WOC
Women of Color
Trailblazers Leadership Conference

TLC
April 7th, 2018, Chapin Auditorium
History of the WOCTLC Conference

The first Women of Color Trailblazers Leadership Conference was held in April 2014 under the leadership of Quanita Hailey, MHC Class of 2012. The conference seeks to empower self-identifying women of color across the Five Colleges, Pioneer Valley and beyond; including faculty, staff and community members. This conference provides a space to celebrate the lives and accomplishments of women of color while additionally opening dialogues and raising consciousness on issues relating to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, etc.

History of SOCC

Created in 2015, the Students of Color Committee (SOCC), formerly known as the Women of Color Task Force, operates on the slogan: for the students, by the students. The Students of Color Committee’s mission is to serve as a bridge between the students of color on campus and stakeholders such as Student Government Association, the Division of Student Life, the Office of the President, Office of Advancement, and the Board of Trustees. Additionally, the Students of Color Committee seeks to engage with the Mount Holyoke student body through different programming that encourages open dialogues on topics such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, class, etc.

Students of Color Committee 2017-2018

Millie Koong ’18- Chair
Minah Kwon ’20- Co-Treasurer
Cheyenne Schafer ’21- Co-Treasurer
Monique Roberts ’19- Secretary
Nathacha Alamanzor ’21- Alumnae Liason
Marianna Jaramillo ’20 - Public Relations
Statz Misato ’20- Five College Coordinator
Anpa’o Locke ’21- Historian
Sophia Marcellus ’21 - Volunteer Coordinator
Unwana Abasiurua ’21- Performance Coordinator
Latrina L. Denson- Associate Dean of Students, Community and Inclusion & SOCC Advisor
Program At A Glance

Conference Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Opening Remarks
Millie Koong, Student Chair

Welcome from the College
Sonya Stephens, Mount Holyoke College Acting President

Charge of the Day
Melanie Wilkerson, class of 2016

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Workshop Sessions I

10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.
Lunch

11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Workshop Sessions II

1:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

People of Color Business Expo

2:15 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Networking

2:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

Student Highlight Workshop - Regina Ye, MHC class 2018

2:45 p.m.–3:15 p.m.

A Discussion with Linda Sarsour, Tamika Mallory, Carmen Perez
Moderated by Millie Koong, Student Chair
This event is open to the public

4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks (Book-signing will follow)

5:00 p.m.–5:15 p.m.

VIP Meet and Greet with Linda Sarsour, Tamika Mallory, Carmen Perez
(Registered WOCTLC attendees ONLY)

6:00 p.m.–6:45 p.m.
A 36 yr old mother to her teenage son and nationally recognized activist, is a champion of the new civil rights movement. In 2017, Tamika gained recognition as one of four co-chairs for the Women’s March on Washington; and with participation from 5 million people worldwide, her role in the march landed Tamika on the 2017 Time 100 Pioneers list and Fortune’s 2017 list of the World’s Greatest Leaders. President of Mallory Consulting, a strategic planning firm and board member of The Gathering for Justice, founded by Harry Belafonte, Tamika is featured in the media at the intersection of civil rights, social justice and the new wave of feminism.
Carmen Perez is something of a Renaissance woman in modern-day activism. She has dedicated 20 years to advocating for many of today’s important civil rights issues, including mass incarceration, gender equity, violence prevention, racial healing and community policing. As the Executive Director of The Gathering for Justice, a nonprofit founded by legendary artist and activist Harry Belafonte, Carmen has crossed the globe promoting peace through civil and human rights, building alternatives to incarceration and violence, and providing commentary and guidance for state and federal policy creation. Carmen’s most recent work is her role as the National Co-Chair of the Women’s March on Washington, drew over 5 million people across the globe who marched in resistance of hatred and bigotry, affirming women of all identities’ rights as human beings. In 2017, Carmen was named one of Fortune’s Top 50 World Leaders and one of TIME’s most influential people.
Linda Sarsour is an award-winning racial justice and civil rights activist, seasoned community organizer and mother of three.

