“Women and Education: Embracing Our Future”

The 10th Annual Women’s Leadership Conference

RSC Professional Training and Education Center

Friday, March 25, 2016  8:30am-2:00pm

“Until we get equality in education, we won’t have an equal society.”
Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor
Welcome to the 10th Annual Women’s Leadership Conference!

Our goal is to help empower and encourage women to become active leaders in their own lives and in their community. By working together, we can create a more powerful and positive role for women in Oklahoma and at Rose State College. Together, we will make a difference!

Sponsored by:

Rose State College Social Sciences Division

Rose State College Student Affairs

Rose State College Workforce and Community Development

University of Central Oklahoma Department of History and Geography

National Organization for Women Chapter--University of Central Oklahoma

Rose State College Bookstore (Follett Higher Education Group)
SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M. Check-In, Refreshments, Visit Exhibitors

Be sure to pick up your FREE t-shirt and breakfast!

ROOM 114

9:00 A.M. Welcome — Tara Hall & Lizzie Boger

9:10 A.M. Proclamation — Regent Betty Wright and Professor James Davenport

9:15 A.M. Scholarship Recipients 2015 — Verna Davis and Tuesdae Pelt

9:30 A.M. “Women of Today” — Regent Betty Wright and President Jeanie Webb

10:15 A.M. Break

10:30 A.M. Breakout Sessions

Room 108: Educating Women: A Global Perspective — Dr. Adjoa Richardson Ahedor

Room 109: Researching Women’s History: Sharing Our Stories — Panel led by Dr. Patricia Loughlin

Room 110: They Said What? The Impact of Gendered Language — Ebony Pope and LaVonya Bennett

Room 211: Outside Higher Education: Instructional Design in the Corporate World — Thea Albertson

Room 213: Fearless Women: Furthering Your Education — Daisha Badgett

Room 215: Can I Get There from Here? A Roadmap for Success in College — Carolyn Cuskey

11:20 A.M. Break

11:30 A.M. Repeat of Breakout Sessions

12:30 P.M. Room 114: Lunch & Keynote Address: Blue Collar Roots, White Collar Lives

Panel Discussion — Dr. Lupe Davidson, Misty Engelbrecht, Dr. Juanita Ortiz

1:45 P.M. Call to action, door prize drawing

2:00 P.M Closing Remarks — Michelle Brockmeier and Tara Hall

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”
Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: “Women of Today”

It is all about influences and attitude. Learn from Regent Betty Wright and President Jeanie Webb as they share how the most influential women in their lives have shaped their careers in education and their present outlooks.

President Jeanie Webb

Dr. Jeanie Webb serves as the President of Rose State College. Her career in higher education has spanned over thirty years where she has worked not only as an accomplished administrator but also as a dedicated faculty member. Dr. Webb, a product of the Oklahoma community college system, began her education at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and then transferred to Northeastern State University where she earned both a B.A. in Social Studies Education and an M.S. in College Teaching/Personnel Services. She earned a doctoral degree in Higher Administration/Adult Education from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Webb completed post-doctoral work at Harvard University and at the University of Oklahoma where she was a Kellogg Fellow.

Since assuming the presidency in 2013, Dr. Webb has brought renewed energy and focus to Rose State College as it transitions to a new generation of students. The campus is in the midst of a $22M, 5-year bond project. Under her leadership, Rose State graduation and retention rates are the highest in years. It is through Dr. Webb’s leadership and vision that Rose State College is positioning itself to become the first choice for students.

Regent Betty J.C. Wright

Betty J.C. Wright was appointed to the Rose State College Board of Regents and Trustees by Governor Walters in 1991, and was reappointed by Governors Keating, Henry, and Fallin. Her current term on the Board runs through June 30, 2019. She has served in all officer positions on the Board, including four terms as Chairman.

Regent Wright is a retired Oklahoma elementary school math and science teacher and continues her service to education by training other teachers in the Great Expectations program. She has been recognized for her accomplishments over the years, most notably by the President of the United States as the Math/Science Teacher of the Year in 1991. She received the Association of Community College Trustees award in 2003 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence in Teaching Hall of Fame in 2014. Last month, Regent Wright was honored with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award.

