



WOMEN LEADING WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

Presenter Biographies

Keynote and Breakout Session Speakers:

Kathy Hurley (keynote and breakout session) –

Keynote (with Ann McMullan): Women Leaders: Lessons for Our Times

Breakout Session: Fostering Women in Leadership

Kathy has been in the education industry for over 40 years. Throughout her career, Kathy has served in top positions in both publishing and technology companies, which include executive positions with Pearson and IBM. In December of 2014, Kathy retired from Pearson where she spent ten years and served as Executive Vice President Education Alliances, for the Pearson Foundation. Kathy utilizes her expertise in education policy, sales, marketing and business development to help further the work of top businesses, executive level customers, associations and foundations. In 2013, Kathy was selected as a Fellow of the Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI) at Harvard University for 2014. Upon completing the ALI at Harvard, Kathy co-founded a global non-profit organization called Girls Thinking Global, which has as its mission to connect global change-makers to empower adolescent girls around the world. In April 2015, Kathy Hurley published her first book, Real Women, Real Leaders (Wiley) with co-editor, Priscilla Shumway.

Ann McMullan (keynote and breakout session) –

Keynote (with Kathy Hurley): Women Leaders: Lessons for Our Times

Breakout Session: Leading – and Surviving – Change in Challenging Times

Ann is an education consultant based in Los Angeles, CA. A 34-year veteran educator, Ann spent 18 years as an innovative social studies teacher, followed by 16 years as a school district administrator. Ann serves education leaders, teachers, non-profits and firms doing business with schools and school districts to assist with leadership and strategic planning targeted to making learning relevant for all students. She does this by facilitating leadership workshops, both face to face and in webinars and also writing for journals and newsletters, including eSchoolNews, EdNET Insight, Scholastic eduPulse, and CoSN. Ann's public speaking engagements include international, national and state conference workshops, breakout sessions and panel presentations on leading the transformation of learning and teaching to meet the needs of today's students, teachers and administrators. Ann is the co-author of the recently published book titled Life Lessons in Leadership: The Way of the Wallaby (www.lifelessonsleadership.com).

Katrina Cravy (keynote and breakout session) –

Keynote: Woman's Work – Why God Had to Make Us

Breakout Session: The Magic Box: Secrets to Attract the Media and Your Target Audience

Katrina Cravy is an Emmy Award-Winning former TV reporter and show host who has become one of the most trusted names in southeastern Wisconsin. With more than 20 years in front of the TV cameras, Katrina is now a keynote speaker and publicity coach for marketing teams and business executives who want to tell a story that sells. After booking and interviewing thousands of guests, she has written a book, "On Air – Insider Secrets to Attract the Media and Get Free Publicity". Katrina currently serves on the board of the Milwaukee Press Club and is a regular guest on WKLH's morning radio show.

Monica Aquino (keynote speaker) –

Keynote: Fill Your Basket: Life with Purpose

Monica has been involved in the claims preparation and claims management industry since 1999. She began as a claims coordinator, and then moved into the claims management and development of Catastrophe Response and Recovery programs for large clients. Monica manages relationships for national accounts and oversees all aspects of property damage and business interruption insurance claims for diverse clients throughout the country. Monica trains and facilitates special workshops to educate and create awareness for owners, their vendors, their internal departments and other interested parties. Monica is currently the Managing Partner of HW3 Group, LLC, a consulting, training and claims management firm.



Ashley Prange (breakout session) –

Breakout Session: Managing Millennials

Ashley is the founder and CEO of Au Naturele Cosmetics, launched in 2011. An international studies and political science major at St. Norberts College, Ashley found herself moving to Washington, D.C. to work at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and then relocating to Green Bay, WI to start Au Naturele Cosmetics. In 2015, Ashley's company, Au Naturele, launched what it calls the Clean Beauty Revolution, "on a mission to bring integrity, honesty and transparency into the cosmetic industry."

Leadership Panel Breakout Session – Meet our Panel:

Jill Didier – Jill Didier served as the Mayor of Wauwatosa for 4 years as well as on the Wauwatosa Common Council for two years prior to that. Ms. Didier left her position as Mayor to promote economic development throughout Milwaukee County. Ms. Didier is currently the VP of Business Development for Miron Construction Co., Inc.

Dr. Monica Kelsey-Brown – Dr. Monica Kelsey-Brown currently serves as the Director of Teaching and Learning for the Brown Deer School District. Dr. Kelsey-Brown earned her BS and MS in Education from UW-Whitewater and went on to earn her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from UW-Madison. During that time she served as Director of Academic Support Services at UW-Whitewater where she was successful with securing both federal and state grant funds to assist with building the foundation for effectively implementing a variety of college and pre-college programs. She is a member of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Jodi Smeiska – Jodi Smeiska is the Director of Buildings and Grounds for the School District of Brown Deer at Johnson Controls. Jodi is passionate about process improvements and growing her employees. Ms. Smeiska is a certified Six Sigma Green Belt and focuses on reducing waste and improving processes throughout the organization. In 2012 she was awarded a Merit Award for the P2P Awareness/Cross-Functional Engagement Team at Johnson Controls, Inc.

Julia Taylor – Julia Taylor was appointed as the first woman president of the Greater Milwaukee Committee in December 2002. Prior to being president of GMC, Ms. Taylor was president of the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee for 16 years, during which she led initiatives resulting in national models for employment training and placement, affordable housing, women's leadership and racial justice.

Quynh Trueblood – Quynh Trueblood is currently serving as Superintendent of Schools for the Kohler School District. Having taught high school students chemistry for 14 years and leading schools as an associate principal and high school principal for 5 years, Ms. Trueblood's professional work has focused on attaining high student achievement and cultivating learning environments in the pursuit of excellence and innovation in education. Ms. Trueblood holds a BS in Secondary Science in Chemistry from UW-Madison and a MS in Administrative Leadership and Supervision in Education from UW-Milwaukee. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service at Cardinal Stritch University. Her research examines the profile, path and lived experiences of women superintendents.