Ambitious, outspoken and independent, Linda shatters stereotypes of Muslim women while also treasuring her religious and ethnic heritage. She is a Palestinian Muslim American and a self-proclaimed “pure New Yorker, born and raised in Brooklyn!”

She is the former Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York and co-founder of the first Muslim online organizing platform, MPOWER Change. Muslims in the world, 50 of the world’s greatest leaders by Fortune Magazine and featured on the Time 100’s list of the world’s most influential people. Linda was profiled on the front page of the New York Times Metro Section and dubbed “Brooklyn Homegirl in a Hijab” and they introduced Linda to their readership as “Mixing street smarts, activism and her Muslim identity, Linda Sarsour has become a political force”. She is most known for her intersectional coalition work and building bridges across issues, racial, ethnic and faith communities.
Bhangra is a traditional folk dance originating in Punjab, a region that spans both India and Pakistan. With its high energy beats, bhangra music has often been remixed with hip-hop and rap. The colorful costumes and props add to the vibrancy displayed on stage. MHC Raunak Bhangra was established in 2004 and remains the only women’s Bhangra team in the Five College Consortium.

Established in 2006, Jhumka is Mount Holyoke College’s first fusion dance team, combining Bollywood and hip-hop to create dynamic and entertaining performances. Jhumka performs in the Five College area throughout the year and is celebrating more than 10 years of stellar routines this semester. Their energy is contagious, and when you hear their name, you know you won’t be disappointed!
Workshop Session I

Reclaiming Our Space: Women Of Color in the Feminist Movement Always In Defense of Ourselves
Tanya Fleeting
Conversations With My Sistas
Blanchard Campus Center 213
This workshop will discuss the intersectionality of race and gender and its correlation to the feminist movement for women of color. We will examine historical as well as present day examples of how race has often been a divisive force in the women's liberation movement. "We've come a long way..." but we haven't come that way together. The workshop will explore race and the feminist movement. In addition, the workshop will look at the toxic effects of the super woman syndrome (related to WOC and feminism) and give tips and tools to allow you to put your cape down and practice self-care while still caring for and advocating for others.

Direct Your Purpose
Ruby Maddox
Direct Your Purpose
Ciruti 127
Directing your purpose is about directing your mission while directing your path. This workshop will help you you create an alignment with your goals, values, and actions; allowing you to be more intentional about your leadership journey, clearly communicate your objectives, and effectively identify resources.

At the Table - Competitive Advantage of Women in Leadership
Juanika Dildy
Ladypreneur Academy, LLC
Ciruti 113
Women, in today’s society are often plagued with limitations based on pre-canned expectations of our capabilities and challenges. The truth is, no one woman is the same. We all have unique experiences that give us a diverse perspective that we can apply to life, love, and business. That perspective is our competitive advantage.

Leadership Styles--Use the Right Approach to Engage Others
Paul B. Thornton
Springfield Technical Community College
Ciruti 123
All leaders have the same goal--improve the status quo. There are three basic styles leaders use to direct, engage, and empower others including:
- Directing Style
- Discussing Style
- Delegating Style
Learn some of the challenges and issues related to each style. Also, learn what you can do to fine tune your approach when using each style.
Session I (continued)

You Are Epic! Personal Leadership Essentials for Trailblazing Women
Cassandra N. Vincent
Vison+Strategy.Co / Vincent Media & Consulting, LLC
Blanchard Campus Center 216
Women are epic. You are epic! Learn the essentials of cultivating your confidence and leadership skills to create success and opportunities for yourself and others. Success first begins with recognizing and harnessing the power of self awareness and understanding who you are as an epic leader, no matter the stage of life you are in.

