

ISSUE 3 / FALL 2025

RESOURCED

CMU MI-ACE BULLETIN



**"BREAKING BARRIERS AND
INFLUENCING CHANGE"**

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- CMU MI-ACE Advisory
- 2024-2025 Year in Review
- 2025-2026 Sneak Peak!

CMU ALUMNA, ISHA COGBORN
2ND ANNUAL CMU MI-ACE RETREAT



Welcome!

FROM YOUR CO-INSTITUTIONAL REPS

As we begin another exciting year with the CMU MI-ACE Women's Network, we are reminded of the power of connection, community, and support. As the CMU chapter of the state-wide American Council on Education Women's Network, our mission is to live out the IDEALS — to identify, develop, encourage, advance, link, and support women in higher education. We are proud that our network is open to everyone interested in advancing leadership for woman-identified individuals across our campus and state.

We are thrilled to share several opportunities for inspiration, collaboration, and community this year. Please mark your calendars for our **International Women's Day Luncheon on March 5th** and our **CMU MI-ACE Women's Retreat, May 12th–14th (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)**. In addition, we are excited to promote state-wide events including the **Women of Color Collaborative Luncheon on November 14th at Schoolcraft College** and the **MI-ACE Annual Conference on June 15th–16th in East Lansing**.

Please keep an eye on the emails that come from CMU MI-ACE for more events (and to confirm you are on the list, please [email](mailto:misty.bennett@cmich.edu) misty.bennett@cmich.edu). If you have your own events or good news to celebrate, please send it to us for inclusion in our communications. Together, let's continue to inspire, support, and champion one another as we advance leadership and belonging for women in higher education.

With gratitude and resolve,



MISTY BENNETT

CMU MI-ACE

CO-INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



SHAWNA PATTERSON-STEPHENS

CMU MI-ACE

CO-INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

About CMU Michigan-ACE

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO!

The Michigan American Council on Education Women's Network (MI-ACE) is the professional network for Michigan women in higher education. We work in concert with the ACE Office of Inclusive Excellence Group nationally to identify, develop, encourage, advance, link, and support women in higher education.

CMU'S MI-ACE Women's Network engages in professional development, support initiatives, and networking opportunities. The Advisory Board for CMU's chapter consists of ten individuals from varying campus units who provide leadership and guidance in the implementation of our core curricula. This year, our board is focusing on holistic offerings, representation at the institutional level, and sustainable practice. Please welcome our 2025-2026 Advisory Board members!



JILL BALLIET
CMU ONLINE



TANGELA CHEATHAM
ATHLETICS



TRACY GALAROWICZ
SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING



AMY MCGINNIS
BUSINESS



MONIQUE MILLER
MEDICINE



NIKITA MURRY
UNIVERSITY
ENGAGEMENT



**ELLIE
ROETHLISBERGER**
FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT



AMANDA SCHERR
ACADEMIC
PLANNING &
ANALYSIS



MARCY TAYLOR
LIBERAL ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES



**BRIE
WALTER-ROOKS**
SEXUAL AGGRESSION
SERVICES

Dr. Paula Lancaster

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST...

During this season of gratitude, I'm reflecting on the wonderful fall we've experienced at Central Michigan University? We have much to celebrate and much work to be done. Since last May, I have been inspired by CMU MI-ACE's Spring 2025 theme, **Retreat Accelerating Action into Practice**. I so appreciate the nudge toward changing practice, creating new habits, and relentlessly aiming for lasting change that the CMU MI-ACE team employs. Our campus is better for the collective voices, actions, and practices of CMU MI-ACE.

Throughout the year and across our university and extended community much attention is being given to building community and belonging. I was initially inspired by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' focus on the book, **Bowling Alone** by Robert Putnam, which walks the reader



Paula Lancaster, Provost

through the disintegration of American social structures and ways in which we can build back our connections and strengthen our community bonds. Since announcing that the college was taking up this book and combatting loneliness and isolation, many other divisions, offices, colleges, and organizations have come together to discuss how we might grow this initiative.



Change is in the air, and once again, I'm reminded of accelerating action into practice. Our campus and broader community will hold many events this year designed to foster belonging; already action has been happening. And, thanks to the message and example set by CMU MI-ACE, we understand that these actions cannot end at the conclusion of the academic year. Getting to know each other better, fostering care and support for all members of our community, and building back healthy social structures will need to become part of our daily practice. I know CMU MI-ACE will play a significant part in this work and look forward to joining that effort.

My Best,

Paula

DISTINGUISHED WOMAN IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



2023 STATEWIDE AWARD RECIPIENT,
DR. MAUREEN EKE



2024 STATEWIDE AWARD RECIPIENT,
DR. AMY MCGINNIS

The CMU MI-ACE invites individuals to submit nominations for consideration of the statewide **2026 Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award**. Nominees must be an employee of Central Michigan University and an individual who has exhibited outstanding leadership to other women on campus and in the community. The award is open to women at any level or position at CMU and is designed to recognize work on behalf of women in higher education that is beyond the scope of the nominee's formal staff or faculty job responsibilities.

To support a candidate, submit a one-page recommendation letter to Misty (tribb1mm@cmich.edu) and Shawna (patte2sm@cmich.edu) **by January 9, 2026**.

It's a Wrap: Annual Women's Retreat

ACCELERATING ACTION INTO PRACTICE **MAY 15-16, 2025**



PANEL ON LEADERSHIP AND RESISTING THE GRIND CULTURE: **ELIZABETH HUSBANDS, SHAY JAMES-BOYD, ISABEL MONTEMAYOR-VAZQUEZ**

The 2nd Annual Women's retreat was a time for faculty and staff to step back, take a collective breath, and work on both personal and professional growth. Participants learned about ways they can take care of their wellness, both physically and financially, including how to make meaningful life-long savings with small changes in financial habits. Professionally, participants learned how to best position themselves in social media. Provost Lancaster shared her vision and led a brainstorming session on how each participant can be an active participant in leading change and making an impact in our campus community. We also learned lessons on how to rest and take care of ourselves in a culture that values busyness. Finally, participants brought books to share and contributed to a meaningful book collective.

