



**HOSTED BY THE OFFICES OF
DIVERSITY INITIATIVES AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**

**8TH ANNUAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE AT WILKES UNIVERSITY**

**OCTOBER 18, 2025
HENRY STUDENT CENTER**

**RUN
YOUR
RACE**

AGENDA

9:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION
9:30 A.M.	WELCOME
9:40 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	WORKSHOP SESSION #1
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	LUNCH
12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.	WORKSHOP SESSION #2
1:40 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	CLOSING SESSION

What does it mean to run your race?

Today's goal is to provide you with resources and workshops that focus on **RESPECT, ADVOCACY, COMMUNITY**, and **EMPOWERMENT** so you can be leaders in the spaces and places you occupy.

Thank you to the planning committee!

Erica Acosta, Director of Diversity Initiatives,
Wilkes University

Catie Becker, Director of Civic Engagement,
Wilkes University

Alicia Burns, Bonner Leader Program
Coordinator, Wilkes University



Welcome Everyone -

On behalf of Wilkes University, the Office of Diversity Initiatives, and the Department of Civic Engagement, we're happy you're here!

It is important to make the time and provide the space for conversations, exploration, and self-reflection on topics that impact our professional and personal lives. Thank you for choosing to spend the day with us to do just that!

This conference is focused on diversity, inclusion, and leadership. The workshops will delve into topics that relate to these areas, and we encourage you to attend sessions that are not familiar or even comfortable for you at this moment. By learning alongside others who are here to grow, too, we can improve communication, experiences, and environments for everyone in our shared spaces.

Enjoy the day as you learn how to run your RACE - to lead with **respect**, **advocate** for those around you, stand up for your **community**, and be a voice of **empowerment**.

Sincerely,
Erica Acosta and Catie Becker



Meet Your Keynote Speaker

Rose Daniels

Rose Daniels is a multifaceted creative, poet, fine artist, community leader, and youth advocate, born and raised in New York City and a resident of Wilkes Barre since 2016. She discovered her passion for the arts and people while navigating life's obstacles, including foster care, identity, and self-love.

Over the past eight years, Rose has dedicated herself to working with youth, including six years at the intersections of youth program coordination, community mental health, and building leadership opportunities for youth across Luzerne County.

As the founder of Breakout Art Movement (BAM) and the current Executive Director of Gather Community Space, Rose works at the intersection of art, activism, and healing, designing experiences that foster storytelling, empowerment, and transformation. She is also a founding member of U.N.I.T.Y. Collective, a grassroots initiative dedicated to uniting neighborhoods through integrity, collaboration, and youth engagement, which recently hosted the annual Juneteenth Friends and Family Block Party in Wilkes-Barre Public Square.



Her work and spirit is deeply inspired by the many Black historical artists and poets who have used creativity to plant seeds of ideas, experiences, and histories into the future. She has also served in executive roles with the Luzerne County NAACP, helping amplify voices and advocate for change.

Through her leadership, artistry, and community initiatives, Rose continues to create spaces that uplift, connect, and liberate, demonstrating how art, storytelling, and

intentional programming can generate lasting impact, foster resilience, and inspire generations.

Workshop Block #1

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Leveraging Our Roles Today for a Better Tomorrow

Miller Room

Description:

This session is an invitation to engage in conversations with your peers and me to carve out our unique roles as we engage in the social change process. Let's begin with some questions: When you think about your campus and surrounding community, what makes you feel welcome? As a motivated and aspiring student leader, what role do you play or would like to play to help others succeed and establish a sense of belonging (on campus or in community). Do you feel equipped to play a significant role in bringing change? Do you have what it takes to make that happen? Today, we will draw on the Social Change ecosystem framework, developed by Deepa Iyer to reflect on the unique talents we bring in our work and different ways in which we can collaborate, complement each other, and show solidarity as we advocate for social change.

Presented by Rachayita Shah, Ph.D., Director of Community Engaged Learning at The Bonner Foundation

Power in the Pen: A Poetry Workshop

JPAC

Description:

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore the themes of this conference, Respect, Advocacy, Community, and Empowerment (R.A.C.E.) through the art of poetry. Guided by prompts and poetry techniques, participants will create individual poems, share with partners, and collaborate to form a collective poem. This session emphasizes self-expression, storytelling, and community connection, giving participants the tools to craft vivid, authentic poems that reflect their voices and experiences. A mini open mic at the end allows participants to celebrate and share their work, reinforcing confidence, empowerment, and the transformative power of words.

Presented by: Rose Daniels, Executive Director at Gather Community Space, Poet, Fine Artist, and Founder of Breakout Art Movement



Workshop Block #2

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Listen to Lead. Respect Starts with Listening & Listening Starts with YOU

Miller Room

Description:

Effective leadership begins with active listening. Respect is earned by making space and valuing the voices around us, not by waiting for our own moment to speak.

Presented by Lailani Augustine, Director of Special Events & Community Engagement at The United Way of Wyoming Valley

Transforming from Potential to Performance

JPAC

Description:

"Transforming from Potential to Performance" is a high-energy, thought-provoking talk that challenges audiences to move beyond untapped talent and unrealized dreams. Through powerful storytelling and actionable strategies, Shawn Walker shows how to identify hidden strengths, set clear goals, and take disciplined action to turn possibility into measurable results. This is more than motivation—it's a roadmap to living and leading at your highest level.

Presented by Shawn Walker, CEO & Founder of ShawnWalkerSpeaks, LLC

Closing Session - JPAC

1:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

This session will explore the conference theme on a deeper level and allow participants to engage in thoughtful conversation based on their workshop experiences.

Presented by Kas Williams, Associate Vice President for Mission Integration and Institutional Diversity,



Notes:

Notes:



To receive your
certificate, submit
the event survey
using this QR code!

