



WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

2025

Breakout Session Presenters

Breakout Session I



Aubrey Shaw

Aubrey H. Shaw earned her PhD in character education and sport pedagogy from the Center for ETHICS* at the University of Idaho. At six months old, Aubrey incurred a traumatic brain injury. Thus, she has many experiences with support services and special education. Aubrey was an adaptive athlete in soccer, floor hockey and softball. Aubrey brings a unique perspective to this field because of life experiences. Aubrey has co-authored with her major professor Dr. Sharon Stoll a combination of 50 professional presentations and written publications which focus on ethics of including students with physical disabilities in physical education, recreation and sport.



Sharon K. Stoll

Sharon K. Stoll, the director of the Center for ETHICS* at the University of Idaho, is considered a leading authority in moral education intervention techniques for competitive adults and college aged students in America. She is the author of nine books including, Practical Ethics in Sport Management and Sport Ethics: Applications for Fair Play, with Lumpkin and Beller.

She has been featured on US TV "Night Line", "ESPN Sports Center", "ESPN Chat Line" and Fox Sports' "Goin' Deep". In 2005, she was in over 50 major newspapers in the US and abroad describing the Center's project working with the Atlanta Braves, and in 2006, she was the front page story for the Chronicle of Higher Education. In 2007 and 2013, she was featured in Sports Illustrated and she was one of the 100 Most Influential Sport Educators in the United States by the Institute for International Sport. From 2012, she has been a consultant for the USADA and Clean Competition.



Aleksandra Hollingshead

Dr. Aleksandra Hollingshead is the Department Chair of Curriculum and Instruction and an Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of Idaho. Born and raised in Poland, she moved to the United States in 2003 and earned her doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in 2013.

Dr. Hollingshead's research focuses on engagement in learning and Universal Design for Learning. She has extensive leadership experience at the university level, as well as in state and national professional organizations. At the University of Idaho, she served as Associate Dean of Inclusion in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences from 2020 to 2023 and as a program coordinator for special education. In recognition of her contributions to the field, Dr. Hollingshead received the 2024 Outstanding CEC Leadership Award for her leadership within the largest special education professional organization. She is also an associate editor for FOCUS on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities.

In her free time, Alex enjoys reading and spending time outdoors with her family.



Brooke Blevins

Brooke Blevins, PhD, is Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. She earned her BA in Economics and Speech Communication and her MAT from Trinity University. She earned her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to entering higher education, Dr. Blevins served as a high school teacher in Texas. Dr. Blevins is a leader in the field of civic education. Her research interests include educating and empowering young people to become active and engaged civic participants and preparing teachers to engage in transformational and humanizing education. Dr. Blevins serves as the co-director for the iEngage Summer Civics Institute. Rooted in action civics and digital technologies, iEngage is an innovative program providing high quality, action oriented civic education experiences to students and teachers.

She has a passion for equipping leaders and educators with the resources needed to engage in humanizing practices. In 2022, she was awarded the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education from National Center for State Courts. Brooke is also a wife and mom to three children.



Jingru Lu

Jingru Lu, MEd, is a first-year doctoral student of curriculum and instruction at the University of Idaho. She serves as a teaching assistant, working with instructors to grade assignments. Her research interests center on K-12 technology integration and teacher education in literacy, specifically focusing on teachers' competency in using innovative instructional technology for formative assessment. In 2025, Lu plans to use survey methods to investigate the assessment readiness of preservice teachers at a northwest US land grant university.



Mya Gackstetter

This is Mya's third year at the University of Idaho, working towards her bachelor's degree in Nutritional Sciences. Upon graduation she hopes to attend dental school, with an interest in the pediatric specialty. Since the fall of 2023, she has been an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Yimin Chen's lab, Milk for Infant, Mind, and Immunity (MIMI). Her current focus is assisting with the Maternal Stress and Vitamin D Supplementation study, through the COBRE grant. In addition, she is also one of the point-people that runs all the social media accounts for the Chen Lab. In her free time, she enjoys making pottery, boating, and watching football.



