

**Special Thanks to the Planning Committee**

Georgia Costalas, Executive Director Of the Center for Global Education & Diversity

Dr. Evene Estwick, Associate Professor Communication Studies

**Special Thanks to our Presenters**

Sra. Joyce M. Avila

Professor Jeffrey Brauer

Dr. Mia Briceno

Dr. Blake Mackasey

Dr. Gina Z. Morrison

Dr. Paul Reinert



**Wilkes University Presents**

**Diversity & Inclusion  
Student Conference**

**“Connecting Social  
Responsibility &  
Inclusion in Changing  
Times”**

**October 21, 2017  
Wilkes University**

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## AGENDA AT GLANCE

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>8:15am -9:30am</b>  | <b>Breakfast &amp; Registration</b> |
| <b>9:40am-10:20am</b>  | <b>Key Note Speaker</b>             |
| <b>10:30am-11:45am</b> | <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>          |
| <b>Noon- 1:00pm</b>    | <b>Lunch</b>                        |
| <b>1:15pm -2:30pm</b>  | <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>          |
| <b>2:45pm – 3:45</b>   | <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>          |
| <b>4:00 pm</b>         | <b>Closing Remarks</b>              |

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**2:45pm – 3:45**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **A: “Born in the USA” by Sra. Joyce Avila**

This workshop is a simulation activity designed for participants to understand the privileges we have from being born in the USA. During the activities student will have the opportunity to reflect on why we have undocumented people living in the USA. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to empathize what it is like to want to become a citizen of our nation. This experiential learning is intended to show the direct correlation between Social Responsibility and Inclusion in changing times.

#### **B: “Gendered Language, Gendered Lives: Our Social Responsibility to Inclusive Communication” Dr. Mia Briceño**

The concept of “gender” has gained visibility in public debates in recent years, but do we have a clear, collective understanding of what the term means? Beyond meaning, why is gender important, and what role might it play in our efforts to make social change? In this session, we will address these concerns by discussing the language of gender and gender identities, and considering the importance of gender inclusivity in our communication practices.

**4:00 pm**

**Closing Remarks by Erica Acosta**

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**1:15pm -2:30pm**

**Concurrent Session**

**A: Equality vs. Equity by Dr. Paul Reinert**

The Equality versus Equity session will provide participants with an opportunity to examine the equality versus equity paradox as it relates to access, education, and opportunity. In a workshop environment, participants will compare and contrast the concepts of equality and equity through discussion, case studies, and personal examples. In addition, participants will identify actions they can take to mitigate the impact of inequity within their circle of influence

**B: “Communicating Across Cultures” by Dr. Gina Z. Morrison**

Cross-cultural communication can be tricky. While we may not agree with the stereotypical messages of our cultural communities, we should be aware that we are definitely affected by them. Inclusive communication involves reflecting on the cultural bias that each of us brings to the conversation and building upon that awareness to get the message across. By acknowledging that our point of view is influenced by our cultural perspective, and that not everyone shares that perspective, we bring awareness to the discussion. This, in turn, allows openness to develop between ourselves and others who are culturally different from us. Today's session will give participants a safe space to practice some inclusive cross-cultural communication strategies.

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**Dear Participants,**

**On behalf of Wilkes University and the Center for Global Education and Diversity, I am pleased to welcome you to our first undergraduate conference entitled “Connecting Social Responsibility & Inclusion in Changing Times”.**

**On local, national, and global levels, diversity, social responsibility and inclusion are topics that are, more than ever, passionately debated. Therefore, the Center for Global of Education and Diversity has organized this conference to facilitate informed conversations on these issues.**

**This conference offers scholar-led workshops that will hopefully create a space for professors and students to exchange and examine ideas with the purpose of improving our cultural sensitivities.**

**Thank you for attending today’s conference and I hope you enjoy the workshops that you attend.**

**Sincerely,**

**Erica Acosta**

**Associate Director of Diversity Initiatives**

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### **Key Note Speaker :Sra. Joyce Avila**

Joyce M. Avila, MA, is a Puerto Rican who came to live in Brooklyn, New York in 1978 and has been a resident of Tobyhanna, PA, for the past 22 years. Climbing the corporate ladder in international banking for 9 years, she decided to change her career direction and enrolled in graduate school. She received her Master's in Bilingual – Bi Cultural Education. She has been a classroom teacher in Puerto Rico, Brooklyn NYC Public Schools, Bethlehem Area School District and Pocono Mountain School District. At Pocono Mountain she created and implemented the ESL Program. In 2006 she was nominated and selected as Role Model for young women in PA by the Pennsylvania Commission on Women and Featured in "Voices", African American and Latina Women in Pennsylvania Share Their Stories of Success".

Currently, Joyce is the President of her own Company: CAFÉ, Creating and Facilitating Equality. As a Presenter, Facilitator, Key-note speaker, and Educator, she organizes and facilitates workshops in the areas of diversity, life change and transition, leadership, communication, conflict resolution, stress management and self-care. She is also the Outreach Coordinator for Keystone College and a Bilingual Adjunct Professor. This type of work is not new to her as she was former Director for Northeastern Pennsylvania Diversity Education Consortium, Assistant Director for Diversity Institute, and Adjunct Professor at Misericordia University. She has served as Diversity Director for Keystone College and across the nation as a Minority Leadership Trainer for the National Education Association.

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**10:30am-11:45am**

**Concurrent Sessions**

### **A: "IT" is a Big Deal: Confronting Micro aggressions by Professor Jeffrey Brauer**

While unfortunately there are still blatant and even violent examples of discrimination, most now occur in more subtle ways, often by well-intentioned people. Recognizing, understanding, and confronting such micro aggressions is essential to successful social responsibility and inclusion.

### **B: Leadership for Social Justice and Societal Change by Dr. Blake Mackesy**

Contemporary times require a collaborative approach to leadership that can bring the talent of all members of a group to their shared purpose of making this world a better place. The Social Change Model of Leadership Development approaches leadership as a "purposeful, collaborative, values-based process that results in positive social change". The workshop will focus on raising awareness of social issues that need attention and ways of being with each other that promote effectively addressing those issues. Participants will identify a framework (and call to action) for developing the capacity to work with other people through leadership to address shared social justice purposes.