Leading Against All Odds:  
12th Annual MSU Women’s Leadership Conference  
Lydia Weiss

Each year the MSU Women’s Leadership Conference offers a unique opportunity for student leaders to connect with one another and engage in thoughtful conversations and leadership skill building. This year’s conference was no exception. In celebration of its 12th year and the campus/community wide Project 60/50, this year’s conference theme was “Leading Against All Odds.” In commemoration of the hard-won fight for Civil Rights in the United States and the continued tireless efforts of community leaders and social justice advocates, we honored this legacy by welcoming Spartan alum, Ms. Lauren Aitch as the conference Keynote Speaker.

As the daughter of a man who was instrumental to racially integrating Michigan State University and her own struggles with a torn ACL in the prime of her career as an MSU Women’s Basketball player, to losing her father at a young age, Ms. Aitch is no stranger to leading against all odds. Her journey to success led her to playing professional basketball for one year, developing her own clothing line and starting The Aitch Foundation, which raises funds for research into early detection devices for all types of cancers. Ms. Aitch highlighted the keys to successful leadership as: Responsibility, Accountability, Integrity, Commitment, Caring and to Be Teachable.

After Ms. Aitch’s inspiring keynote address, participants delved into hands-on learning offered in over fifteen workshops. Topics included: resiliency, how to overcome procrastination, self-care, benefits of taking risks, financial literacy, resume and interviewing skills and empowerment for women leaders. To conclude the conference, Jasmine Baker served as the Student Keynote Speaker. She discussed her own path through leading against all odds and explained that despite the financial and emotional strain of college, she is on track to graduate this academic year. She inspired participants to realize that although they may have well-laid plans, sometimes the course on the way to their goal may be winding, but with a little perseverance and belief in yourself, anything is possible.

Congratulations to the Women’s Initiative for Leadership Development (WILD) for hosting another successful conference! Additionally, we would like to thank our many co-sponsors for helping to make this event possible.

What did the participants say they gained from the MSU Women’s Leadership Conference?

* “Never give up on yourself;”
* “Confidence in my ability to succeed despite all odds;”
* “Inspiration and clarity on what my next steps will be;”
* “More about how to succeed being a leader as a minority woman and the characteristics to be an amazing leader;”
* “I gained opportunities to discuss relevant issues for women leaders with a wide variety of diverse women.”

Women’s Networking Association  
*Fall Semester @ A Glance*  
FREE and open to all! RSVP required.  
Please call (517) 353-1635 or email wrc@msu.edu (with “Networking” in the subject line).

“Negotiation for Women” - Wednesday, December 17, 2014  
Choose one of two sessions (8:30AM—10:00AM OR 3:30PM—5:00PM), N476 North Business College Complex. It is common for women to feel intimidated by negotiating salaries and benefits. This session will help alleviate those fears and empower participants to negotiate like a pro. Presented by Dr. Jennifer Dunn, Assistant Professor, MSU Department of Management.

Watch for the Spring 2015 sessions in the January issue of Wisdom, Words & Women!!!

The mission of the Women’s Networking Association (WNA) is to connect professional women across campus through meaningful and empowering relationships. Providing an opportunity for women to network and support one another is an essential step for building women’s leadership at Michigan State University and in the Greater Lansing community.

“Advancing gender equity through education and access to resources” –

Gender Matters!
Protest, Power and Perseverance: from 1964 to 2014
Meg Abebe

Civil Rights is celebrated every day through the expression of freedom. Brown v. Board of Education which ruled all segregated schools unconstitutional and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 both served as catalysts for true social change. However, these new laws and court orders could never have been made possible without the work of activists.

Project 60/50—which marks the 60th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act—works all year long to give recognition for people who have made this country a better place. However, for women, the face of the Civil Rights Movement tends to brush them aside. Men usually have been placed at the forefront and sometimes, the only, contributors of the social movement. Rosa Parks often times provides the face for women in this movement—but the acknowledgement usually stops there.

The MSU Women’s Resource Center is committed to ending gender inequality and works to remove these harmful ideas. In collaboration with MSU 60/50, the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), local women invested in civil rights were brought to MSU and presented their stories of triumph and bravery. Protest, Power, and Perseverance: Women in the Civil Rights Movement took place on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. The event showcased a panel of phenomenal women who have contributed to forming a better country for all.

