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**Friday, April 8, 2016**

9:00 am-9:20 am

**Continental Breakfast**

9:20 am-9:45 am

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Marguerite Buseti, M.A.

NYS ACEWN Institutional Representative for Mercy College

Director of Career Services, Mercy College

Judith Tabron, Ph.D., NYS ACEWN State Coordinator

Director, Faculty and Student Computing Services, Hofstra University

Nereida Quiles, M.S., NYS ACEWN Public Relations Officer

Associate Director of Admissions-Director of Adult Education, Concordia College-NY

9:45 am-10:30 am

**Keynote Address**

Belinda Miles, Ed.D., President, Westchester Community College SUNY

10:30 am-10:45 am

**Question & Answer Session**

10:45 am-11:00 am

**Networking Break**

11:00 am-12:00 noon

**Breakout Sessions #1**

**A) *Is a Doctorate Degree in Your Future?* — Panel discussion**

- Elfreda Blue, Ph.D., Chair, Specialized Programs in Education, Special Education, Associate Professor, Hofstra University
- Elizabeth Ciabocchi, Ed.D., Vice Provost, Digital Learning, St. John's University
- Nereida Quiles, M.S., (Ed.D., Doctoral Candidate), Associate Director of Admissions-Director of Adult Education, Concordia College-NY
- Yvonne Riley-Tepie, (Ed.D., Doctoral Student), Vice President of U.S. Field Marketing, TD Bank

**B) *The Path to Leadership in Higher Ed: Become a Leader!***

- Evelyn Miller-Suber, D. Min., Director of Human Resources, Hofstra University

**C) *Women Making Change: Uniting the Double Consciousness—Making the Personal and Political Professional***

- April Hathcock, J.D., L.L.M., M.L.I.S., Scholarly Communications Librarian, NY University Libraries

**D) *It's about Politics: Advancing Women in Leadership Roles—Fireside Chat***

- Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, M.S., Former NYS Secretary of State, currently Sr. V.P. Corporate Relations & Government Affairs, EmblemHealth
- NYS Office of State Comptroller (OSC) Thomas DiNapoli:
  - Grisel Cuprill-Davis, B.S., Statewide Outreach Coordinator & Northern Hudson Valley Regional Director
  - Nancy R. Hernandez, M.P.A., Deputy Comptroller, Division of Diversity Management

12:00 noon-12:45 pm

**Lunch**

12:45 pm-1:30 pm

**Speed Mentoring: Get and Give Advice—Fast and Free!**

- Sue Maxam, Ed.D., Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Pace University

1:45 pm-2:45 pm

**Breakout Sessions #2**

A) *Is a Doctorate Degree in Your Future?*—Panel Discussion

B) *The Path to Leadership in Higher Ed: Become a Leader!*

C) *Women Making Change: Uniting the Double Consciousness—Making the Personal and Political Professional*

D) *It's about Politics: Advancing Women in Leadership Roles—Fireside Chat*

2:45 pm-3:00 pm

**Closing Remarks**

Concetta M. Stewart, Ph.D., Provost, Mercy College

# Keynote address and breakout sessions

**Keynote Address: Dr. Belinda Miles, President, Westchester Community College SUNY**

**Breakout sessions: 11:00 am-12:00 noon and 1:45 pm-2:45 pm**

**A) *Is a Doctorate Degree in Your Future?* — Panel Discussion**

Is a doctorate for me? It depends! What are your future ambitions? What type of training do you want? What would you like to research? Have you wondered how to pay for it? A doctorate is primarily a period of research training and an intellectual challenge. Does this sound appealing to you? On a secondary level, a doctorate can also be a facilitator for specialist expertise, a rite of passage, or a credential to empower your career. What it means for you will depend on which opportunities you seize. The journey is exciting and empowering!

**Panelists:**

- Elfreda Blue, Ph.D., Chair, Specialized Programs in Education, Special Education, Associate Professor, Hofstra University
- Elizabeth Ciabocchi, Ed.D, Vice Provost for Digital Learning, St. John's University,
- Nereida Quiles, M.S., (Ed.D., Doctoral Candidate), Associate Director of Admissions-Director of Adult Education, Concordia College-NY
- Yvonne Riley-Tepie, (Ed.D., Doctoral Student), Vice President of U.S. Field Marketing, TD Bank

**B) *The Path to Leadership in Higher Ed: Become a Leader!***

**Speaker:** Evelyn Miller-Suber, D. Min., Director of Human Resources, Hofstra University

As the career terrain in higher education becomes increasingly competitive, the pressure to succeed through professional advancement has become central to one's promotion. This session explores the social and political landscape of how women navigate positions in leadership. Participants will learn the fundamentals of preparing for their next career move; learn how to enhance their leadership skills, create their personalized career guide, and how to negotiate the bumps in the road along the way.

