



4TH ANNUAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP GALA



Boldly Leading the Way

*Celebrating Women Who
Engage, Inspire, & Transform
Our Communities*

APRIL 10, 2025

IWL MISSION & VISION

The **MISSION** of the Institute for Women's Leadership at Marquette University is to advance women's leadership locally and globally through pioneering research, innovative programming, and collaborative engagement.

IWL's **VISION** is one of intersectional inclusivity and gender equity. As advocates for justice, we will **engage, inspire,** and **transform** students, staff, faculty, and community leaders as we:

- **Create** an interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment that equitably and inclusively supports faculty and students as they engage in impactful, transformative scholarship.
- **Serve** as an incubator for innovative leadership initiatives that challenge the barriers to the advancement of women, while embracing intersectionality, as we seek to reduce inequities across institutional structures.
- **Cultivate** community connections through mentoring and leadership programming that reaches down to high school students, out to university students and faculty, and up to external stakeholders including corporations, nonprofits, and community associations.

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#BoldlyLeadingTheWay #IWLgala2025

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 Institute for Women's Leadership MU



MARQUETTE ADVANCING RESEARCH

"We continue to set lofty goals designed to spark research and scholarship and to foster innovation across disciplines. Over time, we've seen a dramatic increase in research and development expenditures, and we've been able to identify and grow areas that are the strength of our talented research faculty. We've also worked to break down silos on campus and bring together cross-disciplinary partnerships, both internally and externally, to foster innovative solutions."

– Jeanne Hossenlopp, PhD

Marquette University Vice President for Research and Innovation

Thank you for joining us to celebrate women who engage, inspire, and transform our communities!

To continue to support the mission and vision of IWL to advance women's leadership, please consider donating. All gifts from the gala will help us complete our Give Marquette Day match. Your support will be matched, dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000, as part of the campaign by IWL Advisory Council members.

www.marquette.edu/support-iwl



Networking Cocktail Hour sponsored by
Marquette University Graduate School of Management
Highlighting IWL-funded Research

Welcome & Invocation

Abiola O. Keller, PhD

*IWL Faculty Advisory Council; Associate Professor &
Interim Associate Dean for Research | Marquette Nursing*

Chris Navia, PhD

*Vice President for Belonging & Student Affairs | Marquette
University*

Joanna M. Bauza

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*Associate Director of the Faber Center for Ignatian
Spirituality | Marquette University*

IWL Short Film Debut

Sarah Camp, MCE

IWL Coordinator | Marquette University

Dinner Entertainment Introductions

Mary Joy Hickey, MEd

Executive Director | Girls Rock MKE

Acknowledgements

Lisa M. Edwards, PhD

*IWL Director & Professor of Counselor Education and
Counseling Psychology | Marquette University*

ENGAGE, INSPIRE, & TRANSFORM Awards

presented by . . .

X'Zandria Weil

IWL Leadership Development Coordinator

Jeanne Hossenlopp, PhD

*Vice President for Research & Innovation | Marquette
University*

Aliah Berman, JD

*IWL Advisory Council Member
Chief Diversity Officer | TBWANorth America*

Keynote Panel: Boldly Leading the Way

Nancy Hernandez, MBA

President | Hispanic Collective

Ana Simpson

CEO | Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast

Stacia Thompson, EdD

President & CEO | Sherman Phoenix Foundation

Lezlie Knox, PhD

*IWL Faculty Advisory Council; History Department Chair &
Associate Professor | Marquette University*

Call to Action & Giveaway

Fatima Farooq

IWL Intern; MU Class of '24 & '26

Isabelle Solis

IWL Intern; MU Class of '25

Keynote Panelists



NANCY HERNANDEZ, MBA **PRESIDENT | HISPANIC** **COLLABORATIVE**

As the President of the Hispanic Collaborative, Nancy Hernandez, leads the coordination of more than 500 organizations and individuals seeking to improve economic opportunities and representation among Latinos in the region. In addition to founding ABRAZO marketing and communication, Hernandez is a

founding member and past president of the

Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, a past president of TEMPO, and a current member of the Marquette University Board of Trustees. She is the recipient of the Business Journal's Driver of Diversity Award and MU-COBA's Entrepreneur of the Year.