**Their Stories**

The women included: Dr. Eva Evans, who served as the 24th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and chairwoman for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights; former Lansing School District Principal, Carmen Benavides, who shared her stories and experiences during the civil rights movement from the perspective of a Mexican American; Dr. Freya Anderson Rivers, one of the first black students at Louisiana State University; and History Doctoral candidate Jewell Debman.

Debman, as a doctoral student, was able to add insight from research to the discussions on women in the Civil Rights. “My current research focuses on women who were involved in the Charleston Hospital Strike in South Carolina.” Debman said, “There were 12 workers who were unceremoniously fired. Their main issues outside of 12 people being fired were about low wages, where they were making $1.30 an hour.” Debman said, “Which is still pretty low, even for 1969.”

Debman, as a student, was able to present her historical research on women in the civil rights movement and provide information on less commonly known events. In contrast, the other women on the panel shared their personal experiences.

“I did walk the streets of Detroit with Dr. King. It was not as big as the March on Washington, but it was all of Detroit who showed up and that was important.” Evans said, “I lived through the movement. All the things people talked about—I lived through it.”

The Civil Rights Movement was also able to be expressed in a perspective other than that of African Americans. Benavides was able to cite her father’s experience as a unique example of discrimination against Mexicans in the Lansing area.

“He had just returned from World War II and he was not allowed to eat in a restaurant.” Benavides said, “They had called the police.” The former Lansing principal was able to bridge the experiences of Mexican Americans and African Americans living during this particular era. “Even though we didn’t live in the south and did not experience the horrible history of what it was like to be a slave, we still had a lot of limitations as U.S. Citizens.”

Benavides’ father, as a veteran, had pins on his shirt to honor the bravery he showed during the war. The policeman who came on site was able to recognize her father’s medallions and showed his respect. “He forced the restaurant to serve him,” Benavides said, “but that should have never happened.” Benavides, as a Mexican American living in Lansing, Michigan, could relate her experiences to blacks living in the south during the same period.

In addition to Benavides, Dr. Freya Anderson Rivers, author of the memoir Swallowed Tears and one of the first black students to enroll at Louisiana State University (LSU) also had a very personal experience to share. In 1963, when Baton Rouge decided to implement integration in schools, Rivers faced heavy backlash. At the time, Rivers was a high school senior and one of the few black students to apply for desegregated schooling. After being hand-picked from a select group of students, Rivers started school at LSU after Labor Day. “It wasn’t a surprise to us we were met with all kinds of insults. We were driven to school each day of that year in taxis because the school could not guarantee our safety.” Rivers said, “When the taxi arrived the first morning there were groups of people that police kept on the other side of the street with placards and posters saying ‘Go home nigger, we don’t want you here’ and ‘Go back to Africa.’”

Rivers’ story helped provide insight to a generation who may not typically be directly affected from the harshness of 1960’s integration.

**Connections to a Younger Generation**

Despite the vast improvement from that era, people of color are still facing a number of challenges when it comes to achieving equality in the United States. From racist Halloween costume parties to nooses appearing outside of black students dorm rooms, there is still blatant discrimination in our schooling system.

Earlier this year, members from the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at Arizona State University thought it was a good idea to host a “Thug Party” on Martin Luther King Day. Students draped themselves in backward hats and basketball jerseys and held watermelon cups while promoting other racist caricatures in reference to the late civil rights leader. The fraternity was suspended immediately by the university.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. In 2013 at the University of Michigan, Theta Xi invited students to their Facebook event titled: ‘World Star: Hood Ratchet Thursday’ where invites encouraged
students to dress in stereotypical fashion and even featured a twerking contest. Allen Wu, the student who created the event defended his actions after receiving negative response. According to the opinion piece he wrote in The Michigan Daily, Wu claimed that he intended the party to be completely hip-hop oriented and not viewed under a "racial lens". Wu claims that Hip-Hop is not necessarily a black thing, but more so a part of popular culture.