**C) *Women Making Change: Uniting the Double Consciousness — Making the Personal and Political Professional***

- **Speaker:** April Hathcock, J.D., L.L.M., M.L.I.S., Scholarly Communications Librarian, NY University Libraries

So often as women of color in the academic world, we are expected to leave pieces of ourselves at the gates to the ivory towers in which we work. This can leave us feeling disjointed and torn between what it means to be ourselves as women of color in a white-dominated world and professionals in a world of higher education. In this session, we will uncover strategies for uniting this "double consciousness" and bringing our personal identities and political work into our professional lives.

**D) *It's about Politics: Advancing Women in Leadership Roles — Fireside Chat***

- **Speakers:** Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, M.S., Former NYS Secretary of State, currently Sr. V.P. Corporate Relations & Government Affairs, EmblemHealth; Grisel Cuprill-Davis, B.S., Statewide Outreach Coordinator & Northern Hudson Valley Regional Director; Nancy R. Hernandez, M.P.A.; Deputy Comptroller, Division of Diversity Management.

Is a career in public service in your future? What transferrable skills do you bring to the world of government and politics and will such a career work for you? Attend our fireside chat and learn from successful women in Public Service what it takes to hit the mark in government and politics.

**12:45 pm-1:30 pm *Speed Mentoring: Get and Give Advice — Fast and Free!***

- **Facilitator:** Sue Maxam, Ed.D., Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Pace University

Do you have a work-related challenge, issue, or goal you would like advice on from a variety of perspectives? Alternatively, would you like to offer advice to fellow colleagues in pursuit of new insights? If so, join us for an energizing speed mentoring session, which will enable you to engage with conference participants from different areas of higher education!

- Speakers TBD

# Professional Profiles

**Belinda Miles, Ed.D.**

**President, Westchester Community College SUNY**



Dr. Belinda S. Miles is a passionate advocate for maintaining the community college open door access mission, improving student learning and success outcomes, and creating opportunities for learning across the spectrum of life. As president of Westchester Community College, Dr. Miles presides over the largest college in Westchester County, New York providing leadership for an institution that offers more than sixty transfer and workforce programs and includes the largest Division of Continuing Education in the State University of New York system. The college educates and trains more than 26,000 students annually through an array of credit and non-credit programs and is SUNY's only formally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). She began her tenure at the College in January 2015.

Since her arrival, she has led the college to its new status as an Achieving the Dream member institution focused on increased levels of student success, overseen a successful Middle States accreditation visit, and expanded K-12 partnerships in order to increase college readiness.

President Miles' community outreach includes her role as a member of the Board of Directors for The Business Council of Westchester and her membership on the Education Committee of the Westchester County Association where she is creating new synergies to better align the college's certificate and associate degree programs with existing local and regional job and career opportunities.

Before taking the helm as president in Westchester, Dr. Miles served as provost and executive vice president of Access, Learning, and Success at Cuyahoga Community College with oversight of four campuses and multiple extension sites in the Greater Cleveland area and serving 60,000 students. Her roles at Cuyahoga included president of the Eastern Campus, dean of Academic Affairs, and assistant dean of Liberal Arts. Other positions in higher education included faculty and administrator roles at LaGuardia Community College, Nassau Community College, and Columbia University.

Miles' national roles include service on the faculty at the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Summer Institute for Women at Bryn Mawr College and the Lakin Institute for Community College Leadership. She is also a member of the Chair Academy's International Presidential Advisory Board.

Among the numerous awards Dr. Miles has received are the Bronx Community College Men of Color's Leadership and Empowerment Award (2015), Ohio Diversity Council's Woman of Power and Influence Award (2013), and the Education Award from the Ohio Coalition of National Council of Negro Women (2011).

Originally, from Queens New York, Miles attended public schools including the City University of New York's York College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She attained a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Organization and Leadership Development from Columbia University Teachers College. She and her husband, Keith, live in New Rochelle, New York. Their son, Gordon, recently graduated from Tuskegee University with a B.S. in Engineering, is a Certified Energy Engineer and is employed in this field.

## **Elfreda Blue, Ph.D.**

**Chair, Specialized Programs in Education, Special Education, Associate Professor, Hofstra University**



Ms. Elfreda Blue is an associate professor of the special education department at Hofstra University and holds a Ph.D. degree in Special Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has more than a decade of experience in teacher education, preparing graduate teacher candidates for the ever-changing classroom context. Blue has taught diverse student populations in elementary and middle schools in New York State and she is a strong advocate for meeting the literacy needs of diverse learners—including those who are at risk or have learning disabilities.

