

The 8th Annual Women's Leadership Institute

March 15th, 16th and 17th

Event Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boca Raton, Florida – Florida Atlantic University Division of Student Affairs hosted the 8th Annual Women's Leadership Institute, March 15-17, 2023, on the Boca Raton campus with activities hosted in both the Student Union and the Schmidt Family Complex. The more than 200 attendees included FAU students, faculty and staff.

The Planning committee, comprised of representatives from the FAU Office of Owls Care Health Promotion and Women and Gender Equity Resource Center, Student Government, Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work in the College of Social Work & Criminal Justice, Dean of Students Office, FAU Career Services, Student Activities and Involvement and the Office for Student- Athlete Success Center, were proud to bring the Women's Leadership Institute to the FAU community in a multi-day format for the first time. This event was made possible with support from the FAU Executive Business Program and community partners NextEra Energy Resources and Behavioral Family Solutions.

The Women's Leadership Institute is for all members of the university community who support enhancing opportunities for increased networking, skill building and empowerment. The 2023 program focused on the power of social and emotional intelligence through an interactive Lunch & Learn and WLI Feature Presentations.

"Women's emotional intelligence can lead to effective leadership when you play on your strengths."
-participant

This year's theme, *GreatHER Expectations: Embracing the Power of Possibility*, gave participants the opportunity to explore not only their own possibilities but the possibilities of coming together to uplift one another.

100% of those who attended the Women's Inspiration Leadership League Lunch & Learn felt the event made them feel connected to others at FAU, that people who share their identity(ies) are accepted at FAU, and that the event gave them tools to succeed as a student or leader.

As a part of the annual Women's Leadership Institute, individuals, departments and organizations were celebrated that exemplify the theme of *GreatHER Expectations: Embracing the Power of Possibility*. Recipients were nominated by their peers and the greater FAU community for their work uplifting women.

Award Recipients:

- Staff of the Year: Dr. Allie Schwartz, FAU Student Health Services Chief Medical Officer
- Student of the Year: Alexia Ferreria Betances, Master of Social Work Graduate Student
- College/School of the Year: College of Social Work & Criminal Justice/Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work
- Student Organization of the Year: The Business and Professional Women's Scholarship House

The three-day program included:

Student Government's Phenomenal Women's Brunch

Panel Discussion on Women's Intersecting Identities

How to Network for Success

Women's Inspiration and Leadership League Lunch and Learn

Exploring the Strength in our Emotions: WLI Feature Presentations

Awards Ceremony and Closing Reception

Overall attendees noted that the Women's Leadership Institute...

- *Affirmed the balance between empathy and assertiveness.*
- *Awesome! My first conference at FAU. Great*
- *Dean Naelys Luna's speech was amazing. Uplifting and truly inspirational.*
- *There's more than one way to be a leader*

For more information contact: WGERC@FAU.edu

https://myfau.fau.edu/signed_in/wli/index

Additional details about individual sessions

March 15 Student Government Phenomenal Women's Brunch

A Women's Brunch that consisted of women empowering each other in school and in the workplace. Filled with performances and poetry.

March 16 Panel on Women's Intersecting Identities

In this panel, women discussed and reflected on their personal journeys and considered how women's intersecting identities allow us to analyze their overlapping careers and on their individual need for self-care. Facilitated by Dr. Joy McClellan, MSW Coordinator, Phyllis & Harvey Sandler School of Social Work

March 16 How to Network for Success

Learn how to network in various settings, ranging from a career fair to a zoom call, in this interactive session with community partner Behavioral Family Solutions.

88% of attendees agree that How to Network for Success helped them gain confidence networking

March 17 The Women's Inspiration and Leadership League Lunch and Learn

Barriers to women's career advancement are often attributed to the perception that women are more "emotional" than their masculine counterparts. Identifying that the negative perception of women expressing emotions is harmful while simultaneously understanding our emotions and those of others can be essential in navigating personal and professional dynamics. Therefore, understanding and using skills taught in social and emotional intelligence theory can be key in one's leadership journey. The 8th Annual Women's Leadership Institute intentionally threaded themes of social and emotional intelligence throughout the multiday event.

Dr. Debbi Johnson-Rais and Dr. Patricia Temes led an interactive learning experience during the WILL Lunch & Learn focused on Emotional Intelligence. The Lunch & Learn began with Dr. Johnson-Rais giving a brief overview of Emotional Intelligence theory, allowing Dr. Temes to dive deep into Emotional Intelligence, specifically through a Gender and Diversity lens.

Exploring the Strength in our Emotions: WLI Feature Presentations

An Overview of Applying Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace

Presenters: Dr. Debbi Johnson-Rais, Senior Director of Communications and Program Development for the College of Engineering and Computer Science

This presentation provided a background for the Four-Branch model of EI and discussed the strengths and possible challenges that women face when it comes to their understanding and application of EI in the workplace.

Understanding Emotions and Using Yourself as a Tool in Leadership

Presenters: Dr. Laura DiPasquale, Interim Director, FAU Counseling and Psychological Services & Ginelle Wolfe, Doctoral Intern, FAU Counseling and Psychological Services

Participants gained an understanding of how emotional response styles develop; how their own and others' emotions affect interactions; and how to use emotional intelligence to aid their leadership through more productive conversations.

Utilizing Social & Emotional Intelligence in Leading Organizations

Presenter: Kelly Anderson, Senior Director of Project Analysis and Reporting for NextEra Energy Resources, provided real-world experiences of leading organizations as a woman in corporate America and dove into the practical application of social and emotional intelligence.

Social and emotional intelligence, when understood and used properly, is a powerful tool in leading organizations. Examining your individual skill set and communication style in conjunction with organizational dynamics can inspire teams to achieve greater results and enable individual career growth.

Closing Remarks: Dr. Naelys Luna, Ph.D., MSW, founding dean and professor, College of Social Work & Criminal Justice

Dean Luna presented on the impact of two dimensions of emotional intelligence on leadership: self-awareness and empathy/kindness. Drawing from her experiences as a leader and social work practitioner as well as the literature, Dr. Luna encouraged the audience to lead with clear purpose recognizing the importance of using our genuine and authentic self to develop meaningful relationships with others. These relationships will inspire, transcend, and create hope, trust, and optimism, which are the cornerstones of effective and impactful leadership.