As one of 9 children, Betty Wright never stopped believing in her dream of becoming a teacher, and although her circumstances did not look promising, she never gave up. She attended Florida A&M with a scholarship provided by the Port St. Joe Paper Mill, where her father worked. As Regent Wright often says, “Never give up on what’s in your heart. Keep believing and trying. When one door closes, another one will open up if you beat on it long enough.”

“Offering girls basic education is one sure way of giving them much greater power -- of enabling them to make genuine choices over the kinds of lives they wish to lead. This is not a luxury.”

The Convention on the Rights of the Child
First generation college students create a different and divergent narrative on their pathways to becoming professors. Moving from the ranks of working class poverty, first generation students negotiate unfamiliar terrain. The dynamics, language, and patterns of academia are foreign territory, requiring a different set of skills and the development of a new identity. Mentors provide a great resource to help foster the positive growth of future academic. They teach how to negotiate the power barriers, the problem of privilege, and navigating academic territory. We create a new identity of empowerment tempered by our blue collar roots. We will discuss this transition and how it carries through in the classroom, teaching techniques, and relationships with students, especially our first generation students.

Dr. Maria del Guadalupe Davidson

Dr. Davidson is Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Co-Director of the Center for Social Justice, and a Fellow in the Faculty Leadership Academy and the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Oklahoma. Her research areas include: rhetorical theory and criticism, the intersection of race and gender, black feminism, and Africana philosophical thought. Her current book project, *Black Women, Agency, and the New Black Feminism* is under contract with Routledge Press. Dr. Davidson’s most recent publications include the co-edited volume *Exploring Race in Predominately White Classrooms: Scholars of Color Reflect* (2014). Dr. Davidson is currently working on a project about black women and curriculum design, an article titled “But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Feminism, Axel Honneth, and the Struggle for Recognition,” and a large project that explores the 100-year anniversary of women’s suffrage.

Misty Engelbrecht

Director Engelbrecht began as a student at Rose State College in 2005. She has since served as an Administrative Assistant, Academic Advisor, Professor of Educational Programs and most recently she was promoted to Director of the Innovation Station, Rose State College’s new downtown Oklahoma City location. She holds an Associate of Science degree in Business from Rose State College, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University, and a Master of Education from the University of Oklahoma. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies with a research emphasis on first-generation students and community colleges.

Dr. Juanita Ortiz

Dr. Ortiz joined the Rose State College staff as Dean of the Social Sciences Division in August 2014. Prior to this position, Dr. Ortiz served as a faculty member in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Illinois-Springfield from 2008-2014. Dr. Ortiz had previously taught Sociology courses at Rose State College as an adjunct faculty member from 2007-2009.

Dr. Ortiz earned all of her degrees from the University of Oklahoma. She earned dual Bachelor’s degrees in Sociology and Political Science; a Master’s degree in Sociology; and a doctoral degree in Sociology, with emphases in Criminology and Stratification. Her research areas include female criminal offending and prisoner recidivism/reentry.

“Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom on my mind.”

Virginia Woolf
Breakout Sessions

**Educating Women: A Global Perspective (Room 108)**

The role women play in societies around the world cannot be overemphasized, yet women are underestimated in many parts of the world. In many countries, women are denied basic education, meaningful jobs and excluded from leadership positions. The exclusion of women in critical societal structures often begins with the girl child who is denied basic education. Educated women are more confident, better empowered and vital in decision-making situations. Both developed and undeveloped countries that have educated girls have seen significant changes not only in their standards of living but also in national development. Many of these women have subsequently educated their children and broken the cycle of poverty in their families. This presentation will focus on the marginalization of women in different parts of the world and discuss how women can be educated and empowered. A discussion will compare the status and roles of women around the world with women in the United States.

**Dr. Adjoa Ahedor**, a biological science professor at Rose State College, is originally from Ghana, West Africa, where she obtained her bachelor's in botany with zoology at the University of Ghana. While in graduate school, she studied for a year at the University of California – Davis, then returned to Ghana to earn an MPhil in botany. She then studied at Idaho State University, earning a Master of Science in biology, then pursued a Ph.D. in botany at the University of Oklahoma.

