Rewriting the Narrative

Clemson University
Women’s Leadership Conference

Rewriting the Narrative

Clemson University
February 9th 2019
Welcome from the 2019 Women’s Leadership Conference Chair

Hello,

Welcome to the 2019 Women’s Leadership Conference! I am looking forward to a day filled with empowering and thought-provoking conversations surrounding women today, and I hope you are too. This conference will be an interactive and educational opportunity for all participants. The planning committee is thrilled to welcome presenters from a variety of backgrounds: undergraduate students, graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, faculty, staff, and more.

This year’s theme is “Rewriting the Narrative.” As the committee came together to choose a theme, we discussed the societal narratives that women are often assigned. We spoke of women today who have rewritten their own narratives through choices they’ve made, careers they’ve pursued, achievements they’ve been awarded, and paths they’ve blazed.

I hope that today you have the opportunity to reflect on the narratives you wish to rewrite, or the narratives that a woman in your life has rewritten. Join me as we take the time to challenge ourselves and each other to further explore the dynamics of women’s empowerment in all of its forms.

Thank you for being here!

Sincerely,

Teddie Chastain

2019 Women’s Leadership Conference Chair
Schedule of Events

8:00-9:00 a.m.  Conference Check-in  2nd floor: Hendrix Student Center

8:00-9:00 a.m.  Coffee Hour  Hendrix Student Center Ballrooms

9:00-9:30 a.m.  Conference Welcome & Kick-Off  Hendrix Student Center Ballrooms

9:35-10:35 a.m.  Concurrent Session 1  Descriptions & Locations on page 3-4

10:40-11:40 a.m.  Concurrent Session 2  Descriptions & Locations on page 4-5

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.  Lunch & Keynote Address: Glenis Redmond  Hendrix Student Center Ballrooms
Listen Deeply: Learning to Navigate Your Path from Within

1:20-2:20 p.m.  Concurrent Session 3  Descriptions & Locations on page 5-6

2:25-3:25 p.m.  Concurrent Session 4  Descriptions & Locations on page 6-7

3:30-4:00 p.m.  Conference Closing & Wrap-Up  Hendrix Student Center Ballrooms
Concurrent Sessions
*If you arrive to a room and it is full, please select another session!

9:35-10:35 a.m.

Women in STEM: Challenges and Possible Solutions
Nafiseh Masoudi, Ph.D. Candidate, Mechanical Engineering
Mitra Shabani, Ph.D. Student, Mechanical Engineering
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room A

Increasing diversity in STEM and STEM related fields has been a challenge for decades. A plethora of studies has been conducted to propose possible solutions to these problems, some of which are now being practiced in different academic and professional settings. Today, we can see female professors, CEOs, and decision makers in high levels, which was not imaginable decades ago. Despite these efforts and the slowly growing number of women, men still outnumber them in STEM areas. This has motivated us to take the opportunity of this workshop and share the results of the studies with more general audience than a certain group of educators. We believe public awareness of the challenges and solutions to the problems females face in STEM fields is the first step to overcome their underrepresentation.

She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry
Keeyana Talley, Community Director for Douthit Hills East
Lexie Johnson, Graduate Community Director for Douthit Hills East
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room B

From a very young age, women often have an internal dialogue for when they should express their anger. Living in a patriarchal society, women’s feelings, thoughts and emotions are often dismissed or ridiculed. Driven by women in history who used their anger to fuel their journey and purpose, this presentation will highlight their stories and empower participants to use their anger for power.

Opening Yourself to Power of Support and Connection
Audrey Ann Crocker, Clemson Undergraduate Student
Hendrix Student Center, David Peebles Room

Whether you’re the patient or the caregiver, the need to defeat the impact of isolation during illness or everyday life is significant. Modern research amplifies the necessity to utilize one’s social networks as a unique coping mechanism. For example, the indirect relationship of social support to the presence of depression is indicative that social wellness is vital. It is my belief that social support, particularly the formal use of support groups, is undervalued or under recognized, therefore making it an applicable presentation within the theme of Rewriting the Narrative. The importance of highlighting this vital step in wellness is also appropriate for all ages, thereby making it an effective lesson for women from the most recent undergraduate student to the most experienced faculty and staff. No one is.
Words of Wisdom from Women at War: Diversifying Your Inspiration Portfolio  
Col. Keith W. Bats, USAF, Professor and Chair, Department of Aerospace Studies  
Hendrix Student Center, McKissick Theatre

What started out as a personal gift to my daughter during a year-long deployment, turned into a heartfelt collection of advice and themes from a very diverse, albeit mostly military, female perspective. While my young daughter appreciated the gift, I found in describing the project/gift to others that it could be shared to benefit a wider audience (male and female). The dialogue has narrated key points and common threads from 24 women, including one from each military rank from the youngest of Airman to a four-star General. There is a military slant in how the project unfolded, but the resultant info and underlying themes distilled from the collection are universal. In the end, the intent is to encourage listeners to diversify their sources of advice/mentorship/inspiration and more importantly, to be a source for others.