ANA SIMPSON **CEO | GIRL SCOUTS** **OF WISCONSIN SOUTHEAST**

In addition to serving more than 17,500 girl and adult members as the CEO of GSWISE, Ana Simpson is also the Board Chair Elect of TEMPO. Previously, Simpson served as the Community and Economic Development Director at the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) after a nearly 30-year career in retail, business and corporate banking, insurance, and non-

profit management. Throughout her career, Simpson has served on and led numerous boards and community associations as well as being awarded several awards and honors, including the Milwaukee Business Journal's Women of Influence honor, TEMPO Mentor Award, and Madison 365 WI Most Influential Latino Leaders.



STACIA THOMPSON, EdD **PRESIDENT & CEO | SHERMAN** **PHOENIX FOUNDATION**

With a doctorate in higher education focusing on teaching and learning, Dr. Stacia Thompson combines academic expertise with practical leadership skills as the President and CEO of Sherman Phoenix Foundation. As a NAACP Youth Award recipient, UW Parkside Community Service Award winner, and Milwaukee Business Journal

Woman of Influence, Dr. Thompson's contributions span various sectors. Dr. Thompson's vision includes helping entrepreneurs create sustainable businesses, ensuring Sherman Phoenix's long-term viability, and potentially developing a replicable franchise model for community empowerment.

Moderator



LEZLIE KNOX, PhD **CHAIR & ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** **HISTORY DEPARTMENT |** **MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Lezlie Knox brings an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of the Middle Ages drawn from her undergraduate majors in History and Art History (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and her graduate training at Notre Dame's Medieval Institute. Dr. Knox works with undergraduate and graduate-level students

whose interests range across the Middle Ages, and her research often focuses on issues related to gender in later Medieval Italy. In addition to her roles as Department Chair & Associate Professor in History at Marquette, Dr. Lezlie also serves as a member of IWL's Faculty Advisory Council.

2025 IWL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

In recognition of its mission to advance women's leadership to achieve more equitable and just communities and workplaces for all, IWL honors three individuals who demonstrate innovative, inspirational leadership that has transformed the lives of others and their communities.

The *IWL ENGAGE AWARD for Transformational Student Leadership* celebrates the leadership of a Marquette undergraduate or graduate student who has taken action to lead others to "be the difference" for women on campus or in the community.

The *IWL INSPIRE AWARD for Transformational Campus Leadership* celebrates a faculty/staff member whose transformational leadership has improved the lives and careers of women on campus and/or in the community.

The *IWL TRANSFORM AWARD for Transformational Community Leadership* celebrates a community leader of Milwaukee who has taken action to lead others to "be the difference" for creating positive community change.

IWL TRANSFORM AWARD

for

TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



Joann Harris-Comodore, MA

Joann Harris-Comodore is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Neu-Life Community Development, a nonprofit providing educational, recreational, and workforce development programming for Milwaukee's youth founded in 2000. Joann has dedicated her career to the service of others, always demonstrating the vision and the ability to pivot to meet the greatest need.

Joann began her career for United/Unicare Healthcare, where she served as a dietitian for three years and a health care administrator for 22 years. In 1994, upon observing an increased need for seniors who required support services and care, Joann became an entrepreneur when she founded Residential Living Services, Inc. Soon thereafter, she founded Residential Living Services II and Residential Living Services Apartments. She also owned and operated Tendercare Transportation Company, all of which provided an array of services to senior citizens.

Joann also works with the Milwaukee North Avenue Marketplace BID 32, the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association, and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, an international women advocacy organization.