In 2008, Dr. Ahedor accepted a teaching position at Rose State College and currently teaches botany, non-majors and majors biology, as well as Introduction to Environmental Science. As a result of her interest in scientific research, she initiated the Hobart Means Lecture Series at the Engineering and Science Division. Dr. Ahedor lives in Norman with her husband and two children, and is the current president of the Oklahoma Ghanaian Community Group.

**Panel Discussion: Researching Women’s History and Sharing Our Stories (Room 109)**

Dr. Patti Loughlin will lead a panel discussion with her graduate students regarding the study of women's history. The students have engaged in historical research projects on women’s history and will share their research and writing experiences with the audience.

Panel members include Patti Loughlin, PhD, Professor of History, University of Central Oklahoma; Rhonda Beck, Senior, History-Museum Studies Major, University of Central Oklahoma; Harley Boyd, Senior, History Major, University of Central Oklahoma; Kaitlin Crawford, Senior, History-Museum Studies Major, University of Central Oklahoma; Stacia Crosthwait, Senior, History-Museum Studies Major, University of Central Oklahoma.

**Patti Loughlin** is Professor of History and a board member of the Oklahoma Historical Society. She specializes in twentieth-century U.S. history, American Indian history, and the history of the American West. She participates as a scholar in the Oklahoma Humanities Council's “Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma” book discussion program. Her publications include *Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel Wright, Angie Debo and Alice Marriott* (2005), *Building Traditions, Educating Generations: A History of the University of Central Oklahoma* with Bob Burke (2007) and *Main Street Oklahoma: Stories of Twentieth-Century America* with Linda Reese (2013).

"After all, Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels.”

Ann Richards
They Said What? The Impact of Gendered Language in Academia and Beyond (Room 110)

We enter multiple spaces without understanding or consciously thinking about the power of language in practice. The presenters will provide definitions and examples related to gendered language and facilitate activities and discussions to understand the impact of gendered language in multiple settings. Although we occupy multiple spaces, we will focus on the power of gendered language in the workplace and in academia.

Ebony C. Pope is a doctoral student in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Her research interests are on issues related to equity and access to institutional knowledge and cultural knowledge creation by Black women in higher education. Ebony is also a Graduate Research Fellow with the Center for Social Justice where she develops her research on mentoring relationships in the doctoral process for and between Black women students and faculty. She is also an adjunct instructor for the Department of Human Relations, where she teaches introductory and theory courses.

LaVonya Bennett currently works in Residence Life, a Division of Student Affairs at the University of Oklahoma. She obtained her Bachelors in Psychology with a minor in African and African American Studies. She then obtained her Masters in Human Relations with a Counseling and Social Justice emphasis. LaVonya currently serves as an adjunct instructor with the Center for Student Advancement, Freshman Programs, and Human Relations. Within her role as a university administrator, she volunteers as an OU advocate for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, advises service and women empowerment organizations, and works to create spaces and resources for marginalized students. Her research interests center on psychological well-being in higher education for people of color, women-identified people, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Outside Higher Ed: Instructional Design in the Corporate World (Room 211)

Learning is not the exclusive province of schools and universities. Corporations, the government, and the military produce and consume a great deal of educational material and employ professional educators and instructional designers to ensure that their employees get the education they need to meet organizational goals. The world of corporate and professional education is fast-paced, results-driven, and a challenge quite different from traditional school and university education. Women are prominent in the fields of instructional design and delivery in the corporate world and face challenges and opportunities—some of them unique to the environment and others almost universal for women in any field.

Thea Albertson has over 15 years of experience working in the adult learning, training, and development corporate world. Her current position is Principal Instructional Systems Designer (ISD) for Serco North America, where she specializes in eLearning design. Previous work experience includes four years as an eLearning ISD for Boeing and seven years as a trainer/ISD for America Online. She holds a Masters of Education (Adult Learning) from the University of Central Oklahoma.

“The highest result of education is tolerance.”
Helen Keller
Fearless Woman – Furthering Your Education (Room 213)

As woman, we hold many titles: woman, mother, wife, professional, etc. We wear them well, selflessly giving our time and energy to those we love. However, we are important too. Success comes with education. This session looks at options for the busy woman to balance family and pursue her education and career goals. We will explore program and funding options for the adult learner and review tips on how to be a full-time student successfully across a variety of learning platforms. Participants will meet with enrollment counselor and career woman, Daisha Badgett, who shares non-traditional methods and resources to finish school, reach your goals and continue to be WOMAN.