10:40-11:40 a.m.

Who Runs the World? GIRLS!
Jenna Figaro  
Alex Newsome, Assistant Director of Career Development  
Hendrix Student Center, McKissick Theatre

This presentation will provide insight into applying for jobs, negotiating salaries, and being empowered as a woman in the workforce. Presenters will discuss the impact of “mental load” and how to incorporate self-care into daily practices. There will also be time for participants to discuss and practice various topics such as negotiating, having difficult conversations, and maintaining self-care while working. Participants will take away valuable resources concerning career development, networking, mentoring, and other information regarding women in the world of work.

Who’s Qualified to Lead?
Diane Perpich, Director, Program in Women’s Leadership  
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room B

Have you ever thought about a leadership position then wondered if you were the right person for the job? This panel summarizes recent research on women’s self-assessment of their leadership qualifications and engages participants in a workshop to identify and assess their own leadership potential.

Finding Your Voice
Jenni Johnson, Information Center Management, Daniel Island Development  
Hendrix Student Center, David Peebles Room

Finding Your Voice: In a world that would try to hinder women’s voices because of gender inequality, race, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation, the time for women to find their voice is now. Many women think that having a voice in today’s society means boisterously fighting to be heard among the naysayers in hopes that their gender will find a place at the table of equality. History shows that protest has helped pave the way for women’s voices to be heard, but finding your voice is a personal journey that starts with identifying hinders your voice and replacing it with purpose.
Reclaiming Our Voice: Navigating the Intersectionality of Race and Gender
Laetitia Adelson, Graduate Assistant for Emerging Scholars
Brianna Berry, Graduate Assistant for Employer Relations, Michelin Career Center
Sarah K. Hammer, Graduate Assistant, Fraternity Sorority Housing
Robbie Miller, Graduate Assistant, Fraternity Sorority Housing
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room A

Have you ever wondered how your social identities show up in different spaces? In this session, we will be discussing the intersectionality of race and gender, specifically in how women of color experience challenges in regards to the presence of white guilt and race taking dominance. In lieu of the discussion, we hope to provide tools and resources for participants to understand how to become more aware of how to make their spheres more inclusive.

1:20-2:20 p.m.

Work and Life Balance in STEAM: Eastern women Perspectives
Unaiza Uzair, Doctoral Candidate, Chemistry
Firasat Jabeen, Doctoral Candidate, Rhetorics, Communication and Information Design
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room A

This session addresses the work and life balance issues for women pursuing careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Being international doctoral students from Eastern countries, the three speakers in the session bring international perspectives to the discussion of women education, empowerment, and professional growth. Given the presenters’ diversified cultural backgrounds from their respective countries, this session primarily looks into the struggles of work and life balance among educationally inspired and professionally motivated women. Additionally, the presenters—having background in both physical and social sciences—will cull from their individual experiences, and will talk about their personal narratives and experiences regarding how they try to balance work and life responsibilities. This session essentially contributes to the conference theme—Rewriting the Narrative—by arguing that multi-tasking in a foreign culture makes women empowered, ambitious, and competitive professionals than their counterparts in their home countries.

Uncultured, Uncultivated, Unwomanly: An Artistic Expression of Woman Leadership and Empowering the Unladylike
Gina Mariano, Graduate Assistant for Student Involvement and Leadership
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room B

Pencil skirts, tight buns and high heels. These are just some of the expectations of women leaders in today’s society. Characteristics that force women into “ladylike” standards they may not identify with. So how do we fight these? How do we allow our unladylike, unwomanly selves to be empowered throughout the workplace? Attend this session to learn about expectations of women in the workplace along with tangible takeaways you can use to combat these expectations while also exercising your creative side.
Getting there gracefully: Facing failure, learning to say no, and finding a new voice.
Carrie Russell, Ph.D. Student
Hendrix Student Center, McKissick Theatre