Joann grew up and was educated in Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in nutrition from Mt. Mary College, a BS degree in business administration from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Master's degree in long-term administration from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is married with one adult child.

IWL INSPIRE AWARD

for

TRANSFORMATIONAL CAMPUS LEADERSHIP



Melissa M. Shew, PhD

Dr. Melissa Shew (Philosophy) is Associate Director of Teaching Excellence in the Center for Teaching and Learning, where she helps lead initiatives related to teaching and learning at Marquette. Dr. Shew has received numerous teaching awards herself, including Marquette's highest teaching award in 2023, and is also the Faculty Director of Marquette's Executive

MBA Program. Partially due to having taught high school girls for 5 years in addition to teaching at the university level for over 15 years, Dr. Shew has a special interest in supporting women and nonbinary people in their education and careers.

As an active and wide-ranging scholar, Dr. Shew created and edited *Philosophy for Girls: An Invitation to the Life of Thought* (with Kim Garchar, 2020) and *On the Vocation of the Educator in This Moment* (with Jennifer Maney, PhD, 2021); gave a TEDx Talk, "Women and Intellectual Empowerment" (2021); and published *The Power of Intellectual Joy for Women at Work* (2023) with a corresponding workbook through IWL. Dr. Shew has presented her work on intellectual joy and women's leadership to over a thousand people in organizations of all kinds and is currently working to adapt this scholarship for intellectual joy in education today.

At Marquette, Dr. Shew has held a range of leadership positions on campus and has special interests in advancing equity at Marquette as well as leading efforts around advancing intellectual joy for all. Dr. Shew is married, and her two children (9 and 10) joke that she goes to work to give "pep talks" at Marquette every day.

IWL ENGAGE AWARD

for

TRANSFORMATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Maria G. Tijerina Ibarra

Maria Guadalupe Tijerina Ibarra advocates for equity and inclusion in higher education, which has helped transform Marquette University and uplift the broader community. As a graduate student in Student Affairs in Higher Education, she passionately elevates marginalized voices, advocates for systemic change, and cultivates inclusive spaces for all.

Her work earned her a position on MU's Provost-appointed DREAMers Support Committee; and through Marquette DREAMers, Tijerina Ibarra has led initiatives such as UndocuAlly Week. As the inaugural Inclusive Excellence Graduate Fellow in Marquette's Office of Inclusion and Belonging, she launched Latinas Unidas, a program dedicated to mentorship, connection, and empowerment for Latinas in higher education.

Tijerina Ibarra's leadership extends beyond local initiatives. Her work overall and as a Core Committee member of the Ignatian Solidarity Network's National Undocu Network has garnered widespread recognition. She has been featured in media interviews, including Milwaukee PBS.

This fall, Tijerina Ibarra will begin her PhD in Educational Policy and Leadership, continuing her mission to create a more accessible, inclusive, and equitable higher education system. Tijerina Ibarra's leadership aims to both break barriers and build pathways for others to rise.

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DJ FEMME NOIR



THE AUDACITY

Shonda Berlin
vocals

Melissa Brown
drums

Theresa Flynn
bass

Sarah Eckert
keys

Carrie Lawler
guitar

Setting Fires
by The Audacity

Take Back the Power
by The Interrupters



PARANORMAL

Maria Nelson
drums & vocals

Selene Taylor
guitar & vocals

Cherry Bomb
by Joan Jett

Rock and Rock
by Paranormal

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Abby Lamkins

IWL Student Advisory Board Member

Lurit Lako

IWL Student Advisory Board Member

Isabelle Faust, JD

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IWL Faculty Advisory Council Member

Tammy Johnson

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Kathryn Malin, PhD

IWL Faculty Advisory Council Member

Mark Naidicz

IWL Advisory Council Member

Karen Ortiz

University Advancement

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*IWL Director & Professor of
Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology*