Aubrey Bureau

Aubrey started attending the University of Idaho in the fall of 2022. She has always had a passion for taking care of others and decided to major in medical sciences to broaden her opportunities after graduation – though she plans to go to medical school. Aubrey is fascinated with the human brain and why people behave the way they do. Therefore, she chose to minor in psychology. She is currently an undergraduate student in the Maternal Stress and Vitamin D Supplementation Study under Dr. Yimin Chen, PhD, RDN.



Kolloh Nimley

Ms. Nimley came to the United States as a Lutheran Leader Scholar. She holds an associate in science degree from Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and a Master of Arts with Focus on International Relations from the University of Oklahoma. Ms. Nimley is a mother of three children. She has worked for various state governments and an international government. She has experience as a business owner. She currently works at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University. She has provided leadership development training to corporate leadership for four years.



Lisa Grigg

Lisa has been a labor economist for the five-county region of north central Idaho with the Idaho Department of Labor for the last three years.



Joy Wanja Muraya

Joy Wanja Muraya is a dedicated, talented and immensely creative communications specialist with a commitment to high-quality research and writing. As a health journalist and a WSU PhD fellow, Joy has a knack for excellent reporting, interviewing skills and award-winning writing techniques, demonstrating that she greatly cares about people and facts. She has researched, documented, wrote and conveyed news in an honest, ethical and objective standard. Joy has also won 17 national and international awards in journalism and generated creative and compelling story ideas to complement the daily news agenda as a serial award winner with top writing and reporting skills on both local and international fronts. She recently co-authored a chapter on media, sex and teens as part of my PhD Fellowship at Washington State University.



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Breakout Session II



Morann Johnson

Morann is an ADHD/Executive Function coach for emerging adults at Threshold Coaches. She has been working in K-12 and higher education in Washington State for over 20 years and has spent the last nine years of her career working for Washington State University's Pullman campus as an academic advisor. Through this work especially, Morann has found her 'professional happy place' amongst young adults who are working through the challenging life stage of emerging adulthood.

She takes great pride in being an alumnus of WSU and helping students understand how to utilize their learning strengths and challenges within the academic structure of a university. She truly enjoys supporting humans as they grow, realize their potential, and work toward their academic and life goals. Along with having the personal experience of living with ADHD, she also has the privilege of being a mother of three neurodiverse children, all with varying levels of ADHD.



Kimberly McBride

Dr. McBride is an interdisciplinary social and behavioral scientist whose research focuses on the individual, interpersonal, contextual and social factors that influence human sexuality and sexual behavior. Dr. McBride is a mixed-methodologist, with expertise in qualitative research methods. She is currently an Associate Professor and serves as the Co-Director of the undergraduate Public Health Program at WSU.

From 2021-2024, Dr. McBride was an Associate Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at The University of Toledo (UToledo). Prior to that appointment, she served as an Associate Professor of Public Health at UToledo. In 2021, Dr. McBride received a Presidential Recognition Award for Scholarly and Creative Activity from UToledo in recognition of her highly cited research publications.

Prior to joining the faculty at UToledo in 2014, Dr. McBride served as an Assistant Professor of Public Health at Central Washington University

(2012-2014) and as an instructor in the both the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and the Department of Applied Health Science (2008-2012) at Indiana University, Bloomington. Dr. McBride earned her PhD in Health Behavior with a minor in Human Sexuality from the Indiana University, Bloomington, School of Public Health in 2006. During her doctoral program, she trained at the Center for Sexual Health Promotion and held a research fellowship at the Rural Center for AIDs/STD Prevention. She completed a Ford Foundation funded pre-doctoral and postdoctoral research fellowship at the Kinsey Institute and an NIH funded postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Adolescent Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis.

Dr. McBride is currently the Immediate Past Chair of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Section of the American Public Health Association and a current member of the Intersectional Council Steering Committee.



