November 12th, 2020 | 3 PM – 4 PM (CDT)

Women Leading in Diversity Awards: 
**Making it Matter**

A Virtual Ceremony Celebrating Women
About the Women's ERG -

The UTD Women Employee Resource Group (ERG) works to facilitate an environment of advocacy and belonging where women employees can flourish while advancing the mission of UT Dallas.

Women Leading in Diversity -

This annually-held ceremony serves to praise and recognize the accomplishments of women in promoting diversity and inclusion on campus as well as in the workplace. This year's theme, Making it Matter, will feature the awardees highlighting the importance of inclusivity and how they strived to bring its values to UT Dallas.

Program Agenda

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM Opening Tribute to Ongoing Achievements of Women
Featured music: “Rise Up” by Andra Day

3:05 PM – 3:15 PM Welcome and Introductions
Dr. George Fair (Vice President, ODCE)
Beth Keithly (President, Women’s ERG)

3:15 PM – 3:20 PM Overview of the Day
Courtney Brecheen (Program Moderator)

3:20 PM – 3:25 PM Women’s ERG Presentation

3:25 PM – 3:30 PM 1st Door Prize Presentation

3:30 PM – 3:50 PM Recognition of Honorees
(Each honoree will speak for five minutes)

3:50 PM – 3:55 PM 2nd Door Prize Presentation

3:55 PM – 4:00 PM Closing Remarks
Beth Keithly (President, Women’s ERG)

Honorees

Dr. Henderson has had a long history of contributions to diversity. She has led the committee for diversity and inclusion at UTD, where they were able to pass through changes that allowed more universal and standard child leave during her tenure. She often takes her own time off to recruit minority students and travels to other schools to represent UTD at HBCU and other minority-serving schools. She currently serves on the Living Our Values Task Force that has been making changes to promote diversity across campus. She serves as a subcommittee leader for several subcommittees working on such ideas as minority student recruitment, staff diversity hiring, and faculty recruitment and retention. She is an excellent asset to the university.

Dr. Burdine is the Assistant Director of the UT Dallas Student Counseling Center. She was awarded her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Oklahoma State University in 2013 and is the owner and founder of Kimberly Burdine Psychological Services and Consulting, PLLC. She has decades of experience in student counseling and has conducted research in the areas of diversity and inclusion. She is a published author in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at peer-reviewed international, national, and state-wide conferences. While it is clear from her academic and professional accomplishments that she is committed to building a culture of inclusion, her creation and facilitation of student activities bring home her commitment to students and demonstrate a pathway to change.

Danyelle Gates is currently enrolled in a BA program at ATEC. She holds a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from UTD (class of 2017). She works as an Administrative Assistant in the Office of Communications. She is one of the podcast hosts and audio editors of the UT Dallas CometCast Network. She co-created the Comets Discuss: Prejudice, a podcast that was created after the death of Mr. George Floyd and racial uprisings in the US and worldwide. She volunteers her expertise for social justice events on campus, taking on host/emcee’s role regularly. As described by a co-worker, “Danyelle molds information into compassion (which she always exudes, always there to help even if she is swamped), spreads what she’s learned in new and accessible ways for all (whether through work channels or personal social media), and goes out of her way to learn about other people’s passions and hobbies to support them whenever and wherever she can go even further with her education to learn outside of work/class (going to podcast conferences and virtual talks outside UTD). Danyelle’s drive and passion for knowledge are just one of the many great things about her. Her humor, support, empathy, creativity, kindness, and all-around Beyoncé-ness are a few more.

Dr. Kimberly Burdine

Rashaunda Henderson

Faculty

STAFF HONOREE

Leah Frazier

COMMUNITY HONOREE

Rashaunda Henderson

Faculty

Dr. Kimberly Burdine

Staff

Dr. Henderson

Rashaunda Henderson

Student

Danyelle Gates

Office of Diversity and Community Engagement

Office of Diversity and Community Engagement
Leah Frazier is a 2-Time Emmy Award-Winning entrepreneur and was recognized as one of Dallas’ most successful women for 2015. She is a multi-licensed attorney turned marketing and communications guru who unapologetically left the practice of law to pursue her entrepreneurial ventures. In 2020, Leah was recognized by Dallas Innovates as one of the Future 50 Leaders in Dallas-Fort Worth for tech, innovation, and disruption. She recently won the 2020 “Inno on Fire” award from American Inno’s North Texas Inno media outlet for her service to the startup, small business, and entrepreneurial community. Leah has built a multi-faceted empire as an award-winning journalist, publicist, media personality, celebrity stylist, digital marketing expert, and in-demand consultant to notable brands. She was honored as one of the best wardrobe stylists in Dallas. Leah is the CEO and proud owner of Think Three Media – a creative marketing and communications agency focused in the areas of content marketing, social media marketing, communications (specifically in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion landscape), and public relations services for brands spanning the industries of fashion, beauty, public speaking, the performing arts, food, lifestyle, and more. Leah co-authored her first book in 2018, The Success Factor, which reached #1 as a Best Seller for Women and Business, and was also awarded an African-American Literary Award. She recently released her second co-authored title, Promise: A Global Women’s Devotional, which recently became a best seller as well. She is currently working on her third book to be released in the latter part of 2020.

Equal Opportunity Statement

The University of Texas at Dallas provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. The University prohibits discrimination and harassment in the administration of both its employment and educational policies.

For more information about our department please contact Rosie Peterson at rpeterson@utdallas.edu.