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**January 26-27, 2024**

**Wichita State University**

**Rhatigan Student Center (RSC)**

**Conference Schedule – Friday, January 26**

**1-1:45 p.m. Conference Check-in & Registration**

*RSC Aster Lounge*

**1:45-2:05 p.m.** **Opening Session & Welcome Remarks: Dr. Shirley Lefever**

*RSC Beggs Ballroom*

Dr. Shirley Lefever serves as the Executive Vice President and Provost at Wichita State University. She was appointed Interim Executive Vice President and Provost in the fall of 2020 before being selected as Executive Vice President and Provost in April 2022. She was born in Burns, Kansas where her family operated a small dairy farm. She attended Burns Elementary School and later moved to El Dorado, Kansas where she graduated from El Dorado High School. Prior to her career in higher education, she was a classroom teacher, teaching in multi-grade classrooms. Her passion for developing students’ abilities led her to pursue her graduate degrees.

Dr. Lefever received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University in 1991. Her dissertation focused on factors impacting literacy acquisition and reading comprehension. Her master’s and bachelor’s degrees are also from Kansas State University in Curriculum and Instruction and Elementary Education, respectively. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Lefever is deeply committed to making higher education both accessible and affordable to all students through a variety of strategies including paid applied learning opportunities.

**2:15-3 p.m. Breakout Sessions – Block 1**

The First-Generation Transfer Student Experience

*RSC 265 Lucas Room*

Presenter: Chad Steinkamp, Director of Transfer & Adult Recruitment - Wichita

State University

Transferring from one institution to another can be a daunting process, especially when you are a first-generation college student. This session will explore the experience of first-generation transfer students.

Recognizing Your Limiting Beliefs

*RSC 266 Pike Room*

Presenter: Suzanne Bentley, Online & Adult Learner Specialist - Wichita State

University

The stories we tell ourselves can serve to inspire us to reach new heights or they can keep us in our comfort zone, preventing us from becoming who we are meant to be. During this workshop, students will not only identify their most prevalent limiting beliefs but also begin to recognize where those beliefs come from. Students will leave this workshop equipped to recognize how their limiting beliefs may be preventing them from reaching the goals they have set for themselves and leave with a sharpened skillset on how to replace their old, limited belief stories with new, belief-filled statements.

My Parents Don’t Know What a Credit Hour Is: Sign Me Up for College

*RSC 301 Gridley Room*

Presenter: Dr. Amber Anderson, Associate Director of Enrollment & Retention –

Wichita State University

As they attend college, first-generation students form new relationships with their parents and family members. They strive to bring honor to their parents and family members by being the first to attend college but may struggle with family achievement guilt. Join Dr. Amber Anderson, a proud first-generation college graduate, as she shares her story and tips for navigating being a first-generation college student.

Thinking About a Graduate Degree & How to Best Prepare as a First-Generation Student

*RSC 313 Prairie Room*

Presenter: Dr. Sara Mata, Executive Director of Hispanic Initiatives/Assistant Teaching Professor of Intervention Services & Leadership in Education - Wichita State University

Are you thinking about pursuing a graduate degree? Join Dr. Sara Mata as she brings her extensive experience to best prepare you for success as a first-generation graduate student. Dr. Mata has been published in *Journal of Nutrition Education & Behavior*, *Journal of Women & Gender in Higher Education*, and *Journal of Extension* and teaches courses in higher education student affairs at Wichita State University.

Mental Maintenance

*RSC 314 Venters Room*

Presenter: Cora Olson, Wellness Program & Outreach Manager - Wichita State

University

This session will focus on the skills students need to finish a project, including, but not limited to, self-care, mindfulness, and perfectionism.

Connecting with Your Faculty Members

*RSC 319 McKay Room*

Presenter: Shanin Peck, Assistant Clinical Professor/Senior Clinical Coordinator for

Dental Hygiene - Wichita State University

How do you best connect with your faculty members? What is an office hour, why would you go to them, and what do you do when you get to a faculty member’s office hours? Join Shanin Peck as she shares with you the tips and tricks to connect and engage with your faculty members to be successful in class.

**3-3:45 p.m. Snack Break & Structured Networking**

*RSC Beggs Ballroom*

**4-4:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions – Block 2**

Using Your Creativity

*RSC 203 Lancelot Room*

Presenters: Alma Hidalgo-Blankinship, Program Manager for Outreach & Scholar

Support – Rudd Foundation

Amy Nguyen, Rudd Scholar - Wichita State University

What is creativity? How do you unlock your creativity and use it to be successful as a student and in life? This session will provide you with the tools to use your creativity as a daily habit.

Perseverance as a First-Generation Student: Lessons Learned from the Lived Experiences of First-Generation Adult Learners

*RSC 265 Lucas Room*

Presenter: Dr. Pamela O’Neal, Associate Director of Student Engagement - Wichita

State University

Join Dr. Pamela O’Neal, the nation’s first certified adult learner advocate through the Urban Adult Learner Institute, to learn more about how perseverance and other lessons learned from her research on the lived experiences of first-generation adult learner students can be applied to your daily life.