Sarah Camp, MCE

IWL Coordinator

X'Zandria Weil

IWL Leadership Development Coordinator

IWL INTERNSHIP TEAM

Fatima Farooq

*MU Class of '24 & '26
College of Arts & Sciences
Bioinformatic Master's
Program*



Isabelle Solis

*MU Class of '25
College of Communication
majoring in Public Relations
& minoring in Psychology*



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College Savings Program
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Founder & CEO | GenoPalate

IWL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

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MU '25 | Graduate School of Management
Master's of Business Administration & Marquette Trinity Fellow

Aleema Ismail Haque

MU '23 & '25 | College of Business Administration & GSM
Master's in International Affairs & MBA in International Business

Lurit Lako

MU '27 | Opus College of Engineering
majoring in Biomedical Engineering
& minoring in Business Administration

Abby Lamkins

MU '26 | Diederich College of Communication
majoring in Digital Media, Public Relations, Social
Welfare and Justice, & Theology

Melanie Leyva

MU '25 | Klingler College of Arts & Sciences
majoring in Political Science

Pasqualina Paloma Muro

MU '26 | College of Business Administration
majoring in Finance & Commercial Real Estate

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Center for Teaching and Learning; EMBA

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Nursing

Jennifer Vanderheyden, PhD
French

Sarah Wadsworth, PhD
English

Grace Wang, PhD
Economics

Kate Ward, PhD
Theological Ethics

Jessica Zemplak, PhD
Nursing

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2024

- JAN 17 | **Connect with Confidence: Networking for Introverts** *with Jazmynn Appleton*
- MAR 7 | **3rd Annual IWL Gala | Unapologetically You!**
- MAR 8 | **Milwaukee's 2nd Annual Collaborative International Women's Day Gathering**
- MAR 26 | **"What's Empowerment?" Discussion** *sponsored by MKE Lambda Lambda Zetas, Omicron Gamma—Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc., at Marquette University, & IWL*
- APR 8 | **WISDOM Lunch: Women Thriving in Engineering & Non-Profit Leadership**
- APR 29 | **IWL Research Social** *featuring Fall 2023 IWL Faculty Fellows*
- MAY 29 | **2024 IWL Alumna Excellence Award Conferral** *honoring Sabina Bhatia ('89)*
- OCT 3 | **Short Film Screening of "Most Dangerous Women"** *with Guest Speaker Merry Wiesner-Hanks, PhD*
- OCT 21 | **Intellectual Joy: The Key to Your Career Growth** *workshop led by Melissa M. Shew, PhD*

- Nov 11 | **Working with Justice-Impacted Women and Re-entry into Society** *presented by IWL Student Advisory Board*
- Nov 18 | **IWL Research Social** *featuring Summer 2024 IWL Interdisciplinary Research Grant Projects*
- DEC 4 | **IWL Research Social** *featuring Spring 2024 IWL Faculty Fellows*

2025, SO FAR...

- JAN 16 | **IWL Conflict Resolution Workshop** *presented by Alexandra Crampton, PhD*
- FEB 6 | **Networking Made Easy for Introverts (Without the Overwhelm)** *led by Jazmynn Appleton*
- FEB 24 | **WISDOM Panel: Women Leading in Finance and Business**
- MAR 6 | **IWL, MU Women ERG, & PRSA-SEWI** *presented TEMPO's "Direct Positive"*
- MAR 22 | **Marquette University Black Women Rock Brunch** *sponsored by IWL*
- MAR 24 | **Women in Leadership with IWL, MU Career Center, & Enterprise Mobility**

IWL-SUPPORTED RESEARCH

Over the Years

76 Research Projects Funded *including*

43 IWL Mini-Grants

24 IWL Interdisciplinary Summer Grants

10 IWL Faculty Fellow Cohorts *supporting*

21 IWL Faculty Fellowships

2 Multi-year Community Research Partnerships *with*

Sojourner Family Peace Center (2020-2023)

