

COLLABORATIVE CONVERSATIONS

MI- ACE Network - Women of Color Collaborative (WOCC) Newsletter

ACE WOMEN'S
Network™
Michigan



Dr. Shai James Boyd

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS!



Dr. Stephanie Lee

Greetings WOCC,

We are excited to work together to enhance a great group of leaders. Let's keep the momentum going and take WOCC to the next level!

A vision of many women coming together from all over Michigan with great passion and an opportunity to advance and grow as professionals make the Women of Color Collaborative (WOCC) excel. There is no shortcut to attaining our goals with guiding principles like moral ethics and collaboration. We realize that strong, hardworking women deliver on their promises by working together. We grow when we share and uplift one another. Together we can achieve success.

We may represent separate institutions, but we work WELL together.

Onward and upward, WOCC!

We are looking forward to seeing YOU at the conference this June.

Sincerely,

*Drs. Stephanie Lee and Shai James Boyd
WOCC Co-Chairs*

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Chastity D. Gaither, Ph.D. - Chair
Deveta Gardner, Ph.D.
Michelle Southward, Ed.D.
Robin White, MPA

WINTER STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT!

by: Chastity D. Gaither, Ph.D.



Strategic Planning Committee

(Pictured from left to right: Anita Hicks, Kimberly Hurns, Stephanie Lee, Michelle Southward, Shai James Boyd, Michelle Silva, Robin White, Kathleen Smith, Sounya Walker, Chastity D. Gaither, and Joi Cunningham.)



UP COMING EVENTS:

June 12-13, 2023

**MI-ACE Network Annual
Conference
Novi, MI**

**Hosted by:
The University of Michigan's
Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint
Campuses.**

On January 20th, the Women of Color Collaborative (WOCC) hosted its inaugural Strategic Planning Retreat at Mott Community College. Led by Dr. Kimberly Hurns – our former MI-ACE State Chair, the primary goals of this retreat were to develop a Strategic Plan that aligns with the MI ACE Network as well as foster relationships and create synergy among committee members.

Additionally, the group also created a monthly activity calendar and subcommittees to assist in moving the vision and strategic plan forward.

Subcommittees:

- o Strategic Planning
- o Annual Events
- o Educational and Professional Development
- o Engagement Committee

If you are interested in joining a committee please reach out to Dr. Shai James Boyd at sjame25@hfcc.edu.



The conference theme, ***Women Lead in a New Era in Higher Education***, will provide an opportunity to address issues of gender disparity, changing work structures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, living in a post-Roe v. Wade world, and more. The event strives to provide participants the skills to create more empathetic, inclusive, and equitable spaces within higher education at all levels.

2023 MI-ACE Network Conference Registration

[Click here to register and for more information about the 2023 MI-ACE Network Conference](#)

Call For Conference Volunteers

[Click here to sign-up to be a volunteer for the 2023 MI-ACE Network Conference](#)



WOCC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

Why did you become a member of the MI-ACE Network WOCC?

In WOCC I found the mentorship, support, encouragement, and growth I needed in my professional life. Through their conferences, luncheons, etc. I learned strategies as to how to best navigate my career path and redirect my career trajectory. The authentic relationships I have experienced and professional wisdom the women exuded are mere reasons I continue to provide my time and dedication to WOCC.

What are some of the resources you have taken advantage of during your career that you believed helped you the most? Everything possible! I have been attending conferences and luncheons for many years and I have served on many committees.

What do you do for self-care? I like to read and watch movies. I try to find things that take my mind away from any negative energy in my space and redirect my attention and thoughts.

What advice would you offer to women aspiring to ascend in their higher education careers? Find your niche. Know your why. It's easy to make attempts at becoming a "jack of all trades", but how would that help you stand out professionally? How do others in your professional space see you? Take your time to know your strengths and identify what professional area in your life you should invest time into and nurture.

WHAT WE'RE READING!

by: Dr. Deveta Gardner

Are you looking for resources to assist in honing your role as a leader? If so, consider adding these leadership themed books to your summer reading list. Through practical application and actionable takeaways – these resources will assist you in becoming a more innovative leader.

How Women Rise

By: Sally Helgesen and Marshall Goldsmith

Equity Talk and Equity Walk: Expanding Practitioner Knowledge for Racial Justice in Higher Education

By: Tia Brown McNair, Estela Mara Bensimon, et al.

You Can Lead: 30 Life Lessons to Empower the Leader Within



Name: Michelle Southward, Ed.D.

Current Role: Director, Newnan Academic Advising Center

Institution: University of Michigan