Thursday, September 23, Plenary Session: Mobilizing Women’s Inclusive Leadership Skills

Provided by Campus Women Lead Facilitators Gertrude Fraser and Kathleen Wong

Gertrude Fraser is currently vice provost for Faculty Advancement at the University of Virginia. Under her leadership, UVA achieved the highest acceptance rates for African American and women faculty candidates in its history. Among her successful faculty development efforts at UVA is a search committee diversity training program, a chair leadership initiative and a program to enhance faculty’s success with scholarly writing. With twenty years experience at large research universities, she has developed the tools and insights to help underrepresented groups of both genders thrive in these complex organizations. Dr. Fraser earned her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and her doctorate in medical anthropology from The Johns Hopkins University. She is the author of African American Midwifery in the South: Dialogues of Birth, Race, and Memory (Harvard University Press). In addition to her administrative responsibilities, Gertrude continues to conduct scholarly research on African American health.

Kathleen Wong (Lau) is an assistant professor in the School of Communication at Western Michigan University. Her research and teaching focuses on the areas of intercultural communication and gender, and communication with a special focus on women of color and other underrepresented groups in organizational settings. Her scholarly activities and grants include researching the impact of formal and informal policies on the racial and gender climate in institutions of higher learning. Before her appointment at WMU, Ms. Wong (Lau) served as a senior staff trainer in the Office of Intergroup Relations in the Office of the Provost at Arizona State University, and as a consultant to the president on issues impacting the campus and local Muslim/Muslim American communities. Ms. Wong (Lau) received her B.S. in intercultural communication at California State University. She completed her Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 2007.

About Campus Women Lead

Campus Women Lead (CWL) is a multicultural alliance promoting a women-led agenda for the sustained transformation of higher education for the twenty-first century. An affiliate of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, CWL includes leaders across all campus levels and divisions, within research centers, and from non-governmental organizations.

Campus Women Lead workshops are designed to promote women’s leadership as an everyday, everywhere practice that functions at its best when it builds multicultural alliances among people from diverse backgrounds, across different sectors and levels of the academy. The workshops also guide participants as they identify the cultural resources that are integral to effective leadership and develop innovative strategies for building inclusive institutions. Through dialogue, personal and systemic analysis, and capacity building exercises, CWL workshops aim to create new methods and spaces for communication, collaboration, and learning that redefine what leadership is and can become.