Dr. Blue's research interests and publications focus on universal design for learning and using cultural support in literacy development. Dr. Blue has served as guest editor for *Reading Writing Quarterly* (2012) and for *Insights on Learning Disabilities* (2011).

She teaches courses in methods and curriculum for diverse student populations, as well as technology and assistive technology in special education settings. Dr. Blue has served as a board member of international accreditation and professional associations, and is past president of the NY State Council for Exceptional Children and currently serves as co-editor of *Exceptional Individuals*, the organization's official newsletter.

## **Elizabeth Ciabocchi, Ed.D.**

**Vice Provost for Digital Learning, St. John's University**



Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Ciabocchi currently serves as Vice Provost for Digital Learning at St. John's University (SJU), having previously served for 12 years in the Office of Academic Affairs at Long Island University, most recently as Associate Vice President for Online Learning (2013-2014). She also served as Academic Dean, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, New York Campus (2001-2002), and as a faculty member and administrator at the New York College for Health Professions in Syosset, N.Y. (1993-2001).

In her current role at SJU, Ciabocchi leads the Office of the Provost's academic initiatives in the development of digital learning strategies and programs of study offered in fully online and hybrid formats. In addition, she provides leadership in the use of technology associated with on-campus instruction; supervises the Office of Online Learning & Services; co-chairs the University Assessment Committee, and serves as a member of the Middle States Steering Committee, Academic & Administrative Assembly (AAA), Provost's Council, Information Security Governance Committee, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee.

Ciabocchi teaches at the graduate level in the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership in the SJU School of Education. Ciabocchi currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) and the Online Leadership Advisory Council of the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). She frequently presents at professional conferences on her research interests, including institutional leadership and strategy in higher education, and women's leadership in online higher education.

## **Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, M.S.**

### **Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations & Government Affairs, EmblemHealth**



Ms. Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez is responsible for strengthening EmblemHealth's relationships with key government, community and industry stakeholders, better positioning EmblemHealth for new growth opportunities.

Lorraine was the former executive vice president for Multicultural Markets & Engagement at AARP. She brought to this position a distinguished career in the nonprofit, government and corporate sectors that extends more than 30 years. At AARP, she ensured that the interests of multicultural audiences age 50-plus were integrated into everything AARP does, with the goal to increase multicultural presence among AARP membership and increase AARP's presence and involvement in multicultural communities.

Prior to AARP, Lorraine was New York's 65<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State, and the first Hispanic to serve in that role. She also served as vice president of Government and Public Affairs at Cablevision Systems Corporation, a leading media, entertainment and telecommunications company.

Her work in the nonprofit sector has gained her national recognition and numerous awards for over seven years. She served as president of the Hispanic Federation, a nonprofit network of 90 Latino health and human service agency in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, aiding more than 2 million Latinos annually. Lorraine has extensive experience organizing major community awareness and civic participation educational partnership campaigns. In the early 1990s, she served as executive director of ASPIRA of New York, the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit Latino youth leadership development and education advocacy agency.

Ms. Cortés-Vázquez obtained her undergraduate of Hunter College, earned a master's degree from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is a Toll Fellow, having completed the national leadership program for elected and appointed officials. She earned certificates from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and from Columbia University's School of Non-Profit Management.

## **Grisel Cuprill-Davis, B.S.**

### **Statewide Outreach Coordinator & Northern Hudson Valley Regional Director, NYS Office of State Comptroller (OSC) Thomas DiNapoli**



Ms. Grisel Cuprill-Davis is the Statewide Outreach Coordinator for the NYS Comptroller's office, appointed by Comptroller DiNapoli in 2007. In her current position, she is responsible for building positive relationships through engagement with constituent groups and various communities throughout New York State. She works with diverse populations and communicates effectively all of the programs and services provided by the Comptroller's office.

She also handles the NYS Northern Hudson Valley Region by serving as the liaison to the other branches of state government, all levels of local government, business and community leaders, and individual citizens. She represents the Comptroller and serves as his direct point of communication, coordination, and expertise in her area.

Ms. Cuprill-Davis has been a public servant in State Government for over 10 years. She worked in the NYS Legislature as a constituent coordinator and Environmental Conservation Committee assistant. In addition, she also served as the Executive Director of the NYS Assembly & Senate PR/Hispanic Task Force where she oversaw legislative priorities and coordinated the annual Somos El Futuro conference. In 2007, she received an award from the Task Force recognizing her accomplishments in having supported the participatory and financial growth of the conference.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, Management & Economics from the SUNY Empire State College and resides in East Greenbush with her husband and two young children.