Karen Richel

As the Family Finance Extension educator for the 10 north Idaho counties, Karen provides basic “K through Gray” financial education and counsels clients as an Accredited Financial Counselor® and a Certified Money Coach®. She offers classes, workshops and simulations on topics ranging from budgeting to end-of-life planning.



Neida Vargas Nancy Hernandez

Nancy is the WSU TRIO Student Support Services Pullman Campus Academic Coordinator/Retention Specialist. She is a first-generation college graduate from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Relationships and master's degree in Family Consumer Science with a thesis on Latina Entrepreneurs.



Samantha Lewis

Sam grew up in Boulder, Colorado with the Rocky Mountains as her playground. Sam attended Oregon State University to run cross country and track and earned a BS Exercise and Sport Science with a Minor in Spanish. Sam spent her collegiate running career recovering from a stress fracture in her back. When Sam graduated in 2017, she moved to Moscow to start collegiate coaching and continue running.

Sam spent the last seven years coaching with the University of Idaho's

Cross Country and Track and Field Team. She also earned her MS in Movement and Leisure Sciences in Character Education in the Center for ETHICS* at University of Idaho and is currently a PhD Candidate studying philosophy of sport and sport ethics in the Center for ETHICS*.

Sam is a professional trail and mountain runner for Swiss-based company On, which specializes in performance running and tennis shoes and apparel. Sam launched “The Coaches’ Dilemma: What Will You do to Win?” podcast in Fall of 2024, which is a coaching curriculum that coaches and athletes. The world of sport can also use it to understand the importance of the athlete lived experience.





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Breakout Session III



Amanda Ferstead, MPH, MA, MS, CHES

Amanda Ferstead is a Certified Health Education Specialist, who has worked at the University of Idaho for seven years. She is currently the Assistant Director of Health Promotion in Recreation and Training. She leads the facilitation of several national mental health training programs on campus, is a Certified Laughter Yoga Leader, oversees Vandal Health Education's peer education and resilience programs, and has facilitated workshops on a variety of health topics during her time at the university. She has been a board member of the Athena Women's organization and served on the events committee, serving the campus community through her passion for the advancement of women. She is passionate about mental health, resilience and helping folks to be empowered in their choices around wellbeing.



Emily Tuschhoff, MS, CHES

Emily Tuschhoff is a Certified Health Education Specialist and has worked at UI for 11 years. She is currently the Associate Director for Programs and Wellbeing Initiatives in Recreation and Wellbeing. She has led many teams, campus-wide groups, and student groups, facilitated hundreds of workshops and trainings, and teaches health education classes each year in the Movement Sciences department. Emily has a passion for women's leadership and wellbeing, promoting a healthy work life synergy (which looks different for everyone), and encouraging people to find what works for them.



Heather Van Mullem

Heather is a professor in the Movement and Sport Sciences program at Lewis-Clark State College. She holds a PhD in Sport Studies from the University of Kansas and a JD from the University of Idaho College of Law. Her research interests include how female athletes use social media to create their personal brands, issues impacting gender equity in education and sport, and creating learning environments centered around wellness.



Katie Forsythe, 2024-2025 AFW President

Katie Forsythe is an Assistant Professor, Career Track in the WSU Department of Human Development. With over seven years of experience supporting WSU student success initiatives, she has played a role in advancing experiential learning through the Transformational Change Initiative, and professional preparation and internship curriculum in Human Development.

As president of the Association for Faculty Women (AFW) during its 50th anniversary, Katie has led efforts to honor the organization's history while fostering system-wide engagement opportunities that promote inclusivity and a strong sense of belonging. Serving as AFW president during this important year is a highlight of her career.



Knona Liddell, 1993-1994 and 2004-2005 AFW President

When Knona joined the WSU faculty in Fall 1980, Harriett Rigas and Carolyn Clark invited her to the first AFW meeting that year, and she joined. As the third woman in the College of Engineering (with Harriett herself, and Dagmar Cronn), Knona found that AFW was an invaluable source of information and advice. She was AFW president twice, first in 1993-94, then again in 2004-05.



