



ANNUAL
*Student
Leadership
Conference*
EST. 1997
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
ATHENS, GA**

SATURDAY

October 14, 2023

9:00AM - 10:00AM

CHECK IN & RESOURCE FAIR

*Tate Student Center
5th Floor*

10:00AM - 11:00AM

WELCOME & KEYNOTE

Tate Grand Hall

11:00AM - 11:10AM

BREAK

11:10AM - 12:10PM

PRESENTATION BLOCK 1

Tate meeting rooms

12:10PM - 1:10PM

LUNCH

Tate Grand Hall

1:10PM - 1:20PM

BREAK

1:20PM - 2:20PM

PRESENTATION BLOCK 2

Tate meeting rooms

2:20PM - 2:30PM

BREAK

2:30PM - 3:30PM

PRESENTATION BLOCK 3

Tate meeting rooms

3:30PM - 4:00PM

CLOSING SOCIAL

Tate South Lawn

PRESENTATION TRACKS

CE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CL COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

IL INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

P PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

W WELL-BEING



Learn more: Extra Special People (ESP) exists to create transformative experiences for people with disabilities and their families, changing communities for the better. A program empowered by ESP, Java Joy spreads unmatched joy through moments of engagement with people of all abilities.

WELCOME & KEYNOTE

10:00AM - 11:00AM



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Laura Hope Whitaker, CEO, Extra Special People
Tate Grand Hall

Laura Hope Whitaker, M. Ed., began her relationship with Extra Special People, Inc. by working as a counselor and, subsequently, a leadership team member in 2003. With her passion for enhancing the lives of children with developmental disabilities and her specialized education in this field, Laura was selected as the director after the founder, Martha Wyllie's sudden passing in 2004. She has found her dream job with ESP - or as she says, her dream job found her! As CEO, Laura uses her faith along with her leadership and management strengths to manage staff, oversee multiple year-round programs and raise funds to run programs. Her favorite part of the job is getting to hug the many children who walk through the ESP doors. Laura obtained both her Bachelor's degree in Collaborative Special Education and her Master's degree in Adapted Curriculum Classic Autism at the University of Georgia.

PRESENTATION BLOCK 1

11:10AM - 12:10PM



LEADERS SERVE FIRST: DEVELOPING YOUR LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE **CE**

Erica Lee, Assistant Director for Community Engagement
Tate Reception Hall (135)

Service is uniquely powerful. When you volunteer, you share your time and talents to increase the well-being of your community while developing your skills, values, and interests further as a leader. These benefits multiply when you and the group you lead volunteers together. Through this session, learn how to start or continue to develop a practice of service in your leadership to maximize the benefits to yourself and the groups you lead.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE THROUGH UNIVERSAL DESIGN **IL**

Jessica Green, Graduate Assistant for the Disability Resource Center
Kalina Hill, Test Administration Assistant
Tate 137

How can you value everyone's unique perspectives as a leader — and why is this so important? In this session, we will discuss the importance of inclusive leadership and explore ways to put this into practice. By making sure everyone's voice is valued, we can build more effective teams and come up with more innovative approaches to building engagement. We will explore these ideas through universal design strategies and how student leaders can incorporate these strategies into their own teams. Learn more about planning inclusive events, ensuring your social media is accessible to everyone, and the value of having diverse perspectives on your team.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP: THE FUTURE OF TEAM DYNAMICS **CL IL**

Gregory Dolezal, Chair, LEAP-GSN
Tate 138

Leadership requires adapting to increasing complexity. Future leaders need tools that promote inclusivity, creativity, and a collective sense of purpose. This session seeks to develop an understanding of collaborative leadership, allowing for more effective, empathetic, and innovative leaders in a diverse, interconnected world. Collaborative leadership can drive organizational success through undiscovered human resources. The presentation explores the core principles, benefits, and challenges of collaborative learning, including discussing strategies for incorporating collaborative leadership into organizations that might be used to more traditional, hierarchical models.

LEADING YOURSELF THROUGH CHALLENGES **W**

Josh Hudson, Senior Coordinator for Facilities and Operations

Tate 141

Personal Well-Being and Personal Leadership are critical skills for young professionals to develop. As someone with relatable experiences students, I hope that sharing my experiences and the lessons learned from those experiences can be insightful for others who are developing their sense of identity, hoping to develop as a leader, and trying to overcome challenges. Since arriving at UGA in Summer of 2014 as an undergraduate, developing my own Personal Well-Being and Personal Leadership has been integral to becoming who I am today.

