



WELCOME:

NEELI BENDAPUDI : Neeli Bendapudi, PhD, is the University of Kansas Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, and a professor of marketing at the KU School of Business. Provost Bendapudi's research focuses on customer willingness and ability to maintain long-term relationships with firms and with the employers that represent them. She has experience on public and private boards, and served as EVP and Chief Customer Officer of Huntington National Bank.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

SESSION 1A

CARISSA JOHNSON : Carissa Johnson is a Masters student at KU, studying Higher Education Administration, graduating in May 2017. She works as a Graduate Assistant in the KU Office of Admissions and an Intern in the KU Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity.

CUE WRIGHT : Cue Wright is a Masters student at KU, studying Higher Education Administration, graduating in May 2017. She works as a Graduate Assistant in the KU Office of Admissions and is an up-and-coming young artist in the Lawrence music scene.

SESSION 1B

DR. ASTRID VILLAMIL : Astrid Villamil, PhD, is an Assistant Teaching Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri. She also serves as a Core Faculty for the Kansas Women's Leadership Institute. Dr. Villamil's research considers non-dominant voices in organizational contexts and the way structural and organizational policies affect the experiences of individuals from underrepresented groups.

SESSION 1C

JEN BROCKMAN : Jen Brockman (pronouns she/her/hers) is the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center at the University of Kansas. Brockman has worked in gender based violence response and prevention with community program, state coalitions, and flagship institutions for 16 years.

RACHEL GADD-NELSON : Rachel Gadd-Nelson (pronouns she/her/hers) is the Director of Community Engagement for The Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center. Gadd-Nelson earned her Bachelor's of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas and has worked at The Care Center since 2013.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2:

SESSION 2A

REP. MELISSA ROOKER : Representative Melissa Rooker is in her third term serving in the Kansas Legislature for House District 25. Rep. Rooker's committee assignments include Federal & State Affairs, K-12 Budget and Education. She also serves on the Johnson County Education Research Triangle Authority Board, and the Kansas Forest Service Advisory Council.

KIMBERLY SVATY : Kimberly Svaty's Kansas-based public relations firm implements government relations, public affairs and community outreach strategies for Fortune 100 companies in the utility, wind energy and telecommunications industries. Svaty's unique approach to public relations and core government relations values are best expressed as connecting people, promoting ideas, and growing community.

DR. ASHLEY MUDDIMAN : Ashley Muddiman, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. Her research broadly focuses on the content and effects of political media. More specifically, Dr. Muddiman studies political incivility, including citizens' perceptions of incivility as well as the effects of political incivility in online settings.

SESSION 2B

WENDY DOYLE : Wendy Doyle is President and CEO of the Women's Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes equity and opportunity for women of all ages. Doyle has also worked with the National Kidney Foundation, Inc. and Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, and has been appointed to numerous boards. She founded the Appointment's Project which empowers women to seek public office and leadership positions.

DR. KALA STROUP : Dr.Kala Stroup is an Emeritus Faculty and Internship Advisor for the KU Honors Program. Dr. Stroup is considered a national leader in higher education and nonprofits. Among her many leadership positions she has served as a university President, the Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education, president of American Humanics, and KU Dean of Women. She currently serves on the board for the KU Alumni Association, Women Philanthropists for KU, and teaches courses in the Honors program.

VALERIE NICHOLSON-WATSON : Valerie Nicholson-Watson is President & CEO of Harvesters–The Community Food Network, the regional Feeding America food bank serving 26 counties in Missouri and Kansas. Nicholson-Watson also currently serves as treasurer of the board for Nonprofit Connect, and is a board member and past chairperson for the Kansas City Metro CARES Mentoring Movement. With a background in journalism she worked as a journalist for The Kansas City Globe and The Kansas City Call.

NANCY JACKSON : Nancy Jackson is the KU Endowment Association's Assistant Vice President for Strategic Development. Jackson has worked with KUEA since 2006, when she joined as the Director for Development for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Spencer Art Museum. Shortly thereafter she became the KUEA Director of Development and Team Leader for CLAS. In her current role with KUEA Jackson works with strategic initiatives spanning the university.

SPEAKER BIOS

SESSION 2C

AIMEE LARRABEE : Aimee Larrabee earned a degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1982. An award-winning journalist in magazine and newspaper media, Larrabee founded Inland Sea Productions in 1994 based in the Kansas City area. The intended goal of her production company is to create authentic and accurate motion pictures that become the centerpieces of multi-platform programming.

DEAN ANN BRILL : Ann Brill, PhD, is Dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism at KU. Dean Brill's areas of expertise include online journalism, online advertising, and effects of implementation of new technology. She serves as a board member for several academic journals, and she founded and directed the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Online Editing Program. Dean Brill is the national president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication.