Tracy Skaer, 2003-2004 AFW President

Dr. Tracy L. Skaer is a tenured WSU Professor Emeritus of Pharmacotherapy. She holds a Doctor of Pharmacy Summa Cum Laude from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Washington State University. Dr. Skaer is currently the sole proprietor of a pharmaceutical expert witness and consulting business (rx-expert.com). Her extensive expertise spans pharmacy practice, drug toxicity, medication errors, adverse drug reactions, pharmacoeconomics, pharmacoepidemiology, pain management and opioid misuse. With deep roots in both clinical pharmacy practice and academic research, Dr. Skaer provides trusted, evidence-based insights into complex legal cases nationwide.



Erica Austin, 2012-2013 AFW President

Erica Weintraub Austin is dedicated to helping people use media literacy to facilitate healthy decision making and engagement in health, science and civics. She is a professor and the founding director of the Edward R. Murrow Center for Media and Health Promotion Research in the Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University. She has been inducted as a fellow in the International Communication Association and ranked by Elsevier among the World's Top 1% Scientists for "Lifetime Impact" in Communication and Media Studies.



LeeAnn Hunter, 2018-2019 AFW President

LeeAnn Hunter is a Scholarly Professor of English at Washington State University. Her academic interests center on questions of work, wellness and community. These interests have found expression in Victorian Studies in her research on professions for women, care economies and self-help; in the health humanities in her work on mental health and decolonizing wellness; and in professional development in her efforts to prioritize mentoring, wellness and connection.



Chelsea Leachman, 2020-2021 AFW President

Chelsea Leachman has a strong connection to the Palouse region. She is an alumna of the University of Idaho. Returning to the area in 2010, she has worked at the Whitman County Rural Library District and is currently a science and engineering librarian at Washington State University. While AFW President, Leachman had to shift all activities to virtual events due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was important to Leachman to maintain connections and support for women faculty through the WSU system during this time through both informative events and virtual social events.



Melissa Parkhurst, 2021-2022 AFW President

Melissa Parkhurst is an ethnomusicologist at WSU's Pullman campus, where she holds the Bornander Distinguished Chair position for the WSU Honors College. She teaches courses in World Music, Native Music, Women in Music, Music History and Music and the Mind. Her book, *To Win the Indian Heart: Music at Chemawa Indian School* (Oregon State University Press, 2014), explores the ways students, families and tribal communities have used music-making to engage protective factors that support and serve young people into adulthood.



Blythe Duell, 2023-2024 AFW President

Dr. Blythe Duell is a Scholarly Professor in the Department of Psychology at Washington State University. She regularly teaches Human Sexuality, Psychology of Gender, Degrees and Careers in Psychology, and Techniques in Stress Management and Mindfulness. Her secondary area of emphasis is career development in undergraduate students. Dr. Duell has been teaching at WSU since 2018, where she has received a number of awards including the 2023 Award for Excellence in Teaching a Large Class and the President's Distinguished Teaching Award for Career-Track Faculty in 2025.



Sophia Gaither

Sophia Gaither is an experienced career services leader and educator dedicated to fostering student success and empowering women. As the Director of Career Services at the University of Idaho, she leads initiatives that connect students, alumni and employers while championing equitable access to career development. Sophia is also a soon to be, doctoral student in Adult Organizational Learning and Leadership at the University of Idaho, furthering her commitment to advancing education and leadership development.



Christian Elsberry

As the current Vice President of Foundation Services at the University of Idaho Foundation, Christian Elsberry has over a decade of consistently managing strategic planning and sustainable implementations across various disciplines such as Finance, Budget, Facilities, Capital Planning, Advancement, Institutional Research, Information Technology, Special Projects and Analytics and Reporting.



Amanda Morgan

Amanda Morgan is the Associate Director at Washington State University's Academic Success and Career Center (ASCC), where she supports students in achieving their academic and professional goals. With a passion for career readiness and student success, she provides guidance on career exploration, job search strategies and experiential learning opportunities. Amanda is dedicated to helping students navigate their career paths with confidence and purpose.