LEADERSHIP IS LIKE P.I.E. **P** **CL**

Xavier Williams, Graduate Resident, University Housing

Tate 142

The students on our campus are no longer the leaders of tomorrow; instead, they are today's leaders. Through working in K-12 and higher education, it is evident that student leaders often can miss the opportunity to be transformational leaders on their campuses because they do not see themselves as one. This session encourages presentation attendees to be transformative leaders by identifying their purpose, recognizing the power of their influence, and striving to empower those around them. Students will better understand their potential as leaders and equip themselves with practical tools and strategies applicable to their academic pursuits at the University of Georgia and their careers.

THE ROLE OF MENTORSHIP IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT **P** **CL**

Aria Morrill, Director of Professional Development and Internal Relations for UMP

Victoria Bowman

Tate 473

Are you beginning to cultivate the leader within you? Or are you a more seasoned leader, and could use some guidance on decision-making or where to take your group? Behind every great leader, there is a great mentor. From Mahatma Gandhi mentoring Nelson Mandela to Maya Angelou mentoring Oprah Winfrey, know that you do not have to lead alone. In this session, take some time and invest in yourself by learning how mentorship can take your leadership skills to the next level.

VULNERABILITY IN LEADERSHIP: A CALL TO YOUNG LEADERS **W**

Riley McClure, Video Producer, University Housing

Tate 480

Emphasizing the universal importance of vulnerability, this presentation delves into how authenticity fosters trust, and how building relatable content strengthens community ties. Aspiring UGA leaders are urged to establish genuine connections within this tight-knit community, dispelling common myths associating vulnerability with weakness. Attendees will be equipped with techniques to harness openness effectively while being conscious of potential pitfalls.

LUNCH
12:10PM - 1:10PM



Tate Grand Hall

Enjoy lunch options including Surcheros Fresh Mex and Chick-fil-A. We'll also have the UGA vs. Vanderbilt football game on so you can cheer on the Bulldogs!

PRESENTATION BLOCK 2

1:20PM - 2:20PM



GLOBAL DAWGS - PART 1 **IL**

Linden Dudley, Director of International Student Life

Tate Reception Hall (135)

Global Dawgs allows students to explore and develop intercultural competency and communication skills. It also allows participants to learn more about international students in a US University setting and learn best practices for cross-cultural learning. Participants will learn effective intercultural communication skills and develop intercultural leadership skills.

DAWG ALLY TRAINING - PART 1 **IL**

Thomas Atkins, Assistant Director of the Pride Center

Cefari Langford, Graduate Assistant for the Pride Center

Tate 145

The Dawg Ally program at UGA is a training for faculty, staff, and students who are interested in learning about gender and sexual identity, homophobia, heterosexism, and how they can provide support and work toward being an ally for the LGBTQIA+ community. This is a two-part training. Capacity is limited to 25

THE SECRET TO LEADING HIGH PERFORMING TEAMS **CL**

Kelsey Wohlford, Graduate Assistant for Governing Councils

Tate 138

The secret may lie in the five stages of group development: forming, storming, norming, performing, and adjourning. Learn about group dynamics that can be applied to various student groups through interactive activities and a new look on how groups work together.

HOW ARE YOU CREATIVE? **CL**

Kevin Gecowets, Senior Consultant

Tate 139

Everyone has creative potential. Instead of asking, "How creative are you?" ask, "How are you creative?" 60-years of research by the Creative Education Foundation and major universities has revealed a basic process common to all creative efforts. Gain insight into developing a creative problem-solving mindset, engaging teams' creative potential to generate great ideas, improving communication, and reducing conflict.

LET'S TALK LEADERSHIP **P**

Aliya Cannon, Graduate Resident

Tate 141

This experience is designed to walk attendees through self-realization experiences to understand and begin stepping into their authentic leadership style. Leadership looks different for everyone although we are typically taught the stereotypical and systematic norms of what leadership is. This session allows attendees to see themselves in spaces as a leader without conforming to their environment and provides them with the confidence to do the same once they leave. Let's redefine leadership by empowering our leaders to be authentically who they are meant to be when they lead.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR WORK ATMOSPHERE **P** **CL**

Dawson Templin, Vice President, Omicron Delta Kappa

Tate 142

We often have mentors and role models we look up to, but why are they important? Mentorship is fundamental to personal and professional success, but especially so in the context of a student organization or work environment. Participants in this interactive workshop will gain an understanding of the impact of mentorship and identify opportunities to build mentorship legacies within their own organizations.

