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Top 10 self-made women to watch in 2026

Story by Emily Standley Allard • 1mo • 7 min read

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The number of self-made women billionaires today has doubled from what it was a decade ago, reflecting a striking surge in female entrepreneurial influence. This growth is particularly evident in high-impact sectors such as AI, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing, where women are not only founding companies but also scaling them to become the dominant players in their respective industries.

The given list of Top 10 Self-Made Women to Watch in 2026 recognizes this year's outstanding leaders. Each of these reveals how women are disrupting the norm, innovating, and designing the future while creating lasting change through their work. Their achievements offer a beacon of light for aspiring entrepreneurs aiming to make their mark on the globe.

Dr. Kimberly Nelms, CPC



 Dr. Kimberly Nelms, CPC

[Dr. Kimberly Nelms](#) is a visionary leader, speaker, author, and coach dedicated to helping individuals discover their purpose, strengthen their voice, and lead with confidence. She is the Founder and CEO of [ATK Innovations LLC](#), a leadership development and consulting company committed to empowering entrepreneurs, leaders, and purpose-driven professionals. She is a 2025 Motivational Speaker of the Year award recipient and was honored as Businesswoman of the Year in Consulting for 2024, recognizing her impact, influence, and excellence in leadership and business. With a passion for personal and professional growth, Dr.

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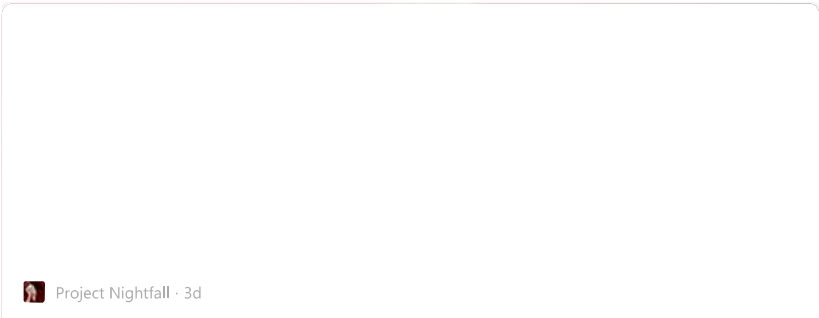


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How Melania Trump's little-known business was inspired by her studies

Story by Olivia Salamone • 11mo



1 / 8



How Melania Trump's little-known business was inspired by her studies

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Long before she was a First Lady, Melania Trump spent years quietly honing a skill that would later become central to her lesser-known business venture: jewelry design. Melania, 55, is best known for being the wife of President Donald Trump , and for her success as a fashion model when she was younger. But it turns out, Melania has a secret passion for architecture and design, which she studied at the University of Ljubljana - one of Slovenia's most prestigious and academically rigorous institutions - long before she was famous.

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