

[Thank you for attending our 25th annual conference!](#)

The 2023 theme **Leading Through Adversity: Using Your Voice to Affect Change** reflected the ever changing professional and socio-cultural challenges encountered by women in leadership.

Keynote Speaker Judge Jessica Price Smith was appointed to a 14-year term on the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio in 2011. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, she is a graduate of Miami University where she was among the first group of students awarded the prestigious Harrison Scholarship. She also graduated with distinction from the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law where she was inducted into the Willis Society, the highest academic honor society at the College of Law. Judge Price Smith began her legal career as the law clerk to the Honorable Randolph Baxter, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, whom she succeeded on the bench. She also has the distinction of being the first African American partner in Brouse McDowell, LPA's more than 100-year history. Judge Price Smith was a legal studies faculty member at Ursuline College. On January 3, 2024, she will become the first African American woman to serve as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Judge Price Smith balances her professional life with service to her community as a member of various civic boards and through her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, where she serves as the Great Lakes Region Parliamentarian, Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, where she serves as the Mid-Western Regional Treasurer, and the Western Reserve (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Ohio Northern University. Judge Price Smith and her husband Gregory Smith are the proud parents of two sons.

Keynote Speaker Honorable Jessica E. Price Smith United States Bankruptcy Judge Northern District of Ohio



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ACE Ohio Women's Network

Ohio

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MEET OUR SPEAKERS



HOLLY CRAIDER

Associate Vice President, Curriculum,
Assessment, and Accreditation
Cuyahoga Community College



DESIREE SANDERS

Associate Professor
Cuyahoga Community College



LEAH WARD

Director, Women's Center
University of Dayton



LYNN WILLIAMS

Forensic Psychologist/
Law Student
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court



DEE DEE PFISTER

Associate Vice President, Academic Professional
Development, Instructional Design and Online Learning
Cuyahoga Community College



RENEE RICHARD

President & CEO of Corporate College
Cuyahoga Community College



LISA WILLIAMS

Campus President, West
Cuyahoga Community College



**MELISSA
BAUMANN**

President
Ohio Northern University



**LAURA
BLOOMBERG**

President
Cleveland State University



**JENNIFER
SCHULLER**

President
Lake Erie College



**MARISA
VERNON-WHITE**

Vice President Enrollment
Management, Student Services
Lorain County Community College

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CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, November 3, 2023

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| 7:30- 8:00 A.M. | Registration, Check-In, & Informal Networking |
| 8:45- 9:00 A.M. | Opening Remarks Ms. Renee Richard, President and CEO, Corporate College Dr. Lisa Williams, President, Cuyahoga Community College West |
| 9:00 - 9:15 A.M. | Welcome Dr. Holly Craider and Dr. Sarah Wallis, State Co-Chairs |
| 9:15- 10:30 A.M. | Leadership Panel Dr. Melissa Baumann, President, Ohio Northern University Dr. Laura Bloomberg, President, Cleveland State University Jennifer Schuller, President, Lake Erie College Dr. Marisa Vernon White, Vice President Enrollment Management, Student Services Lorain County Community College |
| 10:30 - 10:45 A.M. | Yoga/Stretch Break |
| 10:45 A.M.- 12pm | Keynote Honorable Jessica E. Price Smith, United States Bankruptcy Judge Introduction by Marjorie Gonzales |
| 12:00 - 12:45 P.M. | Lunch and Awards Dr. Lisa N. Williams and ACE-WNO Awards Committee |
| 12:45- 2:00 P.M. | Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Empowering Change: Harnessing the Power of Adversity for Women Leaders in Academia</i>• Networking Event 1• <i>Mind-Full or Mindful? Stress Management in a Post COVID World</i> |
| 2:00- 2:15 P.M. | Yoga/Stretch Break |
| 2:15- 3:30 P.M. | Session II <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Women in Leadership: Expanding Knowledge and Embracing the Spectrum of Gender</i>• Networking Event 2• <i>Invoking Memorable Messages: Use Your Voice to Make an</i> |
| 3:30 -3:45 | Closing remarks and raffles |

SESSION INFORMATION



DESIREE SANDERS

In what ways can women leaders at colleges and universities leverage the inherent power of adversity to drive transformative change, and how might they inspire their communities to view challenges as opportunities for growth, equity, and progress? This presentation will inspire women leaders in higher education to embrace adversity, cultivate resilience, and lead their institutions toward transformative change. Attendees will understand how adversity can serve as a catalyst for positive change, and learn to identify opportunities within challenges that can lead to innovative solutions and transformative growth by encouraging adaptability and perseverance.



LYNN WILLIAMS

While stress is part of our body's natural response to meeting life's challenges, with over 70% of physician visits attributed to conditions that are related to stress, it is clear that our ability to cultivate resiliency and harness the body and mind's adaptive response to stress can help to mitigate the negative consequences of chronic disease, as well as to strengthen the body's immune system. This presentation will highlight core elements of resiliency, such as finding your voice and the mind-body connection. We will learn the science behind stress management techniques like mindfulness practices see how these clinically proven mind-body strategies can reduce stress thereby increasing physical and emotional resilience.

SESSION INFORMATION



LEAH WARD

As a cisgender woman serving as the IR for the University of Dayton, I hit a wall in planning for this year as I thought about the spectrum of gender and ways that I was failing to represent a wealth of experiences. I am not a content expert; however, I hope that this session will provide participants with meaningful conversation, self reflection, and tangible take aways for their institutions as they continue doing the work and/or continue serving as their institutions IR. As I look at the work that I do for the Women's Center, I know a blind spot in my work is how I welcome, uplift, and amplify the voices of other people of marginalized gender identities. I believe this conversation is both timely and important as we all consider the spectrum of gender and how to effectively and safely highlight these experiences.



HOLLY CRAIDER

"Everyone joins a band in this life. And what you play always affects someone. Sometimes, it affects the world" (Mitch Albom). Words are like a musical note; once they are spoken, they can never be reclaimed. Learn how to use your voice to invoke positive, memorable messages to actualize your influence in order to effect change in all aspects of your life. The voice is one of the most powerful tools to impact and influence others, positively or negatively. Understanding how you can use your voice to invoke positive, memorable messages enables participants to find a way to actualize their influence in order to effect change in all aspects of their lives.

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The ACE WNO is a network of women administrators, faculty, and staff from colleges and universities across the state that is dedicated to the professional advancement of women in higher education. The ACE WNO annual conference offers women the opportunity to reflect and focus on their talents, experiences, and goals while networking with women professionals from across the state. Attendees learn how to lean into our networks for sources of strength, perseverance, and support while navigating a changed higher education landscape. Along the way, we gain insight and develop skills in mentoring, coaching, and sponsoring each other and ourselves.



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