TIME & ENERGY MANAGEMENT **W**

Madison Drummond, Program Coordinator for Student Initiatives and Programs

Tate 473

As a student leader, time feels like your greatest, and most scarce, resource. How do you create schedules and routines that serve you as both an individual and a leader? How do you avoid feelings of stress and burnout? Becoming a great leader requires service to both your community and yourself. Join the presenter and your peers to learn more about time blocking, how to reduce energy suck, and more.

HOW TO BE AN IMPACTFUL LEADER **CE**

Dailey Jackson

Tate 480

Have you ever wanted to make more of an impact in your community? Are you a new leader who wants to identify the traits that make great leaders...well, great? This presentation will highlight some key strategies and tips that will build your credibility and skills in leadership roles. While there are many different types of leaders and it is impossible to be the best leader for every single person, this talk will highlight traits seen in leaders both at the University of Georgia as well as many other leadership conferences and seminars around the country to show how truly versatile leadership can be. Throughout the presentation, short activities and personal stories will help to show some of the things I think make up successful, impactful leaders.

PRESENTATION BLOCK 3 2:30PM - 3:30PM



GLOBAL DAWGS - PART 2 **IL**

Linden Dudley, Director of International Student Life

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LEADING WITH INCLUSION: THE ROLE OF INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP **IL**

Victoria Gathings, Senior Program Coordinator for Multicultural Services & Programs

Keri Pompey, Senior Program Coordinator for Multicultural Services & Programs

Tate 138

Define inclusive. Define leadership. Together, we will define inclusive leadership, why it is important, and discuss qualities and behaviors of an inclusive leader including empathy, active listening, and open-mindedness. Learn how to build inclusive spaces and how they may benefit your organization or team.

CLIFTONSTRENGTHS 101 P

Lori Crawford, Associate Director for Engagement, Leadership, and Service

Tate 139

Gallup has found that people who focus on their strengths are 3x as likely to report having an excellent quality of life. The key to success is fully understanding how to apply your talents and strengths in your everyday life. Bring your CliftonStrengths results to this session and we'll discuss how to name, claim, and aim your strengths towards future success.

BUILDING INCLUSIVE ALLIANCES: A GUIDE TO INTERSECTIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CE IL

Carlos Rodriguez Flores, Residence Hall Director

Tate 141

Welcome to a transformative journey in leadership through community engagement! Together, we'll embark on a dynamic exploration arming you with the wisdom, abilities, and savvy strategies to amplify your leadership prowess in nurturing inclusive alliances within diverse communities. Through this immersive experience, we're igniting the spark within to become an influential leader who thrives on connecting, empathizing with, and championing individuals and groups from every corner of community engagement.

THE POWER OF YOU: BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL BRAND IS KNOWING WHERE TO START P

Sharnice Brown, DEI Student Success Coordinator

Tate 142

The presentation will walk through the importance of taking care of self and being an internal leader in order for that external leader to succeed. Through personal reflection, we will build a personal 'brand' and discuss how to promote that brand. The presentation stresses the importance of starting with self.

BUILDING LEADERS, ONE PEER AT A TIME: THE PLA APPROACH CL

Amelia Strehli, Peer Leading Assistant

Tate 473

Leading peers is a unique type of leadership, one that requires teamwork, mutual respect, and positivity. Peer leadership can cultivate skills such as inspiring growth and self-confidence. Research details why peer learning models are effective in positive academic and social relationships. Join me to discover how you can be a peer leader!

FROM OVERWHELMED TO OVERCOMING: BEATING COLLEGE BURNOUT AND LEADING WITH PURPOSE W

Mackenzie White, Senior Coordinator for Student Transitions

Tate 480

This interactive session is designed to guide student leaders in refining their priorities and leadership commitments to avoid over-commitment and burnout. Learning to strike a balance is crucial for personal well-being and success. Participants will be able to discover the transformative power of aligning their extracurricular commitments with their core values to reduce burnout and find fulfillment in their endeavors.

CLOSING SOCIAL
3:30PM - 4:00PM



Tate South Lawn

Join us for networking and celebration as we close out a day of learning. The Closing Social will feature door prizes, a photo booth, and Alumni Cookie Dough!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Student Affairs **UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

International Student Life
Multicultural Services & Programs
Pride Center
Well-being Resources



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 27TH ANNUAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE!

You will receive an email with an assessment link following the conference. We invite you to provide feedback about your experience.



Engagement, Leadership, and Service

Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA