2016 Connecting Women of Color Conference Sessions:

Participants may select conference sessions they are interested in attending on the registration form. This year’s conference will have a total of 7 sessions. Participants will attend 2 sessions; one session in Block A and one session in Block B. Registration is available on a first come; first served basis. Sessions will be capped at 30 participants per session.

**Boldly Living @ the Intersection of Sexuality, Spirituality, and Success**  
*Presented by Rev. Lacette Cross of Will you be Whole Ministries*  
*Session Block A*

Why play small when you can live bold? Women are often told to be good girls and successful woman. However, with all of the conflicting messages from media, religion and family, boldly living life can be a challenge. In this session participants will explore the dynamics of intersectionality by exploring key aspects of our identity, discussing the impact of positive and negative messages and developing a personal ethic that supports our defined notions of success. Session participants will embrace boldly living life at the intersection.

**Finding F.A.M.I.L.Y.: Using Your College Experience to Create a Foundation for a Purposeful Life**  
*Presented by Dr. Erin Brown, ASPIRE Director, Virginia Commonwealth University*  
*Session Block A*

This session will provide undergraduates with information on how to make the most of their college experience. Using the acronym, F.A.M.I.L.Y., participants will explore how Friends, Allies, Mentor, Interests, Legacy, and You are critical to building pathways for success while in school and as a young professional. The presentation will provide participants with several opportunities to share with others, network, reflect on their own experience, and plan next steps for implementation.

**From Victim to Victor: The Value of Black Women in America, Then and Now (*this session is a caucus space for Black/African American women)**  
*Presented by Courtney Addison, Associate Director for Diversity & Inclusion Longwood University & Jordan Howell Coordinator for Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education Longwood University*  
*Session Block A*

What population is more scrutinized, objectified, or stripped of their true worth than Black women? They have "marched from cotton fields to the White House," carrying the burden of misrepresentation. This presentation traces the roles black women have played historically, analyzes society's denigration of their value, and assesses the negative impacts on the black community. We debunk the stereotypes of black women to demonstrate their resilience, strength, value, and proper place in society.
Curly to Straight: Working out the Kinks of Hair  
*Presented by stylist and motivational speaker Isha Crichlow of I.C. Beauty*  
*Session Block B*

This session will take a deeper look into the issues multicultural women deal with in the professional world due to hair choices. We often hear "first impressions are lasting impressions", however if Women of Color express themselves through hair styles are there professional consequences. Through interactive discussion we will analyze what is myth and what is true.

#StayWoke: Living in the Margins as a Space of Radical Openness (*this session is a caucus space for women of color)*  
*Presented by Judy Pryor-Ramirez, Director of Civic Engagement & Social Justice and Part-Time Faculty Member at Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School & Kendra Danowski, Program Coordinator of Civic Engagement & Social Justice at Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School and cofounder of National Association of Mixed Student Organizers (NAMSO)*  
*Session Block B*

In her book *Yearning*, bell hooks writes about living in the margins as a space of radical openness. How do women of color form counter-hegemonic cultural practices and re- vision a new future given our current social and political climate? This workshop will center on strategies, challenges, and contradictions of choosing to #staywoke when caring for ourselves as Audre Lorde asserts is “not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.”

BTW . . . I Don't See Race, Gender, and Sexual Identity . . . I See People  
*Presented by Chevelle Moss Savage, MHS, HS-BCP Outreach Coordinator at Virginia State University Counseling Center, Resident in Counseling (LPC)*  
*Session Block B*

A guided conversation on the importance of intersectionality and the part it plays in the lives of Women of Color as they move throughout the world. Intersectionality can be defined as one’s race, age, ability status, sexual identity, gender identity or socioeconomic status. We will discuss how all these moving parts affect Women of Color's decision making and others’ perceptions of them due to their intersecting identities.

“Building Across Borders”: Using Study abroad as a tool to foster transnational dialogue among women of color throughout the world  
*Presented by Noelle McMahon, IES Abroad College Relations Manager and Advisor Gretchen Cooke Anderson, IES Abroad Director of Diversity Recruiting and Advising*

In today’s increasing globally linked economy, how can young women of color maximize their competitive advantage in this space? Studying abroad is a tool that allow for students to engage in cultural immersion, cross cultural dialogue and service learning opportunities. Unfortunately studies show that many students of color do not take advantage of this opportunity. Why is it important? How can it benefit students and specifically young women of color? In this session
we will explore strategies to maximize the study abroad experience to foster community among women of color throughout the world.

**About Caucus spaces:**

*At our conference we define caucus spaces as intentional safe places where women of color can have in depth conversations that may not otherwise happen if other non-identifying allies are in the space. We ask that if you do not identify as a member of the caucus group that you choose another session.*