In 2011, MSU experienced its own form of racist opposition towards black students. A few events such as a noose of a black doll in a chemistry lab and a student walking to her dorm to find “No Niggers” scribbled on her door shocked students. These hate crimes fostered a very unwelcoming community for black students at MSU and thus inspired a trending topic on Twitter: #MSUBlackUnity and a gathering at Conrad Hall to discuss racial biases on campus.

It is much easier for people to revolt against much more obvious attempts at discrimination, but sometimes it is the most hidden form of racism that is the most lethal.

Concealed Racism

None of the incidents mentioned happened without some backlash. Articles published from the local and national levels were produced, statements were made, communities got together—we are no longer living in an era where black students can be spit on, violently assaulted or mocked without at least some response condemning these actions. However, racism still thrives in our educational systems because it is much more calculated and concealed than it was 50 years ago.

With illusions of power given by the image of a black man in the Oval Office and unprecedented amounts of black students receiving college degrees, racism is sometimes not seen as big of an issue anymore. On the contrary, there are still factors of white privilege and institutionalized racism that are firmly put in place and that continue to harm people of color in the United States.

Blatant instances of discrimination are what drives people together to promote change, but these are viewed as a rarity. Barely are there any movements or national outcry towards more subtle forms of racism which are still very harmful.

In 2014, there are still racist undertones and offensive comments uttered towards people of color. These actions are otherwise known as microaggressions.

A microaggression is an act made by a dominant group that often times alienates or offends minority cultures. Microaggressions can come in the form of comments such as “You’re different from other black people” or telling someone of Hispanic/Latino origin that they speak English very well. People of Color undergo microaggressions every day, especially when placed in settings such as predominantly white institutions.

Students at Michigan State University can certainly relate. Selena Crummie, sophomore from Atlanta, GA and treasurer of Successful Black Women of MSU can attest to this. “My first experience with MSU was a bit uncomfortable, it was my AOP.” Crummie said, “I was one of 3 black women at my orientation.” Crummie’s experience can relate to a lot of people of color, where some may feel alienated at their universities. "For me to be in an atmosphere where there was only three people of my persuasion, it was very new." Crummie said, "I did not feel welcome or invited, coming from a city where minorities are very well represented."

The feeling of being alone is very common for students of color and can foster a very unwelcoming environment.

Inspiring Change

Recent events such as the slaying of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and the murder of Trayvon Martin in Florida has sparked international riots and solidarity movements from across the board. Demonstrations on campus have been initiated, most recently the “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” protest which took place from Beaumont Tower to the East Lansing Police Station.

However, there is still a long way to go.

Sources:


Winter Break Reading List: 
Favorites from the MSU WRC

Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan—An award-winning memoir and instant New York Times bestseller that goes far beyond its riveting medical mystery, Brain on Fire is the powerful account of one woman’s struggle to recapture her identity.

When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she’d gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened?

In a swift and breathtaking narrative, Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family’s inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn’t happen. “A fascinating look at the disease that . . . could have cost this vibrant, vital young woman her life” (People). Brain on Fire is an unforgettable exploration of memory and identity, faith and love, and a profoundly compelling tale of survival and perseverance that is destined to become a classic. Winner of the 2012 Books for a Better Life Award for First Book.

The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears by Dinaw Mengestu—Seventeen years ago, Sepha Stephano fled the Ethiopian Revolution for a new start in the United States. Now he finds himself running a failing grocery store in a poor African-American section of Washington, D.C., his only companions two fellow African immigrants who share his bitter nostalgia and longing for his home continent. Years ago and worlds away Sepha could never have imagined a life of such isolation. As his environment begins to change, hope comes in the form of a friendship with new neighbors Judith and Naomi, a white woman and her biracial daughter. But when a series of racial incidents disturbs the community, Sepha may lose everything all over again.

This Is Where I Leave You by Jonathan Tropper. The death of Judd Foxman’s father marks the first time that the entire Foxman clan has congregated in years. There is, however, one conspicuous absence: Judd’s wife, Jen, whose affair with his radio-shock-jock boss has recently become painfully public. Simultaneously mourning the demise of his father and his marriage, Judd joins his dysfunctional family as they reluctantly sit shiva—and spend seven days and nights under the same roof. The week quickly spins out of control as longstanding grudges resurface, secrets are revealed and old passions are reawakened. Then Jen delivers the clincher: she’s pregnant.

