



Act. Excel.

Transform.

2023

WHET

42nd Annual Conference

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN TENNESSEE



October 26-27, 2023

Act. Excel.

Transform.

42nd Annual WHET Conference

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Dear WHET Conference Attendees,

It is my pleasure to welcome the membership of the Women in Higher Education in Tennessee to Motlow State for the WHET 2023 Annual Conference. Your conference title of “Act, Excel, Transform.” is timely, not only for you as institutional leaders and educators, but as influencers in your communities. As our colleges, communities, and families continue to transition in this ever-changing world, the role of women and their involvement in that transition is critical in protection of freedoms and the leveraging of civic, professional, and personal opportunities for growth and economic viability.

As your host, please know we are here to provide aid that will enhance your conference experience. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Motlow State community.

Best Regards,

Dr. Michael Torrence, Ph.D
President
Motlow State Community College



Greetings from the WHET President



ELIZABETH WHITE, Ed.S.

WHET PRESIDENT

Welcome!

Please join us as we celebrate our annual Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET) Conference. WHET's history spans over 42 years of achievement. This conference provides an ideal opportunity to focus on the success of women, as well as explore solutions to the many challenges that we face in today's ever-changing world. With this year's theme, "Act. Excel. Transform," WHET is passionate and dedicated to leveraging the strengths, talents, and skills of women while encouraging and empowering them to be fulfill their dreams.

For our conference participants, our goal is to provide an atmosphere where you will be inspired, energized, and empowered to change the world around you. We are thrilled to have an outstanding group of Higher Education professionals who will not only share their personal stories, but also provide insight into how you can embark and navigate your career journey to be the successful woman that you have envisioned for yourself.

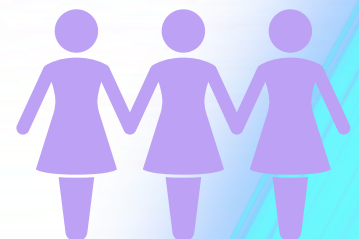
A special welcome to our presenters. Dr. Shirley Raines will provide a wonderful and engaging presentation on "leadership lessons and memorable experiences" from her career as the first female president of the University of Memphis. Dr. LaNise Reynolds will present on "The Next Level-Legacy Exchange." Also, Ms. Jennifer Johnson will present on "The Power of Creating New Beliefs;" while, Ms. Charria Campbell will provide us with a "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update." Dr. Contrecia Tharpe will present the conference's last session on "An Inclusive Culture: Leveraging Marketing & Communication to Build Stronger Community in Higher Education."

This conference is the result of an incredible planning team that worked collaboratively to bring this exciting event to fruition. A special thanks to them and the members of the WHET Board.

Congratulations to the award and scholarship recipients!

Finally, enjoy the conference! Now is the time to act, excel, and transform your life!

Elizabeth White, Ed.S.
WHET 2023 Conference
President of WHET



Greetings from the WHET 1st Vice President



DR. CRYSTAL BANKS

WHET 1st Vice President

Hello and welcome to our 2023 Women in Higher Education – Tennessee Annual Conference where you will have an opportunity to mix and mingle with some of the finest Higher Education professionals in the state of Tennessee. We have an exciting conference planned with you in mind. Last year we gave you the tools and resources to LEAD, LEVERAGE, AND TRANSFORM personally and professionally. This year we will take it up another notch - for you to ACT, EXCEL, AND TRANSFORM in Excellence.

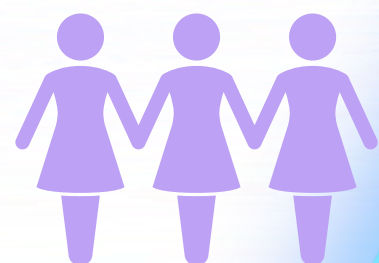
We have an exciting group of Higher Education professionals that will share with you ways to impact not only the hopes and dreams you may have within, but they will also share with you information to help you transform the institutions you represent. Get ready to network with friends near and far, gain new and meaningful connections, and create opportunities that will make an impact in Higher Education. The world needs leaders! The world needs FEMALE leaders! The world needs YOU!

