

DEFINE THIS! Young Women of Color Creating Change

Feminist Majority Foundation's 2nd Annual Women of Color Conference • Bennett College for Women Greensboro, North Carolina • November 14-15, 2008

Friday, November 14th, 2008

12:00-12:45PM **Conference Reception and Registration** *David D. Jones Student Union Coffee House*

12:45-2:15PM **Opening Plenary: Women of Color Seizing the Moment to Make Change**
Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel

We are at a critical point in our nation's history where people of all races, creeds, and ages are more excited and more organized than ever to achieve substantive change. The optimism of young people is the momentum the nation needs to propel us and our new administration forward. As we work toward a progressive agenda, young women of color must define the issues that are most important for our new president to address. What issues are most important to you? And how can young women activists best work with our national and local governments to address those issues?

- Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Rep. Alma Adams, Chair of the Black Caucus of the North Carolina Legislature and Professor of Visual Arts, Bennett College for Women
- Dr. Gwendolyn Bookman, Associate Provost, Bennett College for Women
- Dolores Huerta, President, Dolores Huerta Foundation and Co-Founder, United Farm Workers
- Dr. Audrey Campbell, Associate Professor of Psychology, Bennett College for Women
- Danielle Geong and Patrice Guillory, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Candace White, Bennett College Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

2:30-3:45PM **Breakout Sessions**

A Feminist Pedagogy: Engendering Educational Institutions *Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel*

This panel discussion will focus on the continuous struggle for institutionalizing diverse, feminist-based academic programs in centers of higher learning. Many fields of research overlook the needs and contributions of women of color, and do not adequately support women researchers and activists. Speakers will discuss ways universities and colleges can incorporate feminist principles in order to improve the academic environment. Panelists will suggest ways students can promote greater diversity within academic departments, and emphasize the need for women of color to lead as higher education administrators, faculty, staff, and student government officers.

- Dr. Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, Vice President, National Women's Studies Association
- Dr. Ranjana Khanna, Director of Women's Studies, Duke University
- Shoshannah Smith, Esq., Director, Orange County Commission on Human Rights and Relations
- Dr. Mark Anthony Neal, Professor of African & African American Studies, Duke University

The Attack on Affirmative Action: Understanding the Opponent *Little Theatre*
****Interactive Workshop/Action Planning**

Voters in several states weighed in on anti-affirmative action initiatives on Election Day. In this session, learn how interest groups frame public discourse on affirmative action, debate the objectives of the advocacy groups involved, and discuss the economic ramifications of defeating affirmative action policies. Panelists will address the ongoing fight for affirmative action as a strategy to promote the advancement of women and people of color.

- Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Jessca McKinvie, No on 46 Campaign, Colorado College
- Patrice Njoh, Grand Valley State University
- Cassidy Johnson, N-Touch News

4:00-5:15PM

Breakout Sessions

Women, Pay Equity, and the Economic Crisis: National Strategies

Little Theatre

Speakers will address the effects of the global economic recession and its impact on women and children. Women of color face unique challenges with pay discrimination, unemployment, housing, inflation, and poverty, particularly when exacerbated by barriers to collective organizing and citizenship. The gender pay gap leaves women and female-headed households more vulnerable to poverty, poor health, and exploitation. Panelists will suggest actions students and activists can take to erase the pay gap nationwide, and advocate for sound economic policy that benefits women domestically and abroad.

- Dr. Christa Washington, Chair of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work, St. Augustine's College
- Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Rhonda Butler, Assistant Professor of Business and Economics, Bennett College for Women
- Dr. Avis Jones-DeWeever, Director of the Research, Public Policy, and Information Center for African American Women, National Council of Negro Women
- Cassidy Johnson, N-Touch News

Where Are We Now? Remembering Hurricanes Katrina & Rita

Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel

****Interactive Workshop/Action Planning**

This interactive workshop will address Gulf Coast residents' ongoing struggle for recovery. After three years, public officials have sorely neglected public housing, employment, education, health care systems, racial discrimination, and neighborhood cleansing. Activists must hold accountable the federal, state and local governments to ensure equitable outcomes for the region's low-income minority communities. Participants will create an action plan to increase organizing efforts on campus around redevelopment advocacy.

- Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore, Professor of Political Science, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Dr. Verida Johnson Williams, Associate Professor of Economics, North Carolina A&T
- Nia Robinson, Director, Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative
- Angela Carlberg, Research Assistant, Institute for Women's Policy Research
- Adrian Whitfield, Bennett College Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

5:30-6:15PM

Friday Wrap-Up : Mobilizing on Campus

Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel

FMF national campus organizers will lead a discussion with attendees about ideas acquired during the day's panel sessions. In addition to these ideas, participants will brainstorm ways to strengthen their campus organizations through recruitment, retention, publicity, fundraising, and other programming strategies.

Saturday, November 15, 2008

8:30-9:15AM Breakfast and Registration

David D. Jones Student Union Coffee House

9:30-11:00 AM Morning Plenary

Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel

- Dr. Julianne Malveaux, President, Bennett College for Women
- Dr. Valerie Johnson, Director of Africana Women's Studies, Bennett College for Women
- Patrice L. Guillory & Danielle Geong, Feminist Majority Foundation

11:15-12:30 PM Breakout Sessions

Violence in Communities of Color

Little Theatre

****Interactive Workshop/Action Planning**

This session will focus on how activists can work with campuses, local organizations, and government to end violence in our communities. Panelists will explore sexual assault, rape as a weapon of war and homophobia, and healing through the scholarship, spirituality, activist, and cultural work of community advocates.