Daisha M. Badgett is currently a University Development Representative at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ. She works with local businesses and organizations to support the adult learner in accomplishing their education and career goals. Daisha has a bachelor’s degree in Public Relations from the University of Central Oklahoma and is now completing her Masters of Business Administration. Daisha has worked the past 15 years contributing to the growth of non-profit organizations, media publications and Fortune 500 companies through her sales, marketing and advertising services in the DC Metropolitan area. Daisha also dedicates her time to helping disabled veterans improve their quality of life. She has spent the majority of her career promoting self-development to all those she encounters. She believes there are no limitations in life, only limit placements - the power to remove them lies within.

Can I Get There from Here? A Roadmap for Success in College (Room 215)

Going to college can be somewhat like visiting Canada. You may expect to be in familiar surroundings in a country that speaks the same language; has similar social, economic, and political systems; and, is a close ally of the US. When you arrive in Canada, however, you realize you are in a foreign country! Customs are different, the money is different, they say “eh?” all the time, and they use the metric system! Not much like home at all! The world of college can be just as surprising and confusing. This session will give you some tools and ideas for succeeding in the unique world of college, no matter what your circumstances or challenges.

Carolyn Cuskey Before returning to college at the age of 46, Professor Cuskey had careers in public service, self-employment, and the corporate business world. She has an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Rose State College, and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in History from The University of Oklahoma. She began teaching at Rose State as an adjunct professor in 2003 and became a full-time employee in 2006. She teaches American history and has developed an interest in the challenges facing first-generation and under-resourced students at the community college level.

“When women’s true history shall have been written, her part in the upbuilding of this nation will astound the world.”
Abigail Duniway
"Women’s rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Suggested Reading

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays with Morrie*
Alcott, Louisa. *Little Women*
Sobel, Dava. *Galileo’s Daughter*
Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
Beals, Melba Patillo. *Warriors Don’t Cry*
Kang, Jeanhee. *Run Away: One Woman’s Story of Resilience*
Keller, Helen. *The Story of My Life*
Lemon, Gail Tzemach. *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*
Lubrano, Alfred. *Limbo: Blue Collar Roots, White Collar Lives*
Mortenson, Greg. *Stones into Schools*
Mortenson, Greg. *Three Cups of Tea*
Nash, Margaret. *Women’s Education in the United States: 1780-1840*
Solomon, Barbara Miller. *In the Company of Educated Women: A History of Women and Higher Education in America.*
Wollstonecraft. Mary. *Declaration of the Vindication of the Rights of Women*
Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One’s Own*
Yousafzai, Malala. *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*
Websites about Women and Education


Why Female Education Matters - http://www.onlineschoolscenter.com/womens-studies/


Educating Girls is the Key to Ending Poverty - https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/educating-girls-is-the-key-to-ending-poverty/

American Association of Women in Community Colleges - http://www.aawccnatl.org/

At Colleges, Women are Leaving Men in the Dust - http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/09/education/09college.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

College Scholarships and Resources for Women - http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/scholarships-and-resources-for-women/


Succeed in Your First Year in College - http://www.purdue.edu/uns/x/2009b/090827KochFreshmen.html

Secrets of the Most Successful College Students - http://ideas.time.com/2013/03/13/secrets-of-the-most-successful-college-students/

Female College Students and Stress - http://www.campuscalm.com/women_leadership_barriers.html


“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela
Vendors

National Organization of Women (NOW) : University of Central Oklahoma Chapter

The Women’s Center, University of Central Oklahoma

SMART, Rose State College

Rose State College Community Learning Center

Women and Politics Honors Project: Elizabeth Tabak

University of Oklahoma School of Education

RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network)

Women and Gender Studies Program, University of Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma School of Education

Take Root Social Justice Program, University of Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University School of Education

Survive and Thrive, Rose State College
Women’s Leadership Conference Committee

2016 Coordinators
Michelle Brockmeier and Tara Hall

Committee Members

Adjoa Ahedor
Elizabeth Boger
Michelle Brockmeier
Monique Bruner
Carolyn Cuskey
Twyler Earl
Misty Engelbrecht
Joetta Gatlliff
Janet Griffith
Tara Hall
Joanne Stafford

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”
Margaret Mead