Hats off to the planning team and all that helped make this 2023 Annual Conference a huge success! With a team like this, all things are possible. Congratulations to all recipients this year and again want to THANK each of you for attending, and hope that you will come back next year for our 2024 Annual Conference. To be successful, you must have a leader that inspires, motivates, and uplifts you. Our president, Elizabeth White, Ed.S., is just that – a Servant Leader. This conference is an opportunity to show her that the Executive board has heard her call and will continue to support her vision as we move forward.

Thank you for supporting Women in Higher Education Tennessee as we ACT, EXCEL, and TRANSFORM.

Yours in the Pursuit of Excellence,

Crystal E. Banks, EdD



Greetings from the WHET 2nd Vice President



DR. ALICE CAMUTI

WHET 2nd Vice President

We are excited!

We hope that you are excited too!

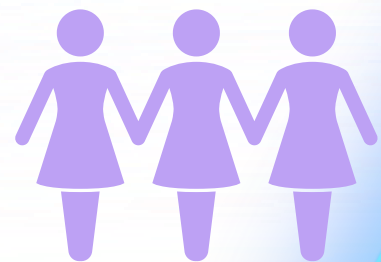
I'd like to take a moment to welcome you to this year's annual Women in Higher Education in Tennessee conference. Our program is centered around the theme of Act. Excel. Transform.

In the past two years we have focused on the theme of transformation and our goal today is to continue to provide you with professional development so that YOU can meet and exceed your personal and professional goals. We believe a positive transformation can be experienced by each one of us today.

Our conference speakers will focus on giving you the tools you need to feel confident in taking-action, excelling in all you do, and transforming your professional and personal environments in a positive way.

So, here's to you – it's time to act, to excel, and transform your life!

Alice Camuti
WHET 2023
Conference Committee





Welcome!

*On behalf of the 2023 Conference Committee to
the...*

42nd Annual WHET Conference

October 26-27, 2023

THEME:

Act. Excel.

Transform.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Since 1980, Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET) has sought to meet the needs of women in academia. By working collaboratively with the American Association of Community Colleges, WHET has supported the core values of leadership, networking, and connection among women in the Tennessee higher education community through programs; such as the June Anderson Award, Women of Achievement Award, Athena Award, and the annual conference. In 2001, WHET and the ACE Women's Network formally merged to better meet the needs of all women in Tennessee higher education. Consistent with its mission, WHET is committed to the following goals and initiatives:

- Professional development seminars and webinars
- Partnership with the statewide Women's Leadership Conference for college and university students
- Support for member participation in national leadership conferences
- Awarding the Patricia Pierce, Lori Groves-White, and Hal R. Ramer scholarships annually
- Participating in Tennessee Legislative Day on the Hill

MISSION

WHET's mission is to provide opportunities for members in higher education to engage in cultivating their personal and professional potential.

VISION

WHET's vision is to be recognized as a premier professional organization that empowers professionals; advocates professional growth; provides career opportunities, and develops community partnerships.

We are creating a path that will lead to continuity in growth and achievement.

THE HISTORY OF THE CARYATID AS WHET'S SYMBOL



A caryatid is a female figure that serves as an architectural support in the place of a column or pillar. It is often associated with Greek and Greek Revival architecture. The term caryatid originated from the term karyatides, which literally means “maidens of Karyai,” an ancient town of Peloponnese. Women from Karyai were considered especially beautiful, tall, strong, and capable.

In 1980, WHET board members were seeking a symbol that is representative of the organization and its members. The board was intrigued by the beauty of the female caryatids, each of which was unique, representing diversity among women.

The board felt the symbolism of the caryatids, supporting great works of architecture, was reflective of the strength of women and their inherent ability to support all and provide cohesion. Therefore, the caryatid was selected and has served to represent the beauty, diversity, strength, support, and cohesion that is characteristic of all women.

