Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence
2023-2024 Highlights
The Office of the Provost and the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence honored three Purdue alumnae for their outstanding scholarly contributions during an award reception on March 22 in Purdue Memorial Union, Anniversary Drawing Room. Awards were presented by Peter Hollenbeck, vice provost for faculty affairs and Linda Mason, dean of the graduate school.

Patrice Buzzanell, who earned her PhD in communications in 1987 from the Brian Lamb School of Communication. She is Distinguished University Professor & Chair at the University of South Florida Department of Communication.

Gladys Francis, who earned her PhD in French and Francophone Studies in 2008 from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. is Professor of Africana, French, and Francophone Studies and Associate Dean for Academic Student Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University.

Seetha Raghavan, who earned her PhD in aeronautics and astronautics in 2008 from the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She is a Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies of the College Engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.
Inclusive Mentoring

A room full of faculty, staff, and students gathered to network and learn about Inclusive Mentoring on Friday, April 14th.

The following people spoke on this panel session:
- Melanie Morgan, Associate Dean, Graduate School, Professor, Brian Lamb School of Communication
- Kris Acheson-Clair, Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentorship, Assessment and Research Director
- Linda J. Mason, Dean, Graduate School and Professor, Department of Entomology
- Levon Esters, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Faculty Affairs, Polytechnic Institute, Professor, Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication, Director, Mentoring@Purdue Program
- Melissa Robertson, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences.
Staff Lunch and Learn
Working with Technology:
Tips for Staff Excellence

Purdue staff were invited to participate in a lunch and learn program titled “Working with Technology: Tips for Staff Excellence” hosted by the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence on Tuesday, July 18. Speakers spoke about tips on widely used programs and platforms (i.e. Teams, Zoom, Success Factors, social media, etc.).
Welcome Back Reception

The Butler Center hosted a welcome back reception in August for our biggest supporters.

We celebrated by having an ice cream sundae bar!
Conference For Assistant Professors

In September, the Butler Center hosted the 14th annual Conference for Assistant Professors. The theme was built on thriving and growing together: building a vibrant, healthy, impactful community for women’s academic success. The keynote speaker was Dr. Rachel T.A. Croson (Provost, UMN). We hosted roundtable discussions, speed coaching, and panel sessions.
December 2023 Awards

2023 Leadership in Action Awards

Faculty category:
Preeti Sivasankar, Professor and Department Head of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Staff category:
Pamela K. Sari, Director of the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center

Student category:
Lexy Chiwete Arinze, Graduate Student, Civil Engineering and Engineering Education
Morgan Murff, Student, Plant Science

2023-24 Research Project Grant for Assistant and Associate Professors

Caroline K. Marete, (PI) Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology
Debra Henneberry, (Co-PI) Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology
Cheng Wang, (Co-PI) Assistant Professor, Aviation, Minnesota State University
Ashley Habig, (Co-PI) Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Aviation and Transportation Technology

December 2023
Women and Inclusive Leadership

The program featured a panel discussion on Women and Inclusive Leadership: Leading Across Differences followed by roundtable discussions and opportunities for networking.

This event was co-sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging and was open to all Purdue faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Speakers:
- Lynne Dahmen, Senior Managing Director, Purdue's Institute for a Sustainable Future
- Chenell Loudermill, Clinical Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- Jennifer William, Professor and Head of the School of Languages and Cultures
Together with the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, the Butler Center hosted a special luncheon to celebrate the beginning of Women’s History Month on March 1, 12 - 2pm (PMU North Ballroom).

All faculty, staff, post-docs, and graduate students were invited to attend.

At this event we highlighted the Butler Center’s new “Celebrate Purdue Women” initiative and featured several notable women from Purdue both past and present through fun and interactive programming (e.g., trivia games, table conversations).

The event also featured several invited speakers representing the university leadership at Purdue to give brief congratulatory remarks.

The overarching goal of the event was to facilitate Purdue women’s sense of community and belonging through opportunities for informal networking and collective reflection on leadership excellence.
This award honors alumni who earned a Purdue doctorate, have made significant scholarly contributions to their respective academic communities, and in doing so have contributed extensively to the advancement of women in academia.

We love that award ceremonies give us an opportunity to bring visibility to the support networks that uplift honorees and to celebrate their leadership excellence in advancing women’s success.

Holly M. Matusovich
PhD in Engineering Education, Purdue University
Associate Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies
Professor of Engineering Education
Virginia Tech

Lynn Schreyer
PhD in Applied Mathematics, Purdue University
Professor of Mathematics and Statistics
Washington State University

Evelyn M. Simien
PhD in Political Science, Purdue University
Professor in the Department of Political Science
University of Connecticut

March 2024
Mentoring Community Lunch

The mentoring community gathered for lunch on April 2 at Dauch Alumni Center. This included the Speed Coaching Network and Mentoring Triad participants only. Sang Woo provided some short remarks.
In January 2024, we launched a new initiative entitled “Celebrate Purdue Women” to highlight Purdue women faculty, staff, students, and alumni in our newsletter, social media pages, and on our website.

We see celebration as a powerful way of thanking, honoring, and bringing visibility to our interconnectedness – with the faces and stories of impactful individuals who are making a difference building a vibrant, healthy, and impactful community for women’s success on Purdue’s campus and beyond.
Meet the Butler Center Team!

Sang Eun Woo, Director
Katricia Sanchez, Program Manager
Destinee Boatman, Senior Administrative Assistant
Kelsey Patton, Communication Specialist