EMPOWER
WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
FIND YOUR PATH
MARCH 5 | 11AM - 2PM
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:00AM - 10:45AM: Pre-Conference
11:00AM - 11:30AM: Welcome & Keynote
11:30AM - 12:20PM: Session Block I
12:20PM - 12:30PM: Break
12:30PM - 1:20PM: Session Block II
1:20PM - 2:00PM: Networking Session
2:00PM - 2:10PM: Wrap-Up

PRE-CONFERENCE

University of Houston System Chancellor Renu Khator (she/her) joins a small group of student leaders, faculty, and staff to discuss her journey as a woman in leadership. From her roots in Uttar Pradesh, India to the head of one of the top higher education systems in the United States, Dr. Khator will share her successes, her greatest learning curves, and her tips for finding your individual path to leadership.

FACT:
ONLY 30% of U.S. college presidents are women.
In her time in higher education, Dr. Patrice Buckner Jackson (she/her) has served in many capacities from a student assistant as an undergraduate to executive leadership in student affairs and enrollment management. As the first female Dean of Students in the history of Georgia Southern University, she developed a Crisis Management Plan, facilitated a Student Grievance policy, and served as a liaison and advocate for students by identifying campus resources and services. Dr. Jackson assisted in building the new Division of Students Affairs at Georgia Southern until she was named Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Albany State University in 2018.

At Albany State, Dr. Jackson led the Division of Student Affairs, overseeing 12 departments. Through this role, she has worked diligently to bridge the gap between the classroom and co-curricular experiences.

Currently, Dr. Jackson serves as Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia.

For the sessions, we will be utilizing the Breakout Rooms feature. You will be able to add yourself to any session by clicking the “Breakout Rooms” icon at the bottom of Zoom (pictured right).

If during the conference you have any technological questions or concerns, please contact Ailin Fei (afei@central.uh.edu | 346-777-6891).
Lean Into Your Identity & Pave Your Own Path
Presenter: Su Wern Khor (she/her), FemTech Focus

Whether you are a first-year in college or a soon-to-be graduate, understanding your value is essential to self-empowerment. In this TED Talk-style session, you'll learn how to leverage your intersectional identity to stand out and create your own path to accomplishing what you want.

Superwomen in the Workforce: Lessons & Advice From an All-Women Team
Moderator: Donah Justice (she/her), University Career Services
Panelists: Cynthia Olmedo (she/her), Dawnelle Prince (she/her), Priyanka Raut (she/her), Dr. Monica Thompson (she/her)

University Career Services will have a panel of staff members participate in a discussion of what it is like working and leading an all-women team. Topics will include how to utilize empathy and problem solving as a team and challenges faced in our current or previous roles. Participants will learn how to create a supportive work environment and empower other women on their team.

Women’s Colleges: A Relic of the Past or More Relevant Than Ever?
Presenter: Alexa Schwartz (she/her), Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

According to the U.S. Department of Education, women make up over half of college students today, but the number of women’s colleges has declined substantially. If women are an increasing presence in U.S. higher education, why do women’s colleges not have similar representation? This session will examine the historical perception of women’s colleges and will argue that women’s colleges have filled an important void for women’s education and remain more relevant than ever in the 21st century. The session will conclude with an opportunity for participants to discuss the future of women’s colleges and single-sex education, and how to find similar environments at the University of Houston.

Empowering LGBT+ Leadership
Presenter: Jessica Rubinsky (they/them), UH Wellness

Often times LGBT+ people have a hard time finding role models that reflect their values. This is due to the fact that many find themselves having to compromise their identity or values in order to fit into the heteronormative society, the eraser of LGBT+ history and stories of leadership, and there are not many visible LGBT+ people in positions of power. This session will focus on the history of LGBT+ leaders, how LGBT+ culture fits leadership/professionalism, and how people can empower LGBT+ leadership.

How To Be Boss & Still Get Everything Done
Moderator: Allyson Yolland (she/her), Center for Student Involvement

If you want to start that side hustle or jump-start your goals, this session is for you. At this session, attendees will learn about mindful planning and hear tips and tricks on how to make sure all your tasks get done! Come holistically think about your life, goals, and daily to-dos with a live lecture and plan with me! Feel free to bring a pen and paper or your favorite digital planning method.

Worthy of Your Place: Understanding & Uprooting Imposter Syndrome
Presenter: Laura Zavala-Membreno (she/her), Counseling and Psychological Services

Imposter Syndrome - those sneaky feelings of fraudulence that tell you that you're not qualified, not deserving, and all-around not enough. Whether in the classroom or in the workplace, imposter syndrome can strike anywhere anytime to almost anyone, but it's especially common among those with marginalized identities. This workshop will dive deep into this phenomenon, including the 4 types of imposter syndrome and how to successfully combat it when it arises. We will also discuss the role that institutions play and how to leverage community to create change for ourselves and for others.
MEET THE PRESENTERS

Su Wern Khor is a University of Houston ‘20 alumna who graduated with a BBA in Finance. She currently works full-time as the Programs Manager at FemTech Focus, a non-profit empowering and support the FemTech industry. While still a student at UH, she actively participated in various student leadership positions and was later awarded the Distinguished Senior Leader 2020 at the Campus Leaders Award ceremony.

Jessica Rubinsky currently serves as the Assistant Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Education at the University of Houston in the Wellness Department. Jessica oversees the direction and assessment of university-wide sexual violence prevention and education, having worked in the field for the past 6 years. In addition to working in Higher Ed and non-profits, Jessica has worked as a consultant to individuals, communities, and companies across North America.

Alexa Schwartz is the Assistant Director, Alumni Programs at Rice University’s Office of Alumni Relations and a Ph.D. student in Higher Education Leadership & Policy Studies at the University of Houston. Alexa connects Rice students and alumni to mentors and career development programming through management of the Sallyportal platform, development of the “Life After Rice” series, and implementation of Rice’s annual Families Weekend. She graduated from Tulane University with a MA in Spanish and a BA in Latin American Studies, Anthropology, and Spanish.

University Career Services is a full-service career center offering students and UH alumni resources and assistance in the formulation and implementation of their career plans. Dr. Monica Thompson serves as the Executive Director. Cynthia Olmedo is the Assistant Director of Alumni Career Services. Priyanka Raut is the Assistant Director at UH Sugar Land and Katy. Dawnelle Prince is the Senior Recruiting Manager. Donah Justice is a Career Development Counselor.

Ally Yolland is a full-time staff member of the Center for Student Involvement. In her role, Ally provides support to registered student organizations by helping students with risk management, leadership development, and organizational management. She also actively participates in online journaling communities and is the youth group leader at her church.

Laura Zavala-Membreno is a Licensed Professional Counselor at CAPS with over 10 years of experience providing mental health services to diverse communities in a wide variety of settings with a specialization in intimate partner violence and sexual trauma. At UH, Laura is passionate about supporting student success by providing counseling and outreach centered on destigmatizing mental health. Laura is also a first-generation graduate/professional and a proud 2x UH alumna (c/o 2008 & 2011). Go Coogs!
CONFERENCE SURVEYS

We ask all participants to please complete the following surveys to help us continue to improve the EMPOWER Conference each year.

SESSION I:  

SESSION II:  

FULL CONFERENCE:

SAVE THE DATE  
MARCH 4, 2022