?

By all measures it has been a challenge, but my focus and involvement will remain on the end goal, which is a lot closer than it was 3 years ago! Assistants will have the opportunity to understand where their qualifications sit internationally by 2020, and I am hugely humbled and grateful that I am able to contribute towards this alongside Wendy Rapana, an expert in the accreditation certification space.

4. How do you plan on using your experience/platform to assist Administrators, and what would you personally like to achieve for the WASummit?

The knowledge and experience gained and still being gained, from this experience will allow for all Admins across the world, to have access not only to the Accreditations, but to the future

benchmarking initiatives the WASummit network will undoubtedly come up with. We share so many similarities across the globe, and there is still so much we can add value to in the form of Admin education, professional recognition and creating an environment of collaboration. For me it's not about personal gain, but the gratitude and humility of being a contributor on this global platform.

5. *If there is one piece of information regarding WASummit that you want everyone to understand, what would it be?*

WASummit belongs to US, for US and therefore, it is our responsibility to give our profession the professional recognition and acknowledgement it deserves! [#BeHeard #WASummit2020](#)