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN TENNESSEE



2023-2024 Institutional Members

Austin Peay State University
Belmont University
Columbia State Community College
East Tennessee State University
Jackson State Community College
Motlow State Community College
Nashville State Community College
Pellissippi State Community College
Tennessee Board of Regents
Tennessee State University



Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Dickson
Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Harriman
Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Memphis
Tennessee College of Applied Technology –
Murfreesboro
Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Shelbyville
Tennessee Technological University
University of Tennessee Space Institute
University of Tennessee Health Science
Volunteer State Community College
Western Governors University

WHET CONFERENCE 2023

CONGRATULATIONS

From the Women of WHET

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF WHET.

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN
TENNESSEE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE
AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING
NEW PRESIDENTS:

1/4/23 | **Patrick Wade**
TCAT Murfreesboro

1/9/23 | **Susan Hatto**
TCAT Athens

7/1/23 | **Heath McMillian**
TCAT Jackson

7/1/23 | **Gwen Sutton**
TCAT Memphis

7/1/23 | **Ray Brooks**
Cleveland State-Interim

9/1/23 | **Jeff Sisk**
TCAT Shelbyville-Interim

9/22/23 | **Russ Deaton**
Volunteer State-Interim

10/1/23 | **Carol Rothstein**
Jackson State

CONFERENCE AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday:

5:00 - 6:00 Registration-Check in & Opening Reception

6:00 - 7:00 **Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Shirley Raines

7:00 - 7:30 Wrap-up, Q & A , and Evening Close

Friday:

8:00-8:30 Registration-Check-in & Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:45 Opening Welcome

-Ms. Elizabeth White, WHET President

-President, Motlow Community College/Conference Host

8:45-9:15 WHET Awards and Scholarships

9:15-9:30 *Networking & Coffee Break*

9:30-10:30 **Session I - Opening Keynote:** Dr. LaNise Reynolds

10:30-10:45 *BREAK*

10:45-11:45 **Session II** - Jennifer Johnson, Certified Heart Psychics Coach

11:45-1:00 **Session III & LUNCH** - Charria Campbell, M.Ed.

1:15-2:15 **Session IV** - Dr. Contrecia Tharpe

2:15-2:30 WHET Business Meeting & Election of Officers

2:30-2:45 Closing & Door Prizes

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN TENNESSEE



Thursday, October 26th Keynote Speaker



Dr. Shirley Raines

Encourager

From Pink Purse to Briefcase. Leadership lessons and memorable experiences for effective leader.

Dr. Shirley Raines is a speaker and an author, acclaimed for the stories she tells about the leadership lessons learned from an unusual journey. Shirley's journey is the unlikely story of a preschool teacher who became the first women president of the University of Memphis, serving for 12 years. She grew up on a cotton farm in West Tennessee, watching airplanes flying over and dreaming of traveling the world.

Little did she know that one day she would speak to teachers in a dirt poor school in Quito, Ecuador, represent an education association the U.N., and speak at Harvard for five summers on the faculty of the Institute for New Presidents and Chancellors.

At her induction ceremony for the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame, she was characterized as "personable, powerful and prepared." Regardless of the accolades, the legion of community organizations she has served, the list of awards and honors bestowed, she always has been the "encourager." She encourages women to accept leadership challenges, encourages young people to stretch beyond their present circumstances, and encourages citizens to grapple with the great issues of society.

Dr. Raines served as advisor for Women in Higher Education in Tennessee and was awarded 2012 Woman of Achievement Award. As a speaker and an author. She has written 18 books, (15 for teachers, 2 for children, and 1 for leaders). Her "encourager" voice is that of a learner, of learning the lessons of leadership and helping others seize the opportunities that their own leadership journeys provide.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, October 27th:

Session 1 (9:30am-10:30am)

Dr. LaNise Reynolds

- Session Title: "The Next Level-Legacy Exchange"

Session 2 (10:45am-11:45am)

Jennifer Johnson, Certified Heart Psychics Coach

- Session Title: "The Power of Creating New Beliefs"

Session 3 and Lunch (11:45am-1:00pm)

Charria Campbell, M.Ed.