The Honest Life by Jessica Alba—As a new mom, Jessica Alba wanted to create the safest, healthiest environment for her family. But she was frustrated by the lack of trustworthy information on how to live healthier and cleaner—delivered in a way that a busy mom could act on without going to extremes. In 2012, with serial entrepreneur Brian Lee and environmental advocate Christopher Gavigan, she launched The Honest Company, a brand where parents can find reliable information and products that are safe, stylish, and affordable. The Honest Life shares the insights and strategies she gathered along the way.

The Honest Life recounts Alba’s personal journey of discovery and reveals her tips for making healthy living fun, real, and stylish, while offering a candid look inside her home and daily life. She shares strategies for maintaining a clean diet (with favorite family-friendly recipes) and embraces nontoxic choices at home and provides eco-friendly decor tips to fit any budget. Alba also discusses cultivating a daily eco-beauty routine, finding one’s personal style without resorting to yoga pants, and engaging in fun, hands-on activities with kids. Her solutions are easy, chic, and down-to-earth: they’re honest. And discovering everyday ways to live naturally and authentically—true to you—could be honestly life-changing.

Not That Kind of Girl by Lena Dunham—In Not That Kind of Girl, Dunham illuminates the experiences that are part of making one’s way in the world: falling in love, feeling alone, being ten pounds overweight despite eating only health food, having to prove yourself in a room full of men twice your age, finding true love, and most of all, having the guts to believe that your story is one that deserves to be told.

Exuberant, moving, and keenly observed, Not That Kind of Girl is a series of dispatches from the frontlines of the struggle that is growing up. “I’m already predicting my future shame at thinking I had anything to offer you,” Dunham writes. “But if I can take what I’ve learned and make one menial job easier for you, or prevent you from having the kind of sex where you feel you must keep your sneakers on in case you want to run away during the act, then every misstep of mine will have been worthwhile.”

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison—The Bluest Eye, published in 1970, is the first novel written by Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. It is the story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove - a black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others - who prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning and the tragedy of its fulfillment.

From the 1993 Nobel Prize-winner comes a novel “so charged with pain and wonder that it becomes poetry” (The New York Times). First published in 1965, The Bluest Eye is the story of a black girl who prays -- with unforeseen consequences--for her eyes to turn blue so she will be accepted.

Source: Barnesandnoble.com

December 2014
We are all quite aware of just how stressful the holiday season can be. With the snow beginning to cover the ground and the holiday music already taking over local radio stations, it’s hard to deny that this quickly-approaching season is actually here. Whether it be wrestling fellow last-minute shoppers for the only remaining Lego Castle (on the top of your niece’s wish list) or trying to organize who is bringing which foods to your family’s holiday dinner, December can surely take a toll on a person’s mental health.

Stress from traveling, financial pressures, and family drama can very quickly pile up and threaten to suppress the joy associated with the holiday season. However, before you let this happen, try to fight off the stress with a little holiday humor! Instead of being upset that Grandma forgot her famous apple pie or that two people bought you the same exact gift this year, laugh it off! Sharing laughter is a sure way to realize what this time of the year is truly about: time spent with family and friends. Unveil your corniest jokes and do not be afraid to laugh at yourself; nobody is perfect. Another sure way to de-stress is to sit down and watch a funny holiday movie. Seeing a grown man in an elf costume—tights and all—explore the streets of NYC (Elf) or watching a young boy convince his parents that a Red Ryder B.B. Gun is the perfect gift for a nine-year-old (A Christmas Story) is sure to put a smile on your face. A few other movie suggestions: Home Alone, Christmas with the Kranks, National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.

Remember: don’t aim for perfection. If the whole gang is together, there is a very good chance that everything will not go as planned. The holidays are a time to be together; keep in mind how lucky you are to have this time with loved ones. Simply appreciate the great company and try your best not to be too much of a Scrooge this holiday season.