## **April Hathcock, J.D., L.L.M., M.L.I.S.**

**Scholarly Communications Librarian, New York University Libraries**



Ms. April Hathcock is the Scholarly Communications Librarian at NYU where she educates the campus community on issues of ownership, access, and rights in the research lifecycle. She received her J.D. and L.L.M. in International and Comparative Law from Duke University School of Law and her M.L.I.S. from the University of South Florida.

Before entering librarianship, she practiced intellectual property and antitrust law for a global private firm. Her research interests include cultural creation and exchange and the ways in which social and legal infrastructures benefit the works of certain groups over others. Her most recent publication "White Librarianship in Blackface: Diversity Initiatives in LIS" discusses the ways in which whiteness affects diversity programs in librarianship.

## **Nancy R. Hernandez, M.P.A.**

**Deputy Comptroller, Division of Diversity Management  
NYS Office of State Comptroller (OSC) Thomas DiNapoli**



Ms. Hernandez oversees OSC's affirmative action, diversity management, and equal employment opportunity programs, including ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and human rights laws. She is also responsible for outreach, recruitment, and facilitating programs to establish a fair and fully inclusive workplace.

Prior to her appointment at OSC in April 2012, Nancy was elected in 2007 and 2011 as Councilwoman and Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Colonie, and also served as liaison to the town's offices of Human Resources, Comptroller, Legal, Police, and Building departments.

Nancy held other leadership positions at several state agencies such as within the New York State Department of Labor, Department of Civil Service, Facilities Development Corporation, Office for the Aging, and Department of Social Services (now known as Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance). Predominately, Nancy's public service experiences were in Affirmative Action, Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES), and Compliance Specialist, and Labor Workforce. She also served for two years as the MWBEs Chairperson for the NYS Affirmative Action Advisory Council.

Nancy has extensive experience in running her own business for over 28 years. She was a teacher, school volunteer, active PTA member and school sports "Mom". Nancy Hernandez received her Masters in Public Administration from Marist College and B.A. from the University at Albany. She is the mother of four children, grandmother "abuelita" to two boys and resides with her husband in Loudonville, NY.

## Sue Maxam, Ed.D.

### Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Pace University



Dr. Sue Maxam is the Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Education at Pace University where she has worked for 27 years in a variety of progressively responsible leadership roles relating to retention, advising, student engagement, academic enrichment/support, and career services.

In her current position, Sue provides oversight to five units focusing on creating a transformative student experience. Sue has created and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Peace, Justice and Sustainability, and is active in a wide variety of social justice initiatives on and off campus. She has won numerous awards for leadership, mentoring, student engagement, advising and teaching, including the 2015 NYS ACE Women's Network *Catalyst Award* for Women Leaders.

Over the past few years, Sue has published her dissertation while co-authoring two book chapters and an article on the following topics: advising, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Autism, and creating inclusive collegiate learning environments.

Sue holds a B.A. from Friends World College, an M.A. from New York University, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership with a focus on social justice from Union Institute and University. In addition to her classroom experience, she has travelled throughout Latin America and Kenya doing educational outreach and volunteer work in poverty-stricken areas.

## Evelyn Miller-Suber, D. Min.

### Director of Human Resources, Hofstra University



Dr. Miller-Suber has been the Director of Human Resources for Hofstra University since 2001. She has 25 years of Human Resources, Business, and Operational Design experience acquired from her work in Government, Corporate, and Non Profit Organizations.

She holds a B.S. in Business (SUNY Empire State College), Masters in Public Administration (University of Hartford), Masters in Divinity (NY Theological Seminary), and a Doctorate in Ministry (NY Theological Seminary). Dr. Miller-Suber is an ordained Elder and a Pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is a member of College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR), Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), Women in Ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (WIM-AMEC). Dr. Suber is married, a mother, and grandmother.

## **Nereida Quiles, M.S.,** (Ed.D., doctoral candidate)

### **Director of Admission for Adult Education, Concordia College-NY**



Nereida Quiles is the Director of Admission for Adult Education at Concordia College-NY. Her journey in academia began in 2008 and she successfully doubled enrollment within the first three years. She also serves as an adjunct professor in the business and English programs for traditional and nontraditional students. As a campus leader she serves on various committees that ensure the College is a place where respect for diversity, different opinions and perspectives, is valued and encouraged.