- Session Title: "DEI Update"

Session 4 (1:15pm-2:15pm)

Dr. Contrecia Tharpe

- Session Title: "An Inclusive Culture: Leveraging Marketing & Communication to Build Stronger Community in Higher Education"

Keynote Speaker: Session 1

Dr. LaNise Reynolds : "The Next Level-Legacy Exchange"

Dr. LaNise Reynolds, travels and speaks professionally as a certified speaker, trainer, and coach with the John Maxwell Team. Reynolds took early retirement as a Tenured Associate Professor at Tennessee Tech University in 2018. She continues to teach several virtual classes in the sport management department where she developed the first online Sport Management Program in 2012. Furthermore, Reynolds served as the 2016 President of the Tennessee Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD). She is the founder of the Sports Management Institute for Leadership Excellence (SMILE), Mentoring the Eagles Naturally (MEN), a program for minority male athletes, and she served as the co-chairs the ManUP program for minority males at Tennessee Tech University. She also developed two faculty leadership development programs on the campus of Tennessee Tech under the direction of the office of the provost.

Prior to teaching at the college ranks, Dr. LaNise Reynolds has coached college basketball at three different institutions. Moreover, Reynolds has been a college athletic compliance coordinator and an associate athletic director. During her tenure as a high school basketball coach, the WNBA and NBA have recognized Reynolds for the Sportsmanship Coaching Award in collaboration with the National Federation of High Schools. Dr. LaNise Reynolds has received several other University Awards and Community awards in the areas of teaching and service. Moreover, Reynolds was inducted in the Westinghouse High School Hall of Fame in 2016.

Dr. Reynolds has given countless presentations in her area of research at the state, national and even the World Rowing Coaches Conference, which had in attendance over 75 Olympic Coaches. Reynolds made several presentations to the Nashville Predators of the National Hockey League (NHL), The Tennessee Titans Job Fair of the National Football League (NFL), The Knoxville Ice Bears (Minor League Hockey Team), National Coaches Conference, and the Hawaii International Education Conference. She has been the graduation commencement speaker for several high schools.

Dr. LaNise Reynolds has published thirteen books along with her most popular book entitled, "Coach There is Hope: Avoiding Stress and Burnout From the Things You Cannot Control" and "Go TALL: When You Hide Your Greatness You Deny Your Greatness."

In 2012, Dr. LaNise Reynolds earned her Doctorate in Education in Administration and Supervision from Tennessee State University. She is married to Christopher Reynolds and they now reside in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jennifer Johnson: Session 2



"The Power of Creating New Beliefs"

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For as long as they have been on bookshelves, self-help books and success literature has been filled with gimmicks, tricks, and behavior modification that only offer temporary relief and ultimately end in frustration. Today the self-help industry is a multibillion-dollar industry that continues to grow. The desire to success and reach our goals is hard-wired into us as humans. Yet, many of us move through life feeling like there is an unseen, limiting force that holds us back no matter how hard we try. Our beliefs power our choices. Through creating new beliefs, we are able to experience a limitless life we never knew was available. From this place of learning to transform core beliefs, excelling becomes an effortless life practice in both personal and professional arenas.

As a graduate of Tennessee Tech, with a degree in Psychology, Jennifer began her career as an academic advisor and adjunct teacher at the university. Jennifer also has a diverse background in teaching and program development through her work at Impact International and the local community here in Cookeville, Tennessee. Today, Jennifer works as a private coach, utilizing the tools and methods of the Heart Physics program developed and designed by Dr. Jim Richards. The Heart Physics program lays out a foundation of practical and applicable tools for personal life transformation. Using biblical principles of transformation, Jennifer works with clients to teach them how to move their internal, limiting boundaries to enjoy sustained success and lasting life transformation.