**Humor for the Holidays**

Lauren Dietz

**Donation Drive to Benefit Survivors of Human Trafficking**

Lydia Weiss

This fall, the MSU Women’s Resource Center hosted a donation drive to benefit survivors of human trafficking. From October 20 through November 17, 2014, the Center received approximately 350 items to be donated to survivors in Michigan. Items were collected at the Center, the MSU Women’s Leadership Conference and the Creating Connections to Combat Human Trafficking: Global to Local Perspectives conference (hosted by the Center for Gender in Global Context).

All donations will be distributed through the Michigan Human Trafficking Taskforce. Thank you to everyone who contributed to helping survivors of human trafficking. For more information about the taskforce, visit: http://www.humantrafficking.msu.edu/.

**Where Can I Help?**

MSU Family Resource Center 432-3745
MSU Student Food Bank 432-5136
MSU Safe Place (Advocacy) 432-9570
Advent House 485-4722
Big Brothers, Big Sisters 372-0160
Boys and Girls Club of Lansing 394-0455
Capital Area Literacy Coalition 485-4949
EVE, Inc. 372-5976
Cristo Rey Community Center 372-4700
Ele’s Place 482-1315
Gateway Community Services 351-4000
Greater Lansing Food Bank 908-3698
Greater Lansing Meals on Wheels 887-4307
Hannah’s House 482-5856
Haven House 337-2731
House of Promise 282-9924
Junior Achievement of Mid-MI 371-5437
Lansing Area AIDS Network 394-3560
Lansing City Rescue Mission 485-7145
Lansing Teen Challenge 484-6050
Loaves & Fishes Ministry 482-2099
Old Town Commercial Association 485-4283
Open Door Ministry 485-9477
MI Resource Center on Domestic & Sexual Violence 381-4663
Mother Theresa House 484-5494
Refugee Development Center 482-2252
Ronald McDonald House 485-9825
Salvation Army 482-9715
Sisters Maternity Center 490-5775
Sparrow Volunteer Services 364-3606
Women’s Center of Greater Lansing 372-9163

**Giving Thanks to Your Community**

MSU WRC Staff

The holiday season is a time to give thanks for the many gifts we have in life. Our community has provided many of those things we are all grateful for. The MSU Women’s Resource Center urges all of our readers to thank their community this season by volunteering, giving back, and helping those who may not be as fortunate. Thank you!
Congratulations to Natalie Genna; winner of the 2014 Women’s Leadership Conference Student Essay!!!

“LEADING AGAINST ALL ODDS”

All it Takes is One Shake

Natalie Genna

I put on a mask,
To complete these tasks
That I know have no purpose
Because my opinions,
And my propositions
Are considered just a circus

How do you lead in a world full of men,
Too afraid to shake your hand?
And if you could lead,
Against all odds,
Would they follow your commands?

She’s bossy,
She’s crazy,
She’s way out of hand
But if he was in my position,
Making my decisions,
They’d be his number one fan

I know a follower is something I am not,
So I can’t let one little thing,
Let my hopes and dreams get squashed

Standing tall,
My hands firm,
And with everything I got,
I command attention
Of the man’s extension
And I lead right on the spot

Natalie Genna is a Senior at Michigan State University, majoring in Packaging.

The mission of the MSU Student Food Bank is to provide supplemental food and necessities to MSU students and their families who are in need of this type of support.

Eligible students can receive canned vegetables, fruits and soup; pastas; cereal; rice and other items as they become available.**

Student Food Bank

DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE
Fall 2014 to Spring 2015

Distributions are held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30PM to 7:30PM in the Olin Cafeteria (Olin Health Center, West Entrance) on the following dates:

FALL 2014
November 5 and 19—December 3

SPRING 2015
January 14 and 28—February 11 and 25
March 18—April 1, 15 and 29

Please verify distribution dates by calling and listening to the outgoing message at (517) 432-5136.

Email questions to: foodbank@msu.edu

**Currently enrolled MSU undergraduate and graduate students who do not have an on-campus meal plan are eligible to use the Food Bank. Don’t forget to bring your MSU Student ID to every distribution you attend, and proof of current enrollment (bill stub, schedule, etc.) to the first distribution of each semester you attend.

For more information, visit: https://www.msu.edu/~foodbank/.

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Monday, December 1, 2014: WORLD AIDS DAY.

