

**6th Annual Georgia College & State University
Women's Leadership Conference
Leading Change: Flourish Forward**

Request for Conference Proposals

The Georgia College & State University Women's Center & LGBTQ+ Programs, Office of Community Engagement and Service, Alumni Association, J. Whitney Bunting College of Business and Technology, and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies are planning the 6th Annual Women's Leadership Conference for Friday, March 29, 2024.

Session proposal submissions will be due by 5:00 pm on Friday, January 19, 2024.

Conference Overview

Scheduled to coincide with Women's History Month, our conference offers a unique platform for participants to delve into the exploration of leadership. We take pride in featuring a diverse array of speakers, including students, staff, alumni, faculty, and community members, providing attendees access to a rich tapestry of experiences and knowledge. The conference content is designed to stimulate critical thought around the participants' roles as leaders, inspiring them to create meaningful change.

About the 2024 Conference Theme: "Flourish Forward"

We think about flourishing as thriving, prospering, and living a good life with purpose. Flourishing leaders exemplify a dynamic commitment to growth, resilience, and making a positive impact. In the spirit of "Flourish Forward," our conference theme celebrates the continuous journey of individuals who not only strive to serve as leaders in their everyday lives, but also inspire others to blossom in their own leadership.

"Flourish Forward" embodies a dedication to nurturing personal potential, fostering a collaborative culture, and cultivating a sustainable impact that reaches well beyond the individual. As a flourishing leader, you have the opportunity to pay it forward, extending the benefits of your growth to empower others.

Our exploration of the transformative power of flourishing leadership also places a special emphasis on wellness, acknowledging its pivotal role in maintaining effective leadership. Flourishing leaders recognize that true flourishing extends beyond success in a single aspect of life; they embrace a holistic concept of well-being.

Let us explore together how this idea of leadership can shape lives, organizations, and communities for a brighter, more purposeful future.

Request for Proposals

We are seeking proposals for dynamic sessions focusing on our 2024 Conference theme of Leading Change: Flourish Forward that empower our diverse audience of students,

Social Change Model of

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<https://www.heri.ucla.edu/PDFs/pubs/ASocialChangeModelofLeadershipDevelopment.pdf>

staff, alumni, faculty, and community members to not only understand the importance of wellness in leadership but also to leave with actionable take-aways.

Key Themes and Topics

This year, in alignment with our 2024 Conference theme, we are interested in sessions that focus on the intersection of wellness and leadership, including but not limited to:

- Stress management and resilience
- Strategies for work-life harmony
- Mindful leadership practices
- Cultivating a positive and inclusive work culture
- Building emotional intelligence
- Navigating career transitions with well-being in mind

Additional Criteria

In alignment with the [Social Change Model of Leadership](#) (HERI, 1996), we seek proposals that foster learning and discovery around the three focal areas and seven* C's of leadership development:

- Individual Values
 - Consciousness of Self and Others
 - Congruence
 - Commitment
- Group Process Values
 - Collaboration
 - Common Purpose
 - Controversy with Civility
- Community/Society Values
 - Citizenship

*The 8th C is “Change”

In keeping with the 2024 Conference Theme, we ask that all session proposals address at least one of the following [eight dimensions of wellness](#) as described by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

1. Emotional
2. Physical
3. Occupational
4. Intellectual
5. Financial
6. Social

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7. Environmental
8. Spiritual

Additionally, we encourage proposals that:

- Clearly articulate session objectives and take-aways for participants
- Demonstrate practical applications of wellness principles in leadership contexts
- Offer actionable strategies and/or resources that participants can implement in their personal and professional lives
- Showcase innovative and engaging presentation formats
- Build connection and community among participants
- Inspire action

Presentation Formats

50-minute interactive sessions and workshops: This type of session includes audience participation and active learning. This type of session should provide participants with the opportunity to actively engage with the content, receive tangible action-oriented strategies, apply ideas to their own lives, and/or develop new skills and leadership insights.

50-minute panel or roundtable: This type of session includes a discussion between 3 or more presenters. A moderator may be used. Discussions could be rooted in developing a deeper understanding of a specific topic, hearing differing perspectives around a theme, or fostering dialogue and networking around a common theme.

Successful Proposals Will:

- Address the conference theme of "Leading Change: Flourish Forward" by speaking to at least one of the dimensions of wellness
- Focus on a minimum of one of the Social Change Model of Leadership areas: self-discovery, group dynamics, or community
- Engage participants in active, experiential, and/or collaborative learning
- Address the diverse needs of women* across various identities and contexts, including the workplace, community, and school
- Refrain from promoting any specific product, diet, or program

**Note: While centering the experiences of individuals who identify as women, attendance at the Women's Leadership Conference is open to all, irrespective of gender identity.*

Submission Guidelines

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Please submit your proposal by 5:00 pm on January 19, 2024, via <https://bit.ly/GCSU2024WLCrfp>. Successful proposals will demonstrate a clear plan for engaging participants and providing tangible takeaways. Our committee will review proposals and send out submission notifications by February 2, 2024.

We believe your insights will greatly contribute to the success of our conference and the development of our attendees as leaders on our campus and in their communities. We are truly excited about the prospect of your involvement!

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to womensleadershipconference@gcsu.edu. Thank you for considering our invitation, and we look forward to the possibility of collaborating with you.