Telling Your First-Generation Student Story

*RSC 266 Pike Room*

Presenter: John Jones, Executive Director of Media Resource Center - Wichita State

University

Many first-generation students aspire to be the light for future generations of their family members as they pursue a college degree. But how do you tell your first-generation story? Join John Jones as he dives into the structure of telling stories that will help you craft your narrative and be ready to tell others about your first-generation college student adventure.

A First-Gen Guide to Graduate School

*RSC 301 Gridley Room*

Presenters: Dr. Dallas Doane, Associate Professor of Practice in Higher Education

Administration – University of Kansas

Adrienne Reyes, Graduate Student – University of Kansas

Stephanie Leon, Graduate Student – University of Kansas

Margaret Wachira, Graduate Student – University of Kansas

Dakota La Gore, Graduate Student – University of Kansas

This presentation will help current first-generation students prepare for and demystify graduate school (master’s and doctoral-level programs). Led by first-gen graduate faculty and students, participants will learn about what graduate school is, tips in applying for programs, and hear from a panel of current students.

Negotiating & Navigating Identity as First-Gen

*RSC 313 Prairie Room*

Presenter: Dr. Bobby Berry, Assistant Dean for Diversity & Outreach for College of

Applied Studies/Assistant Professor of Sport Management - Wichita State University

Who are you and what is your identity? This session will explore the role of social identities, the intersectionality of identities, and how identities impact individuals.

Asking Questions to Build Connections with First-Generation Students: A Guide for Faculty & Staff Members

*RSC 314 Venters Room*

Presenter: Suzanne Bentley, Online & Adult Learner Specialist - Wichita State University

Are you a faculty and/or staff member who is invested in supporting first-generation students on your campus? How do you ask the best questions to build authentic and intentional connections to support first-generation student success? This session will provide faculty and staff members with guiding principles and examples of connection-building, open-ended questions to best support first-generation student success in daily practice.

First-Gen’s Guide to Unlocking Every Dollar!

*RSC 319 McKay Room*

Presenter: Trang Tieu, Manager of Student Impact - Wichita State University

Christina Covey, Business Manager - Wichita State University

Join Trang Tieu and Christina Covey from the Wichita State University Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships as they review federal aid, scholarship tips, work study, loans, and other financial resources to best unlock every dollar on your campus.

**5:15-7 p.m. Dinner & Featured Speaker: Dr. LaTonya Rease Miles**

*RSC Beggs Ballroom*

Dr. LaTonya “LT” Rease Miles is the Director of University Partnerships at ReUp Education. A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Miles has established two successful programs for first-generation college students – one at UCLA and the other at Loyola Marymount University, both recognized as First-gen Forward institutions. She regularly consults with institutions nationally concerning first-gen students and has also advised local high schools about developing programs on their campuses. She established and manages the national Facebook group “Empowering First Generation Students” and is the Chief Strategies for the “First Gen & Juice” brand.

Prior to her role at ReUp Education, LT was Dean of Student Affairs at Menlo College, a four-year private liberal arts institution in the San Francisco Bay Area, where her portfolio included housing and residential life, student activities, judicial affairs, mental health services, and first year experience. She also served as Director of the Academic Resource Center at Loyola Marymount University where she spearheaded campus-wide initiatives that addressed food insecurity and established travel abroad pathways for students of color and first-generation students.

She earned a Ph.D. in American Literature from UCLA, and her research interests include the hidden curriculum in higher education, narratives about the first-generation college experience, and the relationship of physical space and college student engagement. She is passionate about NBA basketball, college football, “The Flash,” and “Friday Night Lights.”

**Conference Schedule – Saturday, January 27**

**8-9 a.m. Networking Breakfast Available**

*RSC Beggs Ballroom*

**9-9:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions – Block 3**

Reaching Your Potential with KHEDF

*RSC 203 Lancelot Room*

Presenter: Meleny Jacome-Banuelos, Program Coordinator – Kansas Hispanic

Education & Development Foundation

The Kansas Hispanic Education & Development Foundation (KHEDF) seeks to serve Kansas Hispanic students and professionals by providing opportunities for education and leadership development as they turn college dreams into college degrees. This session will help you learn more about and connect with KHEDF and similar community organizations within your geographic area focused on first-generation student success.

How to be Successful in College without Going Crazy!

*RSC 265 Lucas Room*

Presenter: Linda Sessions, Faculty in Computer Technology – WSU Tech

Join Linda as she offers tips and tricks on how to be a successful college student. She was a first-generation student and remembers the struggles and achievements while navigating through college, working full-time, and having a family life. Learn from her as you look at time management strategies, different study skills (like how to read a textbook), and how to be present for both your academic pursuits and your social life.