Wednesday, December 3, 2014: Tax Changes & Planning. 12:00N—1:00PM, MSU Federal Credit Union – Farm Lane Branch, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing, MI. This seminar will provide information on planning for the upcoming tax season and the changes to anticipate. Presented by Chuck Amboy and Tom Bellgraph. To RSVP, sign up at MSUFCU.org, e-mail pday@msufcu.org or phone 517.664.7725. Co-sponsored by MSUFCU and MSU Women’s Resource Center.

Saturday & Sunday, December 6—7, 2014: MSU Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show. Saturday, 9:00AM-5:00PM & Sunday, 10:00AM-4:00PM, MSU Union. 170 artists will gather on the campus of MSU for the 51st Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show hosted by the University Activities Board. Admission to the show is FREE! Enjoy the sights and sounds of the holiday season and shop for one-of-a-kind hand-crafted items, made by artists from across the nation! For more information, visit: www.uabevents.com.

Thursday, December 11, 2014: Adult Children Caring for Aging Parents. 12:00N—1:00PM, MSU Federal Credit Union – Farm Lane Branch, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing, MI. Adult children often struggle with the issues that arise when their parents age. Unfortunately, our society does little to prepare people to handle these challenges. This program offers attendees an opportunity to understand the issues and to learn more about terms they probably hear but may not understand. Such as different housing options, legal documents, government programs, and probate court. Presented by Chalgian/Tripp. To RSVP, sign up at MSUFCU.org, e-mail pday@msufcu.org or phone 517.664.7725. Co-sponsored by MSUFCU and MSU Women’s Resource Center.


Wednesday, December 17, 2014: Negotiation for Women. Choose one of two sessions (8:30AM—10:00AM OR 3:30PM—5:00PM), N476 North Business College Complex. It is common for women to feel intimidated by negotiating salaries and benefits. This workshop will help alleviate those fears and empower participants to negotiate like a pro. Brought to you by the Women’s Networking Association. Presented by Dr. Jennifer Dunn, Assistant Professor, MSU Department of Management. RSVP to wrc@msu.edu (with “Networking” in the subject line) or 517.353.1635.

Thursday, December 25, 2014: University Closed.

Friday, December 26, 2014: University Closed.

Thursday, January 1, 2015: HAPPY NEW YEAR! University Closed.

Friday, January 2, 2015: University Closed.
FREE
Pre-Finals Childcare!
The MSU Family Resource Center is again offering free pre-finals childcare to MSU students with children; allowing the much needed time they require to study for finals!

Saturday, December 6, 2014
9:00 AM—4:00 PM
($10 deposit required)
Available for children ages 2 weeks—9 years old
LUNCH IS PROVIDED!
(Please bring diapers & baby food if necessary)

SPACE IS LIMITED
~ RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ~
Go to Peoples Church Preschool (200 W. Grand River across from Campus) to complete paperwork and pay deposit. You may call first, 332-2885, to inquire about space availability, however you will not be able to reserve care on the phone.

For more information, contact:
MSU Family Resource Center
(517) 432-3745
www.frc.msu.edu

Wishing you a Happy and Safe Holiday
From the MSU Women’s Resource Center

Save the Date!
The Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Leadership Celebration Conference
◆ Commemorative March
◆ Civil/Human Rights Exhibit & Student Performance
◆ Short Film & Discussion
◆ Resource Fair
◆ Service Learning Initiative
◆ Workshops

Monday, January 19, 2015
9:00 AM
MSU Union Building

ACT LIKE A KING
“A Tribute to Project 60/50: Crossing Borders, Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

Featuring a day of exciting speakers, workshops, and resource fair.

For more information, including additional Commemorative Celebration events, visit the:
Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiative’s website:
www.inclusion.msu.edu/Outreach/MLK.html

www.inclusion.msu.edu/Outreach/MLK.html
Dr. June Pierce Youatt
Named 2014 ATHENA
Award Recipient
Provost and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs of
Michigan State University to be
Honored at Annual ATHENA Award
Luncheon on December 11, 2014.

