

# SOMEDAY STARTS NOW

Lokahi Backstage - Episode 9 (Susan Bitter Smith) Companion

## Your Voice Belongs Here

There are moments in life when you look around and realize something needs to change — and you hope someone steps in. Susan Bitter Smith's story is a reminder that you can be that someone.

She didn't step into leadership because she had a perfect plan. She stepped in because she saw a need, felt the nudge, and was willing to raise her hand. From student government to statewide leadership to expanding higher education access across Arizona, her path wasn't linear — but it was intentional.

That's the heart of this week. Your voice matters. Your perspective matters. And the rooms you're hesitant to enter may be the ones that need you most.

You don't have to wait to feel fully ready or qualified. Sometimes the most meaningful impact begins with simply showing up.

If you've ever felt too unsure, too quiet, too new, or too "not enough," let this be your reminder...Your voice belongs here — and the world needs what only you can bring.

## Think About This:

1. Where in your life have you been waiting for permission — when you already know it's time to step in?
2. What conversations, decisions, or spaces feel intimidating... and why might your voice actually be needed there?
3. If you stopped doubting your qualifications and trusted your perspective, what might you say yes to?

## Try This:

- ✿ Identify one place this week where you've been quiet — a meeting, a conversation, a room — and contribute one honest thought or perspective. Just one.
- ✿ Think of a decision being made around you (at work, at home, in your community) and ask yourself, "What do I actually believe about this?" Write it down — and share it with the right person.
- ✿ Say yes to something you would normally talk yourself out of — a meeting, a role, a seat at the table — even if it stretches you. Especially if it stretches you.

## From Me to You:

There have been so many moments in my life where I've looked around a room and thought, "Do I really belong here?"

And honestly... there were seasons where I stayed quiet because I wasn't sure I did. But here's what I've learned — and I'm still learning it every day. Most of the doors that changed my life didn't open because I felt ready. They opened because I showed up anyway.

Listening to Susan reminded me of that.

If you've been holding back... if you've been waiting your turn... if you've been talking yourself out of the seat that keeps calling to you — this is your gentle reminder.

Your voice belongs in the rooms you're drawn to.  
Your presence brings something no one else can offer.  
And saying yes — can change everything.

I'm cheering you on as you take that next step into the spaces meant for you.

🌺 Aloha, Jamie

**LŌKAHI**  
**BACKSTAGE**  
with *Jamie Ann Blakeman*