

MEDIA ZONE

MICHAELA MENDELSON

Already known as the first transgender contestant in the Ms. Senior California Pageant and a consultant to Jenji Kohan in the development of Laverne Cox's character on Netflix's Hit drama series *Orange is the New Black*, Michaela Mendelson is now adding another new groundbreaking title to her resume.

She has just been named the first transgender board member of the Trevor Project. As a Board Member of The Trevor Project Michaela provides strategic direction and ensures the organization has the resources to fulfil its mission. She uses her expertise in public speaking, advocacy, business development and LGBT issues to serve as an Ambassador for the organization. Michaela is focused on outreach to youth, speaking on issues specific to the transgender community and informing the community about the work of The Trevor Project.



A transgender activist, public speaker and businesswoman with over 40 years of entrepreneurial leadership experience, Michaela is currently the CEO of Pollo West Corp, one of the largest franchisees for El Pollo Loco restaurant in the Western Region of the United States. She founded the California Transgender Workplace Program to promote trans-friendly job conditions.

As a writer and public speaker, Michaela speaks all over California on LGBT issues ranging from bullying to homophobia and transphobia. She was the Keynote Speaker at the Transgender Employment Empowerment Conference and has spoken to over 100 groups. Follow her: @Michaelalvri