Milwaukee Women inc (2023-2025)

10 IWL Research Publications

101 Student Researchers Supported

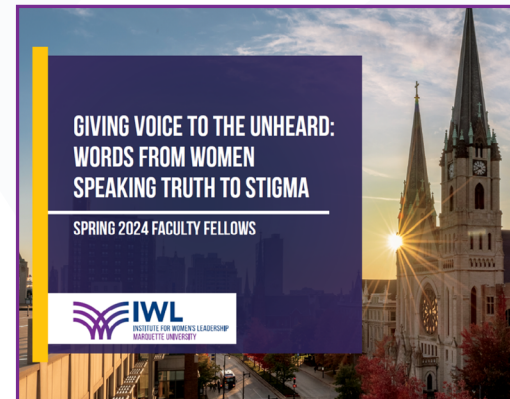
IWL FACULTY FELLOWS

FALL 2023

Heather Hlavka, PhD
Criminology; Law Studies

Jennifer Vanderheyden, PhD
French; Gender Studies

Jessica Zemlak, PhD
Public Health; Advanced Practice Nursing



SPRING 2024

Daniel Collette, PhD
Philosophy

Alexandra Kriofske Mainella, PhD
Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology

Sabirat Rubya, PhD
Computer Science

FALL 2024

Alison Efford, PhD
History

Kathryn Malin, PhD
Nursing; Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Zori Paul, PhD
Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology

SPRING 2025

Terry Burant, PhD
Teacher Education

Christine Dalessio, PhD
Theology

Desiree Valentine, PhD
Philosophy

Exploring Women-Centered Refugee Resettlement

Louise Cainkar, PhD

Gender and First-Year College Students' Use and Attitudes towards AI in Education

Lillian Campbell, PhD

Gabriel Velez, PhD

Jenna Green, PhD

Gender Differences in Leadership for Collegiate Varsity Athletes

Benjamin Correia-Harker, PhD

Jacob Capin, PhD

Lindsey M. Mirkes, MS

The Role of Obstetric Racism in Perinatal Mental Health, Birth Outcomes, and Stress Biology in Latinx Mothers

Kimberly D'Anna-Hernandez, PhD

Lisa M. Edwards, PhD

Kavitha Venkateswaran, PhD

Karen Robinson, PhD

British Law and Literature, 1789-1901: Texts and Contexts

Melissa Ganz, PhD

Cultural Clothing and Women's Activism in Palestinian Territories and Diaspora

Enaya Othman, PhD

Black Women Leaders: Navigating the Intersections of Race and Gender at the CRC

Angelina C. Sandoval, MA

Ayleen Cabas-Mijares, PhD

Project Title: *Bring a Bucket, Bring a Mop: News Coverage of WAP and the Contentious Articulation of Black Women's Politics of Pleasure*

Karisse A. Callender, PhD

Project Title: *A Pilot Case Study of Integrated Dialectical Behavior Therapy and Art Therapy with a Black Woman*

Lillian Campbell, PhD

Project Title: *Patient Sense: Rhetorical Body Work in the Age of Technology (research-based book)*

Dora Clayton-Jones, PhD

Project Title: *Experiences of Reproductive Health Across the Intersections of Age, Gender, Sexuality, and Stigma for Young Adults Living with Sickle Cell Disease*

Abiola Keller, PhD

Project Title: *Evaluating Voices of African American Women Caregivers: Evaluation of a Digital Storytelling (DST) Intervention*

Nilanjan Lodh, PhD

Project Title: *Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) Prevalence and Burden Across Endemic Countries, Timelines, and Age Groups: A Retrospective Study*

Zori Paul, PhD

Project Title: *Cross-Cultural Mentorship Rupture and Repair for Women in Counselor Education and Supervision PhD Programs*

Ben Pladek, PhD

Project Title: *Fidelity (researching for a historical novel)*



IWL

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