- Lamea Shaaban-Magaña, Director of Women's Resource Center, University of Alabama
- Tiffany Garner, Mecklenburg Women's Commission
- Latrice Bankhelm, Health and Wellness Coordinator, High Point Regional Hospital
- Adrian Whitfield, Bennett College Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
- Aishah Simmons, Director and Producer, No! The Rape Documentary
- Jordan Casteel, Agnes Scott College
- Shaun Simon, Grand Valley State University

Women of Color Combating A Heteronormative Society

Ethel Black Hall 101

****Interactive Workshop/Action Planning**

This workshop will explore the unique issues that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, and queer women of color face. Too often, feminist activism does not adequately overlap with LGBTQ organizations and communities, while homophobia remains a significant challenge in ethnic communities. This November, voters passed discriminatory ballot initiatives in several states, so civil rights activists nationwide must organize and fight back in pursuit of a more tolerant, equitable society.

- Mandy Carter, National Co-Chair, Obama National LGBT Pride
- Ted Winslow, No on 8 Campaign, Pitzer College
- Giovanna Fischer, Young Women of Color Leadership Council, Advocates for Youth
- Tamara Boynton, Co-Founder, Deux Dames, Inc.
- Asia Smith, Bennett College for Women
- Taryn Crenshaw, Spelman College Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

The Politics of Women's Health

Henry Pfeiffer Science Hall Auditorium

This session will address the impact of local and national policies on women's health both domestically and globally, covering such topics as crisis pregnancy centers, comprehensive sex education, reproductive health and justice, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Presenters will update panelists on current and upcoming public health issues and promote public education efforts for grassroots activism.

- Lindsay Siler, Director of Public Policy, Planned Parenthood Health Services Raleigh
- Diana Urlaub, Project Manager, UNC Center for Women's Health Research
- LaFonda Jones-General, Civic Engagement Coordinator, NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina
- Angela Carlberg, Research Assistant, Institute for Women's Policy Research
- Jessca McKinzie, No on 48 Campaign, Colorado College

12:45-1:45 PM Networking Lunch

David D. Jones Student Union Cafeteria

2:00-3:30 PM Breakout Sessions

Play Like a Girl: Title IX at 36

Henry Pfeiffer Science Hall Auditorium

The passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was a landmark in civil rights legislation, enabling women to make great strides in academics and athletics. But 36 years later, gender discrimination remains a significant barrier in women's athletic and career opportunities in higher education. Additionally, insufficient government oversight of single-sex public education threatens the progress women and girls have made in educational achievement. Panelists will discuss the backlash against Title IX and the work remaining in order to attain parity in American education.

- Dr. Katherine Jamieson, Associate Professor of Exercise and Sport Science, UNC Greensboro
- DeAnne Brooks, Department of Exercise and Sport Science, UNC Greensboro
- Desiree Adams, Bennett College Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
- Nicole Miller, Women's Basketball, Bennett College for Women
- Keley Smith, Women's Basketball, Bennett College for Women

Women's Health Worldwide: The Global Struggle for Reproductive Rights

Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel

Access to safe and legal reproductive health services remains a critical struggle for women domestically and abroad. Panelists will discuss U.S. foreign aid and the ongoing global fight for women's health and well-being. They will also address the impact of the Global Gag Rule and de-funding of UNFPA on maternal mortality and the health and wellness of families around the world.

- Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
- LaFonda Jones-General, Civic Engagement Coordinator, NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina
- Anushay Hossain, Global Programs Coordinator, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Yeabsira Temesgen, George Mason University

The Mind, the Media and the Male Gaze: Deconstructing Images of Women of Color ****Interactive Workshop/Action Planning**

Little Theatre

Whether in journalism, film, music videos, or advertisements, media portrayals of women of color continue to misrepresent the reality of women's lives. Women's groups, media critics, and media producers will contextualize the destructive history of female exploitation and suggest ways students can advocate for socially responsible media production from corporate executives and global media entities.

- Dr. Stephane Dunn, Assistant Professor of English, Morehouse College
- Dr. Mark Anthony Neal, Professor of African & African American Studies, Duke University
- Dr. Patricia Willis, Women's and Gender Studies Activist-in-Residence, Wake Forest University
- Staci Williams, Bennett College for Women
- Kathy Stewart, Elon University
- Vanessa Allmon, Northwestern University

3:45-5:15 PM Closing Plenary: Fired Up! Movement-Building in a Transformative Age

Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel

Women of color have a long history of agitating for change. Students and young women have wielded great influence in the struggles for abolition, suffrage, civil rights, labor rights, Black power, peace, and immigrant rights. Now it's our time! Building from this legacy, speakers will inspire attendees to continue fighting for progressive reform on and off campus. Students will have the opportunity to share their action plans and react to speakers and the panels. Students will conclude the conference with an open mic session.

- Dr. Valerie Johnson, Director, Africana Women's Studies, Bennett College for Women
- Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Danielle Geong and Patrice L. Guillory, Feminist Majority Foundation
- Candace White and Datrona Spears, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Bennett College for Women
- Crissy Taylor, Bennett College for Women
- Marcus Amaker, Spoken Word Poet