It Isn’t What You Know, But Who You Know: Developing a Professional Network

*RSC 266 Pike Room*

Presenter: Dr. Jerri Arnold-Cook, Director of Career Development – Missouri

Western State University

Students are often told that it is important to build a professional network, but why and how? The why is easy to understand. Seventy percent of jobs are obtained through networking, and eighty percent of jobs are never advertised and filled through networking and inside contacts (EAB, 2023). Often first-generation students are preparing for careers that no one in their family has pursued, so they have less industry-related capital (Delgad, 2021). Research also shows that professional relationship management skills (Fredenburg, 2021) are essential for career success. This workshop will help students understand what social capital and a professional network are. Students will learn how to identify opportunities to meet professionals within their career field. It is not all about exchanging business cards. Participants will also learn how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

The Grit That Created Generational Change

*RSC 301 Gridley Room*

Presenter: Heather Hunter, LPC, CCTP, C-DBT, Doctoral Student - Wichita State

University

Join Heather Hunter, one of the founders of the Wichita State University First-Generation Student Organization, as she shares her story, the struggles she overcame, and the resilience and grith that has guided her to graduate with her bachelor’s and master’s degrees and begin her doctoral studies.

Talent F1RST

*RSC 313 Prairie Room*

Presenters: Kennedy Rogers, Director of ShockerStrengths & Student Affairs Staff

Engagement - Wichita State University

Jordyn Bibbs, Assessment & Retention Coordinator - Wichita State

University

The ShockerStrengths Initiative at Wichita State University strives to create experiential learning opportunities to help students recognize their talents to develop, leverage, and apply them toward their personal, academic, and professional goals. This workshop will introduce conference participants to talents, strengths, and assets that they bring with them to their college experiences.

Fostering Belonging Through Civic Engagement

*RSC 314 Venters Room*

Presenter: Loren Belew, Civic Engagement Coordinator - Wichita State University

Civic engagement programming recognizes the power of a helping hand and coordinates the needs of local communities with college students who are interested in volunteering. As they seek to engage students in opportunities within their community that support long-term outcomes to be productive citizens, civic engagement programs also provide opportunities to foster belonging among students on college campuses. This session will explore how you can foster belonging for college students on your campus through civic engagement experiences.

Learning to Lead: A Guide for Sparking Your Leadership Journey

*RSC 319 McKay Room*

Presenter: Dr. Brandon Dorion, Student Organizations & Leadership Coordinator –

Wichita State University

Leadership development provides individuals with an opportunity immersive themselves in self-discovery – values, strengths, leadership styles, communication, and more. Regardless of your leader identity, how do you spark your leadership journey? Join Dr. Dorion for a conversation on how you learn to lead as a student leader.

**10-10:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions – Block 4**

First Gen Finances

*RSC 265 Lucas Room*

Presenters: Trang Tieu, Manager of Student Impact - Wichita State University

Brianna Escoto, Communication Intern for Financial Aid & Scholarships –

Wichita State University

First-generation students often face unique economic challenges that hinder their ability to navigate financial literacy. Some of these challenges could include setting boundaries with family, learning how to budget and invest, and the unfamiliarity of financial systems that are not taught in the home. This presentation will recognize those challenges, help navigate students through the financial aid process, and provide financial literacy tips to help them build wealth for generations to come.

The Struggle: Navigating First-Generation Guilt

*RSC 266 Pike Room*

Presenter: Eiran Saucedo-Rodarte, Assistant Director of First Year Programs –

Wichita State University

There can be a lot of guilt associated with having opportunities that your parents and/or community members did not have. Come learn how to navigate these feelings and honor those who paved the way for you!

Mental Health & Education

*RSC 301 Gridley Room*

Presenter: Mallory Miller, Undergraduate Student - Wichita State University

This presentation will focus on how mental health is related to education, including how to approach someone struggling with mental health.

Using the Student Journey Mapping Tool to Examine & Amplify the First-Generation

Student Experience on Your Campus

*RSC 313 Prairie Room*

Presenter: Dr. Jerri Arnold-Cook, Director of Career Development – Missouri

Western State University

Dr. Brett Bruner, Assistant Vice President for Student Success &

Persistence - Wichita State University

Student journey maps centralize students at the core and follow their steps in each process, providing institutions with invaluable insight as to duplication, gaps, and/or non-value-added steps. This session will explore the benefits, steps, and examples of how to implement a student journey mapping process to examine and amplify the first-generation student experience on your campus.

Fostering Belonging Through Civic Engagement

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Debunking the Imposter Syndrome

*RSC 319 McKay Room*

Presenter: Clarence Albury, Graduate Assistant for Diversity & Inclusion - Wichita

State University

Stebelton and Soria (2012) defined imposter syndrome as “a state in which first-generation students may never feel confident, grounded, or socially connected to their academic experience on campus” (p. 15). This session will explore ways that first-generation students can debunk the imposter syndrome as they navigate the college experience.

**10:45 a.m. Conference Picture**

*RSC 1st Floor South Stairwell*

**11-11:30 a.m. Closing Session**

*RSC Beggs Ballroom*