November 24, 2014—For Immediate Release

(Lansing, MI) – Dr. June Pierce Youatt, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Michigan State University (MSU), will be honored by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce as the 2014 ATHENA Award recipient. Dr. Youatt will be honored at the annual ATHENA Award Luncheon on Thursday, December 11. The luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

“Dr. Youatt’s leadership approach is a mirror of the person each of us wants and, indeed, needs as a colleague and friend,” said Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon, president of MSU. “Simultaneously, June is passionate yet compassionate; strong yet humble; focused on goals yet open to new ideas; a determined visionary yet a consensus builder; unrelenting in the quest for quality yet always ready to lend a hand to those less fortunate; and your worst critic and yet your best friend.”

Dr. Youatt has spent her entire career at MSU, where she is also a professor of Human Development and Family Studies. Dr. Youatt, as the current provost and executive vice president at MSU, helps to ensure the quality of faculty by administering and monitoring procedures and criteria for faculty appointments and promotions, working conditions, and tenure. Dr. Youatt also manages the quality of student learning by overseeing the curriculum while encouraging and coordinating initiatives in undergraduate education. Additionally, Dr. Youatt organizes recruiting and admissions for undergraduate and graduate programs and is responsible for supervising academic and budgetary planning and priorities.

With a career focused so deeply on Human Development and Family Studies, Dr. Youatt has been provided ample opportunity to work directly with young women seeking preparation for career, community involvement and family. This department carries a student body that is nearly 90% female, so the majority of Dr. Youatt’s Masters and Doctoral students are female. While mentoring and helping these women reach their highest potential, Dr. Youatt sought a need to mentor undergraduates as well. Her latest satisfaction is in mentoring undergraduates, particularly first generation college students.

Dr. Youatt’s background in Human Development and Family Studies is significant in her community leadership and involvement, too. Over the years, Dr. Youatt has committed a significant amount of time, talent and energy into serving low-income families and children. She works specifically with Haven House in East Lansing as well as Lansing Christian Services on the Rotating Sanctuary project. In addition, Dr. Youatt works with Love Clothing Center by providing services to clients and organizes local drives for contributions of new school clothing. Dr. Youatt is committed to advocacy for youth in the community.

Started in Lansing in 1982 by Martha Mertz, the ATHENA Award is presented annually in over 500 communities internationally. It recognizes individuals for professional excellence, for providing valuable service to the community and for actively assisting all women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. By honoring exceptional leaders, the ATHENA Award seeks to inspire others to achieve excellence.

The mission of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) is to be the preeminent business advocacy organization in the Greater Lansing region by collaborating for economic growth, creating new opportunities for our members and upholding pro-business ideals through the advancement of sound public policy. More information about LRCC and its programs and services can be found on any of its social media platforms, including www.lansingchamber.org, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Ross Woodstock
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517-706-0001/517-410-7636
Ross@koltpr.com

The ATHENA Award is presented annually to an individual who is recognized for professional excellence, for providing valuable service to the community and for actively assisting all women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. By honoring exceptional leaders, the ATHENA Award seeks to inspire others to achieve excellence.

The ATHENA legacy was born right here in Lansing in the early 80’s by Martha Mertz. Martha served on the Chamber’s Board of Directors and was the only woman amongst her professional peers. She soon realized that the Chamber boardroom did not reflect the reality of the business community. Martha worked to recognize the leadership of outstanding professional and business women in the community and advocated to provide opportunities for them to move into leadership positions.

In 1982, Mertz spearheaded the development of the ATHENA Award, named for the strong and enlightened goddess. Today, ATHENA is a global movement, with more than 6,000 awards having been presented in over 500 communities across the world.

For additional information and/or to register for the Athena Award Luncheon, visit: www.lansingchamber.org under the “Events” tab.

Congratulations
Dr. June Pierce Youatt
Women’s Resource Center

December 2014
HOT OFF THE PRESS!

AFTER FERGUSON TOWNHALL

JOIN US FOR A TOWNHALL ON FERGUSON THAT BREAKS THE SILENCE TO DISCUSS THE RELEVANCE OF RECENT EVENTS TO OUR COMMUNITY. THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE MSU COMMUNITY.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014
TIME: 7:00PM - 8:30PM
LOCATION: BRODY HALL AUDITORIUM, 241 W BRODY RD EAST LANSING, MI 48825

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: ANTONIO L. PEE | PEEANTON@MSU.EDU | 517-884-1796