Serving as Concordia's Institutional Representative for the American Council of Education, Ms. Quiles has advocated for, and increased awareness of professional development opportunities for higher education professionals in Westchester County. She is member of the selection committee for the Dr. Carol Russett Award for Women Leaders in Higher Education, a Westchester/Rockland ACE award, a member of the planning committee for the annual ACEWN statewide conference and is the NY State Public Relations Officer for ACE Women's Network. Always looking for opportunities to serve and grow, her career in the academic world has combined Ms. Quiles' passion for fostering the success of others, while mentoring and building community.

Prior to a career in academia, Ms. Quiles garnered the broad and comprehensive experience needed to succeed in the ever-changing business world during twenty-four years within the corporate world. She is a consummate professional specializing in leading, developing, and training personnel, team building, and coaching.

Ms. Quiles recently presented research from her doctoral work at a NYS ACEWN conference. Her passion for learning and personal growth inspired her to complete coursework toward a doctorate degree in Executive Leadership at Saint John Fisher College while working full-time at Concordia College-NY. She holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Mercy College School of Business, with honors as a member of Delta Mu Delta, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Lehman College-CUNY. She is presently working on her doctoral dissertation focusing on the nontraditional college student. Completing her college education as a nontraditional adult student, it is natural for her expertise to be the nontraditional college student.

## **Concetta M. Stewart, Ph.D.**

### **Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mercy College**



Concetta M. Stewart, Ph.D. serves Mercy College as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. She has held this position since August 2012, and served as Interim President of the College during the 2013-14 academic year. With more than 20 years as an academic leader in higher education, Dr. Stewart's leadership, experience, and skill set enhance and support the impressive achievements of the College during its current period of progress and innovation.

Prior to joining Mercy College, Dr. Stewart served as dean and professor of the School of Art and Design at Pratt Institute. Dr. Stewart provided academic, fiscal and strategic leadership and was responsible for leading Pratt's largest school with more than 3,300 undergraduate and graduate students in 15 degree programs, many of which are ranked among the top in the country. During her time at Pratt, Dr. Stewart significantly increased the academic offerings by launching new degrees and programs as well as new departments including film and photography.

Prior to her position at Pratt, Dr. Stewart served as dean of the School of Communications and Theater at Temple University. Some of Dr. Stewart's most significant accomplishments, during her deanship at Temple, include doubling enrollment and personnel, creating an effective Board of Visitors, leading cutting-



edge technology initiatives, and establishing a fundraising culture that resulted in the school raising more than \$10 million over eight years including \$2.5 million in research and technology grants along with several large gifts realized shortly after her departure. Under her leadership, Temple University was cited as "most wired" by Wired magazine, The Princeton Review and The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Dr. Stewart serves as a trustee of The American College of Greece, as well as on the boards of the American Council of Education's Inclusive Excellence Group and the Advertising Educational Foundation. She also brings to higher education more than a decade of experience in the telecommunications industry in product management and organizational effectiveness.

**Yvonne Riley-Tepie, (Ed.D., doctoral student)**  
**Vice President of U.S. Field Marketing, TD Bank**



As Vice President of U.S. Field Marketing at TD Bank since 2004, Yvonne Riley-Tepie oversees marketing activities in New York City and is responsible for assisting in new business development, marketing the bank, and developing and maintaining the bank's relationships with customers and community groups.

She began her career in marketing in 1998 as director of membership, marketing and special events at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Four years later, Riley-Tepie joined Health Plus, a provider of free and low-cost health insurance, where she served as assistant director of marketing and business development. An active member of the community, she served for six years as president of the New York City College of Technology Alumni Association and is President of the Board of Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts.

Several years ago, she was named one of the 40 most influential business people of African descent under the age of 40 by *The Network Journal*, received the YWCA's Woman of Influence Award in 2010, and the *Queens Courier's* Top Woman in Business in 2011 among many other awards. She is a resident of Brooklyn, where she lives with her son, Zachry. In 2016, Mrs. Tepie received the CEO Leadership Award for Marketing at TD Bank.

Ms. Riley-Tepie graduated from City Tech's award-winning hospitality management program in 1992 and earned a master's degree in Food Service Management from New York University in 1994, serving as valedictorian for both graduating classes. Currently she is a doctoral student of the Department of Administrative Leadership, School of Education at St. John's University.

*The theme of the conference is “Believing in Yourself: You’re Already Ready” which seeks to inspire and challenge women across higher education and beyond to step into their purpose by believing in the potential that they already possess.*

*All of the sessions empower, engage, and boost women’s confidence as they move forward to their destined paths in their professional careers.*

**Goals:**

- ◆ *To empower women of color with strategies for success as they move up the career ladder*
- ◆ *To provide networking opportunities that facilitates connections across the New York region.*

## NOTES