Mygirlsquad
Lungi Moore
My Girl Squad, LLC
Ciruti 209
Want to learn how to cultivate your self awareness into a unique selling point to achieve your goals? Join us as we drop gems on how to manifest your ideas and empower your community by organizing and building an economy for everyone to win.

Becoming your own "Olivia Pope": Reputation management a leader
Camille D. Jamerson
CDJ & Associates
Ciruti 206
Is your path marred with a few missteps that threaten to derail all of your future goals? Do you simply want to change your reputation's narrative? Do you wish you could call "Olivia Pope" to handle it? Well stop wishing and map out a plan to come to your OWN rescue! Make your bounce back game FIERCE! Then reemerge Bigger, Better and Stronger than ever before WITH the respect of your peers.

Stepping In/To the YOU You See
Evelin Aquino
EA Coaching & Consulting
New York Room-Mary Woolley Hall
We often have visions of ourselves that we believe others will find outrageous. In this interactive workshop, participants will creatively peer and explore the ‘atredia’ (bold) side of themselves and create a personal plan of action to ‘Step In/To’ this powerful vision.

International and Domestic Students of Color Dialogue
Dre Dominique, Gabe Hall
Hampshire College
Ciruti 202
What does it mean to be a student of color? How does that experience shift when you’re an international student? This session will engage participants in dialogue around the contextualization of race, ethnicity, and national identity for domestic and international students of color at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI).
Workshop Session II

Activating and Engaging in Self-Care to Journey to Destination Resiliency
Althea Bates
Project Resiliency Movement
Blanchard Campus Center 213
This workshop will be utilizing activities, strategies, tools and tips from Destination Resiliency: A Selfcare Planner and Guide to demonstrate how activating and engaging in Self-Care can build the levels of resiliency necessary to advance your personal and professional growth. It is essential to take care of yourself. Just as you would tend to an acute injury by seeking support, alleviating symptoms of pain, and taking steps to ensure recovery, the same is true for an emotional or psychological challenge or obstacle. Stressors and challenges posed by relationships, physical health, mental health, racism, activates our resilience process. Are you ready to take this flight?

How to Build an Engaging Personal Brand
Dr. Talaya Waller
Waller & Company
Ciruti 113
Changemakers need the tools to discover their personal brand story and what differentiates them in their industry. This workshop is an introduction to personal branding strategies to help future leaders identify their personal brand. Participants will walk away with a personal brand statement that reflects their unique value added to their organization and stakeholders.

Giving is the New Black
Renita Hunt
Dress for Success Greater Orlando
Ciruti 109
Giving is the New Black is an informative presentation about the importance and ease of incorporating giving practices into everyday living. Using a phrase from fashion industry, “The New Black” to indicate the trend a person should do for the season. Not only is Giving easy, it is beneficial for personal and professional development. This presentation will hit on the 3 core areas of giving: Social, Development, and Leadership.

We Are Empowered and Engaged: Student-Workers of Color at a PWI Speak Back
Women of Color Leadership Network, UMass New York Room
Students majoring in humanities, social, and natural science fields share how working at the Women of Color Leadership Network made it possible for them to empower themselves in their academic, social, and professional pursuits. They will speak about their experiences conceptualizing and developing programming that encouraged them to engage with their identities from an intersectional standpoint.

The Power of Cloth-The Voice Within Our Quilts
Susi Ryan
President, Sisters In Stitches Joined By The Cloth
Blanchard Campus Center 318
Since the quilt guilds inception in 1997, the quilts made individually and collectively by the members of Sisters In Stitches Joined By The Cloth, have conveyed the metaphysical connections of our Enslaved-African Ancestors, Thread by thread we piece our heritage in Cloth, expressing a multitude of ideologies, that have given the guild members a Voice to help overcome the Social Injustices that WE encounter as Women of Color. In this workshop we will share how we interpret The Power of Cloth-The Voice Within Our Quilts, inspired by the quote by Mary Smidt Cambell, “Art is the material evidence that reminds us our culture-of who we are’
Session II (continued)