ACCELERATING ACTION INTO PRACTICE

MAY 15-16, 2025



BUILDING YOUR BRAND WITH **ABBY DEAN** AND **ARI HARRIS**



CANDLEMAKING WITH **TRUE2YOU**

THE RETREAT IN YOUR WORDS...

“The retreat is such a great way to connect with an amazing group of CMU women leaders on campus. It’s relaxed, welcoming, and filled with meaningful conversations.”

“Refreshing, inspiring, and informative! This year's retreat did not disappoint! “

“All in all, this event was simply uplifting, extremely positive and I really enjoyed getting to know so many women that had different roles on campus.”

The CMU MI-ACE 2025 Women’s Retreat was comprised of several dynamic, interactive sessions, including:

WOMEN’S HEALTH AND WELLNESS

KEYNOTE WITH ISHA COGBORN

PERSONAL FINANCES

BUILDING YOUR BRAND

LUNCH AND LEARNS WITH PROVOST LANCASTER AND THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

LEADERSHIP PANEL: RESIST THE GRIND CULTURE

BOOKMARKED AND BRILLIANT

Institutional Representatives

CMU HOSTS ANNUAL IR INSTITUTE



Each year, MI-ACE hosts an Institutional Representative (IR) Institute to aid in the preparation and support of all the responsibilities IRs manage throughout the course of the year. This fall, under the leadership of Dr. Misty Bennett, CMU sponsored the 2025 IR Institute in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Currently, Drs. Dawn Hinton (Saginaw Valley State University) and CharMaine Hines (Washtenaw Community College) serve as Co-Chairs for the MI-ACE IR program. In collaboration with Misty, Dawn and CharMaine set the stage for this year's IR aims, working to ensure that each Institutional

Representative was clear on the role and responsibilities associated with the position, best situated to expand their networks, and offered access to much-needed professional development opportunities. In addition to keynote speakers, IRs were invited to take advantage of educational sessions focused on current





CHAIR CHARMAINE HINES SMILES ALONGSIDE
INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACROSS THE
STATE.



events impacting higher education governance, elevating women in leadership, in addition to issues impacting the experiences of women in the academy. Institutional Representatives are also provided with programmatic updates and are allotted time to consider MI-ACE's strategic plan. Misty played a critical role in making certain this year's retreat was implemented seamlessly, as she managed logistics, primed the IR Institute Planning Committee during an on-campus summer business meeting, and served as hostess throughout the assembly. Though this meeting primarily benefitted IR attendees, hosting offered CMU with an opportunity to highlight our academic enterprise and support services during the IR visitation. Overall, we were met with great success in hosting this year's IR Institute.

SAVE *the* DATE

MI-ACE Annual Conference **ElevatED: Ascend and Transform** **Your World**

Hosted by Lansing Community College

June 15 - June 16, 2026

Kellogg Center, 219 South Harrison Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Registration opens January 2026



Join Us!

Save the Date

November 13, 2026 | 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Hosted by Central Michigan University
in Mount Pleasant, Michigan

The MI-ACE Women of Color Collaborative looks forward to
connecting with you at our annual luncheon in 2026!

Stay
Informed!



<https://forms.office.com/r/XybUj2T5wm>



Questions?

Email Shawna at UESA@cmich.edu



Starting June 2026, our very own Shawna Patterson-Stephens will step-up as Chair for the MI-ACE Statewide Women of Color Collaborative. A portion of her tenure will begin during this year's annual MI-ACE Conference in East Lansing, however, we're excited to share that the annual WOCC Luncheon will take place on CMU's campus in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Save the date today: November 13, 2026 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Interested in supporting the development and implementation of this very important work? Email Shymaine at colem1se@cmich.edu to volunteer for the planning committee. See you there!

Save the Dates!

**WE HOPE YOU PLAN TO JOIN US THROUGHOUT
THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR!**



TRUSTEE DENISE MALLET AND PRESIDENT NEIL MACKINNON
FIRESIDE CHAT ON "THE VILLAGE EFFECT"

CMU MI-ACE at Women's Basketball | January 28th | McGuirk Arena

- Wear a maroon top in support of Women's Athletics!

CMU MI-ACE Klymyshyn Reception | February 19th | UC Rotunda

- 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- Heavy hors d'oeuvres and open bar!

Women's Leadership Summit | February 20th | UC Rotunda

- 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Includes a Fireside Chat with Dr. Shawna Patterson-Stephens, student sessions, and a women's leadership panel with Trustee members!

International Women's Day Luncheon | March 5, 2026 at 12 pm

Location TBD

- In partnership with Women and Gender Studies and Office for LGBTQI and Gender Equity Programs

CMU MI-ACE Women's Retreat | May 12th-14th at 9 am to 1 pm each day
Biosciences Auditorium

Stay Connected!

**IDENTIFY, DEVELOP, ENCOURAGE,
ADVANCE, LINK, SUPPORT**

We hope you find what want and need in the variety of initiatives we offer. Please feel free to reach out to CMU's IRs or any Advisory Board member to share feedback, ideas, and/or concerns. We're here to support you!



Join Our Listserv

**CLICK HERE OR USE THE QR CODE TO
SIGN-UP FOR THE CMU MI-ACE LISTSERV.**



Visit Our Website

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CMU-MI-ACE](https://tinyurl.com/cmu-mi-ace)