In a world where both academic research and industry are racing forward at the speed of light and where 'publish or perish' is king, have you ever wondered how, given your life circumstances, you will ever keep up? Maybe you are a mother, a family member, or have close personal relationships that directly compete with your professional goals. Maybe you have tried to keep up, and failed miserably. Maybe you are keeping up, but struggling with the personal cost of that success. If any of these sound familiar, come discover how a veteran military member, single mother, and graduate student is learning to bounce back from 'failure', rewrite the definition of 'success', and find a new voice that is both consistent and uniquely hers. During this session, we will discuss the dangers of a 'keeping up with the Joneses' mentality, saying no with confidence and respect, deconflicting competing priorities, and translating a unique perspective into a marketable brand. Women of all ages, backgrounds, and career levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Anger into Action: Evolving Valid Emotion into Meaningful Change
Morgan Danyi, Interpersonal Violence Prevention Graduate Assistant
Megan Fallon, Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator
Hendrix Student Center, David Peebles Room

A critical look will be taken into who gets to be angry, and how marginalized communities can use anger to propel themselves into acting against systems of oppression. We will discuss how activists transform their anger into productive action, utilizing interactive activities, case studies, and discussion. This session will recognize the ways in which anger is a valid emotion but encourage participants to rethink how their anger can be fuel to create change and to challenge injustices.

2:25-3:25 p.m.

Be a Man: Reimaging Sexism and Masculinity
Wonjae Kim, Graduate Assistant of Freshman Academic Programs
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room A

Where does toxic masculinity come from? Who exactly does it affect? During this presentation, participants will gain the knowledge to answer these questions and more as we dive into where toxic masculinity affects all of us as individuals on a collegiate campus. Participants will learn with how they interact with masculinity and sexism from the biological level to the social level, exploring how they are affected by sexism and masculinity from all levels. At the end of the presentation, participants will leave with the knowledge of how to understand, acknowledge, and overcome toxic masculinity and sexism on a college campus.

Reclaiming Your Time: Drop the Doubt
Rebecca Moorhead, Clemson Graduate Student  
Hendrix Student Center, Meeting Room B

When we think of a powerful woman what do we manifest? It’s not always an idea that brings up a visual, but rather a feeling… Confidence.

Often, we are fully aware of our own strengths and abilities. However, we spend much time doubting if we should move forward, or continue taking steps for confirmation from others. In this discussion, women will be presented with concrete ways that they can stop spending time doubting themselves and start moving toward their goals unforgivingly. Topics covered will include: presenting ideas in meetings or professional environments, taking leadership opportunities, navigating male-dominated spaces, and creating their own confidence manifesto. Together we will create an environment where we feel able to proclaim our strengths on our own, and able to empower others to do so, as well.

Intersectional Feminism: The Importance of Inclusivity in the Fight for Gender Equality  
Laurel Cartwright, Clemson University Undergraduate  
Hendrix Student Center, McKissick Theatre

In this presentation and dialogue we will discuss the importance of intersectionality and inclusivity in the realm of gender equality. When we look at the feminist fight, it is critical that all women are included and valued, not just dominant groups. Focusing specifically on the United States, we will analyze current feminist movements that are lacking intersectionality and highlight effective strategies that include all women. We, as women, have the opportunity to change the narrative of the United States and it is our job to make sure that all women’s stories, accomplishments, and goals are included as we progress together.

Male Femininity and Why Society has a Problem with It  
Avery Jamison, Graduate Assistant for Student Involvement & Leadership  
Hendrix Student Center, David Peebles Room

Femininity and the empowerment of women as a mindset has gained so much popularity in the past few years. Movements like #MeToo have helped shift society into bridging the gap of inequality between men and women. However, some questions that are still often asked is, “Where are the men?” “Why are many not actively involved in the movement?” We often hear of famous celebrities who openly speak out about women’s issues and self-identify as a feminist, many of whom are women, like Beyoncé, Emma Watson, or Mindy Kaling. But, again, where are the men? This session will explore the aspects of male femininity and how men can be more in tune with women’s issues. We will discuss these questions and address ways to have more men into the conversation.
Glenis Redmond, a former Clinical II Counselor for the State of South Carolina changed her professional course, when she left the counseling field to pursue poetry full-time. Twenty-six years later, Glenis travels the country performing and teaching poetry workshops. During this keynote Glenis will talk about her personal journey and read poems from her latest manuscript, *The Listening Skin*. It is a collection of poems that explores how she dares to dance and create within a pain-riddled body—plagued by a progressive and degenerative illness, fibromyalgia. She urges others to look within in order to cultivate purpose, meaning and joy.