Women’s Conference 2014

The purpose of the Women’s Conference is to encourage workshops and programs that educate the Colorado State University and surrounding Fort Collins communities about issues involving gender identity. This is a student produced event with the help of campus and community partners.

This year’s theme “Looking Back, Reaching Forward” is designed to encourage the CSU and surrounding communities to incorporate history as well as past generations into current issues in order to take action towards issues around gender and social justice on a local, national and international level.

**General Schedule**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>Registration/Check In</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-10:15am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>10:15am-11:00am</td>
<td>Keynote: Katrina Rodriguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Session One</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10pm-12:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40pm-1:30pm</td>
<td>Session Two</td>
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<td>1:40pm-2:30pm</td>
<td>Session Three</td>
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<td>2:40pm-3:30pm</td>
<td>Red Whistle Brigade/Closing</td>
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Looking Back, Reaching Forward
Women’s Conference 2014

Keynote Biography:
Katrina L. Rodriguez

Welcome
Dr. Kathy Sisneros: Director of Women and Gender Advocacy Center

Keynote Speaker
Katrina L. Rodriguez

Session #1: 11:10am-12:00pm
Rape Revenge Narratives as a Tool for Survivor Healing
Monica Rivera
LSC 220-22
What do Rihanna, Dixie Chicks, Madonna, Ellen Page, Gina Davis and Jodi Foster have in common? They have all produced (or starred in) music videos and films that feature rape-revenge narratives. As a result, they have also all experienced wide-spread negative backlash from the mainstream media including threats to “ban” their work for being “too violent”. This session will explore the genre of rape-revenge within popular culture. We will explore the diverse genre of rape-revenge narratives and will tease out how mainstream depictions of violence (which predominantly feature male perpetrators and female victims) differ from revenge narratives. We will also explore why mainstream culture vehemently rejects women’s physical resistance to violence, while at the same time unquestionably accepts and celebrates rampant depictions of violence against women.

Title: Birth Stories: Empowering Women in the Birth Journey
Kate Wormus
LSC 230
This session offers all participants the chance to ask questions and share personal stories about the birth experience. Participants are invited into an open venue to learn from each other and contribute perspectives on the birth journey. We will explore birthing myths and options including medication-free childbirth, hospital deliveries, home birthing, midwifery, Caesarian sections and hypnobirthing. Women-centered birthing philosophies and practices will be highlighted with an emphasis on education and women's ways of knowing about their own bodies. An informative presentation will be followed by open group conversation. All are welcome with an open mind and appreciation for the woman's role in the miracle of birth.

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Self-Love: There Ain’t No Better Way
Brianna Whitaker, Karissa Stolen and Kelly Connor
LSC 226
The goal of this interactive workshop is to help participants understand the value of self-love in a society of oppression. This will be accomplished by exploring obstacles we face on a daily basis that can distort our view of ourselves and others. We will address the negative effects of self-talk, media portrayals, and body image and discover positive ways to be change agents against these factors, and ultimately define our worth.

Class Dismissed: The Experiences of Women in the University Instructor Role
Members of the Interactive Theatre Project (ITP)
LSC 228
Fostering a healthy instructor-student relationship can have its challenges. Yet, when we insert the element of gender into that relationship, the challenges of male and female instructors can vary. This interactive session is designed to explore the experiences of what many female instructors may encounter. Using the method of social justice theater, this session seeks to unearth narratives surrounding sexism, harassment, and professionalism in the context of teaching at the university level.