Jennifer Johnson is a native of Cookeville, Tennessee where she currently lives with her husband Jim. Jennifer and her husband have been married 29 years, and together they have three grown children and a beautiful granddaughter. Even though Middle Tennessee is home, Jennifer is a die-hard Alabama Crimson Tide fan and an passionate lover of coffee ice cream.

Charria Campbell, M.Ed.: Session 3

Session 3



"DEI Update"

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Charria Campbell is a native of Muscle Shoals, AL and currently serves as Director of Student Engagement & Intercultural Affairs at Tennessee Tech University where she is responsible for the Leona Lusk Officer Black Cultural Center, assisting with recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, planning cultural and diversity programming for the campus, and directing student activities, student organizations, and events. She has been at Tennessee Tech University for a little over 4.5 years. In her role, she also directs the Reaching Achievement & Committed to Excellence Program (R.A.C.E.), assists in advising student organizations, student athletes, and serves on several university committees.

Additionally, Ms. Campbell teaches a Freshman Year Experience course for the R.A.C.E. Program, has been a co-instructor for the summer freshman student-athlete course, and is currently co-leading an Honors course on Civil Conversations. She has over 15 years of experience in working in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, student recruitment and retention, and has taught mathematics at the high school and college level. She is a member of NASPA, NAME (current president of the TN Chapter of NAME), and an active member of her sorority. She has diversity certification through Cornell University. Her Bachelor's degree is in Chemical Engineering from Auburn University and she holds a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She enjoys listening to music, attending concerts and various art events, traveling, spending time with friends and family, reading and volunteering.

Dr. Contrecia Tharpe: Session 4



"An Inclusive Culture: Leveraging Marketing & Communication to Build Stronger Community in Higher Education"

Dr. Contrecia T. Tharpe, affectionately known as Dr. T, is an award-winning marketing, branding, and communications practitioner with FayeVaughn Creative, a boutique integrated marketing and communications firm in Nashville. With over 14 years of experience in the industry, she has worked with national and international brands, businesses, and individuals in the non-profit, sports, entertainment, travel, small business, and education sectors. She advocates for small and medium business and brand success and works to maximize and identify opportunities, craft strategies, and create solid business foundations for her clients.

Contrecia is President-Elect of women's leadership organization Nashville CABLE and youth advocacy organization Impact Youth Outreach, Vice-Chair of Communications for the Nashville Chapter of American Marketing Association, Chair of Communications for WHET (Women in Higher Education in Tennessee), a mentor with SCORE and Nashville's Entrepreneur Center, a member of the 2023 class of Nashville Business Journal's 40 Under 40, and co-founder of The DREAM Initiative - a reentry resource, education, and support organization focusing on preparing incarcerated men and women across Tennessee for a successful release.

Having obtained her doctorate from Trevecca Nazarene University in 2019, she was previously a faculty member in the communications department at Lipscomb University and Tennessee State University, where she taught public speaking, marketing, advertising, and communications courses. Her second book, *Getting to Done*, will be released in 2024. She is currently authoring her first textbook, *Strategic Integrated Marketing Communications: Practical Theory and Application*, which will be available for use in 2025.

She resides in Nashville with her 16-year-old son, Braylon.

2023-2024 Executive Board Members



Ms. Elizabeth White
President



Dr. Crystal Banks
1st Vice President



Dr. Crystal Banks
2nd Vice President



Dr. Erica Lee
Treasurer



Ms. Diane Bonner
Recording Secretary



Mrs. LauraAnn Vaughn
Graduate Student
Representative



Dr. Phyllis Adams
Historian



Dr. Taura Jefferson
West TN Representative



Ms. Laura Horton
Photographer



Ms. Ramona Wiggins
Photographer



Ms. Patricia Burks-Jelks
Past President
ACE State Chair



Dr. Shanna Jackson
Community College
Presidential Advisor
Ex-Officio



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