Wakanda Forever? A Black Panther Focus Group Discussion
Melanie Wilkerson
Alumna, Class of 2015
Ciruti 123
Black Panther has quickly grown into a significant cultural phenomenon, inspiring numerous think pieces, social media posts, and discussions since weeks before its release. From African-inspired regalia being donned at screenings nationwide, to “Wakanda Forever” becoming the newest common catchphrase, Black Panther mania is everywhere. Still, even with great fanfare may come reasonable criticism that forces us to contemplate other perspectives. This focus group aims to provide a healthy forum of discussion to dissect themes that have emerged since Black Panther’s release and its global impact on the African diaspora.

Growing Your Initiative
Ellen Chilemba
Tiwale
Ciruti 111
This session will look at how young people can build an organization, movement or general idea. MHC’17 Alum, Ellen Chilemba, will use her journey with Tiwale, as a learning example to part best practices and lessons on how other young people of color interested in social ventures or social movements can harness various resources to grow.

Latina Pedagogy and Mentorship Across Geographies and Time
Bernardita Llanos
Brooklyn College, CUNY, Modern Languages and Literatures
Blanchard Campus Center 209
The panelists will discuss the role that feminist pedagogy and mentoring plays in Latinas and its impact beyond. They will also address life experiences and the link between teaching and empowerment. Two former students of Prof. Eliana Ortega will join her in an interactive panel in which life, profession and activism will be touched upon from different angles and perspectives. Professional success and academic experience intertwine in the lives of these three MHC alumni. Presenters are Prof. Eliana Ortega (’67 and MHC Emerita, co-founder of La Unidad), Doctor, MD Luz Vasquez (’79, co-founder of La Unidad) and Prof. Bernardita Llanos (’81 member of La Unidad)

Poetically Writing to Heal, Empower and Write Her-Story
Nzima Hutchings
Every Kinda Lady Co.
Ciruti 127
The vision of the EKL Co. is to help bring forth wellness and understanding, inclusion of all women, making deep introspective connections, as well as, offer outlets for all women to freely express themselves artfully-stress free and label free. The Every Kinda Lady Co. focuses on poetry, narrative writing, and journaling as expressive writing and other self-care, therapeutic writing exercises for women. The program incorporates the Every Kinda Lady Monologues in Poetry book, and the Expressive Writing Prompts and Journaling book, written by presenter, Nzima. In addition, a poetry reading and testimonial fearless discussion lead by Poetess LaShawn Henderson various relaxation mediums. Sharing expressive poetry on sensitive and empowering subjects...Loss, mental illness, trauma, and resiliency.

Techies of Color: Empowerment At Your Fingertips
Michele M. Cubillo
Alumna, Class of 2017
Ciruti 206
The Tech industry is notorious for its lack of diversity and inclusion of underrepresented minorities. Members of these groups pursuing careers in Tech are met with the pressure of being trailblazers while navigating spaces not inclusive of them. This workshop aims to spark conversations about the challenges members of underrepresented minorities face in the Tech field, share perspectives that may help folks tackle those challenges, and discuss self-care practices when navigating Tech spaces.
Notes
Special Thanks to the Following Departments, Institutions and Offices

**Mount Holyoke College:**
- Anthropology Department
- Art History Department
- Critical Social Thought Department
- Dance Department
- Division of Student Life
- English Department
- Film Studies Department
- History Department
- Music Department
- Multicultural Community & College Life Advisory
- Neuroscience and Behavior Department
- Philosophy Department
- Office of the President
- Psychology and Education Department
- Sociology Department
- Spanish Department
- Latin American Studies
- Weissman Center
- Five College Consortium

**Hampshire College:**
- Office of the Chief Diversity Officer
- Office of Multicultural & International Student Services
- Feminist Studies Department

**University of Massachusetts Amherst:**
- Women of Color Leadership Network
- Center for Women & Community