DR. YVONNES CHEN : Yvonne Chen, PhD, is associate professor of strategic communication at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Dr. Chen's research focuses on investigating the extent to which health and media literacy strategies mitigate the negative impact of media messages, strengthen individuals' logic-based decision-making to resist the persuasive intent of media messages and promote healthy behavior.

SESSION 2D

ED HEALY : Ed Healy received his B.A. in Biology from the University of Kansas and Juris Doctorate from Vermont Law School. After graduate school he served as director of pre-college programs for gifted youth at the University of Pennsylvania. In the Spring of 2013, Healy moved back to KU to serve as the Coordinator of Student Development for the KU Honors Program. He is currently the Assistant Director for Advising for Honors.

DR. SHANNON PORTILLO : Shannon Portillo, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Coordinator at the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration. Dr. Portillo's teaching and research interests include social equity, social justice, organizational theory, and law and public management. She has worked on projects related to the military, problem-solving courts, restorative justice programs, policing, higher education and city management. Dr. Portillo co-chairs the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group.

DEBRA FORD : Debra J. Ford, PhD, is a research assistant professor and director of the Center for Interprofessional Leadership. Dr. Ford's research focuses upon strategies used by organizations to influence public policy, with a specific focus on health policy; group communication processes in public-private partnerships and high reliability organizations; and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3:

SESSION 3A

JUDGE MASON : Judge Rhonda Mason is a 1996 graduate of the Washburn University Law School in Topeka. From 1998 to 2003, Mason was an assistant prosecuting attorney in Jackson County. She later served as an attorney for Allstate and the Kansas City law firm of Foland Wickens. Beginning in 2011, Mason served as managing attorney for Geico and also operated a private civil litigation practice focusing on personal injury cases. Mason was sworn in as a District Court Judge in the Tenth Judicial District of Kansas in February 2017.

PAM KELLER : Pamela Keller is a Clinical Professor and Lawyering Skills Director for the KU School of Law. She graduated from the KU School of Law in 1993, Order of the Coif, and was the Note and Comment Editor of the Kansas Law Review. Her primary area of practice has been labor and employment law, including employment litigation, as well as advising clients in traditional labor matters and representing clients in administrative matters. Keller currently serves as President of the Faculty Senate at KU.

SESSION 3B

USHA REDDI : Usha Reddi is serving as Mayor of Manhattan, Kansas, for the 2016-2017 term, following her election to the Manhattan City Commission in April 2013. Mayor Reddi is a teacher in the Manhattan-Ogden school district and serves on a variety of boards including the Riley County Police Department Law Board, Martin Luther King Day planning committee, National Association of Mental Illness, and Justice Involved Youth and Adults Subcommittee.

KATHRYN EVERETT : Kathryn Everett is a senior at KU studying Chemical Engineering, and she will begin her career with Burns & McDonnell upon graduation. She is a SELF Engineering Leadership Fellow. Through this fellowship opportunity, she helped develop the idea for LETWomen, and the leadership course that led to its creation. Her involvement at KU includes co-founding and serving as Co-President for "Not Asking For It." She served as the Vice President of Lambda Sigma Honor Society, and has been active in Student Union Activities, Mortar Board and the Lambda Chapter of the Chi Omega Sorority.

SESSION 3C

DR. PASTOREK : Angela Pastorek, PhD, serves as Program Manager and Faculty in the Department of Communication Edwards Campus program. Her teaching and research interests include organizational culture and communication practices, membership negotiation, and organizational change. Prior to joining the KU faculty Dr. Pastorek developed and delivered training programs and communication resources for global companies including Siemens Healthcare and Deloitte.

ANNIE MCBRIDE : Annie McBride is the Assistant Director for the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center. Annie earned both her BA in Journalism and her MA in Higher Education Administration from KU. Following her masters program McBride served as the Associate Director for Student Life & Inclusion at Marymount California University, before returning to KU to serve in her current capacity. She is committed to issues of equity and justice and identifies as an intersectional feminist.

SESSION 4:

KEYNOTE

CINDY WALLIS-LAGE : Cindy Wallis-Lage is President of Black & Veatch's global water business, leading the company's efforts to address billions of dollars in water infrastructure needs around the world. Wallis-Lage joined the company in 1987 and has provided project and leadership expertise to more than 100 municipal and industrial facilities throughout the United States, the UK and Asia Pacific. Wallis-Lage joined the Black & Veatch Board of Directors in 2012. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and earned a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Kansas State University and her Master's degree in Environmental Health Engineering from the University of Kansas. She is currently on the Board of Directors for the WaterReuse Association.