Lunch: 12:05pm-12:30pm LSC North Ballroom

Session #2: 12:40pm-1:30pm
Where Bad Feminists, Hashtags, and Pop Culture (Don’t) Intersect
Cori Wong
LSC 228
Thanks to digital spaces like blogs and media sites, critical feminist commentary and intersectional analyses have become increasingly accessible to a diverse array of writers and readers alike. While these digital forums open doors regarding what is said and who can speak, they have sometimes exacerbated toxic “Twitter Wars” and feminist outrages against one another for ideological offenses rather than encouraged a feminist-inspired speaking-with. Starting with a brief presentation on current digital trends that echo (and are often responses to) the exclusionary tendencies of white feminists that made “intersectionality” a key word and #SolidarityIsForWhiteWomen a hashtag, a group discussion will explore what happens when feminist discourse, even or especially discourses on intersectionality, become more divisive than collaborative? We will try to understand what an intersectional analysis reveals about digital spaces regarding who is visible online, and how and to whom they speak (that is, if they speak at all). Finally, we will ask what this means for our own feminist engagement in our communities and online.

Looking Back, Reaching Forward
Being Carmel in “Vanilla Valley”  
Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc.  
LSC 220  
How would you feel to be the only person of your race in the room? Black, white or brown, being underrepresented in your surroundings is not a comfortable feeling for anyone, but this is the reality many people live in. Think of the representation of color in your class rooms or the representation of food in the dining hall and ask yourself “how does this feel?” Join the sisters of Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc. as we explore the navigation of being underrepresented on CSU’s campus.

Sculpting Sex-Education  
Center for Public Deliberation  
LSC 230  
Participants are invited to participate in an actively and ensuing conversation to tactfully and casually contemplate sexual education as it currently stands and how it might be handled better, in three specific areas: at home, at school, and throughout culture. The presenters will lead participants through an activity and then host a facilitated, productive discussion revolving around the three aforementioned areas.

Women’s Representation in Animation  
Kim Cara  
LSC 226  
This presentation examines women and their representations that are found within animation, ranging from children’s animation to adult animation to foreign animation. We will take a closer look at the meanings behind the portrayals and how we, as consumers, can take action to ask for better representation of women in animation. This would appeal to people interested in women and gender issues in relation to media.

Session #3: 1:40pm-2:30pm  
Survivors of Interpersonal Violence Speaker’s Panel  
Women and Gender Advocacy Center Speaker’s Bureau  
LSC 228  
Survivors of interpersonal violence will share their stories with the participants in this session. Members of the Interpersonal Violence Survivors Speaker’s Bureau from the Women and Gender Advocacy Center have chosen to share their stories as a way to educate the community about interpersonal violence. They will be sharing ways that loved ones can be supportive as well as helpful responses from advocates, student affairs professionals, professors, friends, roommates and others. Join us for this powerful presentation.

Outsiders Within Bodies  
Cynarra Tweed

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LSC 220
Every day we are bombarded with images that glorify false perceptions of what women “should” look like. These images devalue our bodies and focus more on appearance rather than the character of a person, giving women a distorted perception of their sense of self. And while there has been a movement to counter these devastating images, most of these conversations are centered on white-dominated standards of beauty and have not addressed how that narrative has affected women of color. Join us for a group discussion where we will challenge some of the existing dialogue around body image and try to give voice to different intersections of identity.

Many Faces of Masculinity
Carl Olsen
LSC 226
Popular culture constructs the ideal man a certain way, with characteristics such as toughness, strength, getting laid and competitive drive. What if we told you…That there are certain similarities that span into video game culture, nerd culture, and bro culture? Using popular TV shows, we will discuss masculinity as it shows up in places we aren’t expecting, and what that means.

Locked in a Gendered Box: The Interaction between Gender and Incarceration
Lauren Alessi, Elise Yenne, Olivia Pair, Britt Devens & Tobi Jacobi
LSC 230
The US prison system is larger in capacity and proportion of citizens incarcerated than any other country throughout history. Within such a large institution, gender plays a significant role in the daily lives of those incarcerated in and working in correctional facilities. Join the Community Literacy Center (CLC) as we discuss the manifestations of gender in various creative writing workshops throughout the incarcerated populations across Larimer County. Enter in ready to write, share, and discuss in this interactive workshop.

Red Whistle Brigade
Women’s Conference 2014

Thanks to our Volunteers and Sponsors for making this event possible!

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Looking Back, Reaching Forward