WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP PUBLIC POLICY COLLOQUIUM

May 20 (6:30 p.m.) – May 22, 2018 (6:00 p.m.)
Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah, U.S.A.

Need and Purpose
Throughout history, there has been a lack of women and leadership theory and research. However, in the past five years or so this trend has changed and now a large amount of research has appeared in journals and edited books across the world. Despite these advances being made through research, the number of women holding leadership positions still lags behind men in nearly all cultures and contexts. Women leaders are under-represented in business and industry, in government and communities, and despite a global focus on economic empowerment, the wage gap persists as a social justice issue. We are not connecting the emerging research to the art and practice of women and leadership. And although we believe it is important to continue expanding on this theory and research, it is now even more imperative to develop new ways of thinking about and scaling up the practical applications of research. Our goal as scholars and scholar practitioners needs to extend to achieving parity of representation of women in businesses, government, and influential public and economic leadership positions.

There are multiple routes forward to accomplish this goal. One area of practice that is becoming more important in making progress toward advancing women in leadership roles is that of public policy. Yet, most scholars and scholarly practitioners do not understand how to contribute to shaping public policy, particularly as it emerges from theory and research. In general, public policies represent the objectives and values that governments set regarding the health, welfare, and safety of their citizens. Policies are made through a complex social process involving competing interests, diverse stakeholders, rules, discourse, and the use of power. Policy related to advancing women and leadership is critical to guide the future actions of individuals, entities, and governments toward those ends that are most likely to advance the role of women in leadership roles throughout society. We need to address the clear gap between scholars and scholarly practitioners who do work in women and leadership and the creation of public policies that represent the interests of women across the globe.

To help address this gap, the organizers will host a two-day colloquium designed specifically for scholars and scholarly practitioners from any country who focus their work on women and leadership or related equality issues. The colloquium will be a workshop experience that will train and then catalyze individuals and groups to move theory and research into both domestic and foreign policy. These goals will be met by stimulating interest in and knowledge about public policy, connecting participants from different organizations and disciplines, and mobilizing new and established scholars and practitioners toward public policy efforts. Participants are sought who are serious about increasing their knowledge and skills regarding public policy, discovering how they can move current research and theory toward policy changes, planning how they can make this happen, and then influencing others to do the same.

Participants and Selection
Participants: The colloquium will be limited to 75-100 individuals (depending on number of sponsorships) who are interested in and committed to being involved in moving women and leadership research, theory, and/or practice toward changes in public policy. Participants will most likely fall in one of four categories:

- Established women and leadership scholars, researchers, and theorists;
- Established scholars, researchers, and theorists in an area related or relevant to the women and leadership domain;
- New scholars (e.g., assistant professors, doctoral students) who know existing literature well and plan to engage assertively in women and leadership scholarly work in upcoming years; and
- Practitioners who have advanced education, have conducted at least some research (e.g., dissertation), and base their practice on scholarly work.

Selection—Invitations and Self-Nominations: The selection process includes both targeted invitations as well as an open call for self-nominations. Invitations will be distributed to recognized scholars who have published widely, and a call for
self-nominations will also be distributed through various channels. The organizers anticipate that at least two-thirds of the participants will be from the self-nominating group.

Self-Nomination Process: Those interested in attending will submit a single-spaced 2-page proposal by November 15, 2017 to Dr. Madsen at madsensu@uvu.edu; notifications will be sent by December 15, 2017. Early submissions (by October 1) will be reviewed first and notifications may be sent earlier. The proposals will include the following elements:

1. Personal information: name, position, institution, and contact information
2. Statement of interest: describe your interest in participating and how the colloquium aligns with your short- and longer-term goals; include details about the types and topics of women’s leadership and public policy that most interest you (300-500 words)
3. Curriculum vita

Design and Outcomes
Design: This colloquium will be designed in a workshop format with content being presented as well as large and small group discussions and interactions. It will include elements of both training and development as participants are taught about public policy, but then also have time, through facilitated activities, to consider their own interests, expertise, and strengths and how those can be best utilized for propelling public policy in their own spheres (e.g., community, state, region, country).

Outcomes: The primary outcome for this 2-day gathering is that participants will develop their own individual public policy plan to move theory and research related to a current societal problem to public policy in whatever sphere or spheres they choose. Participants may also link with others at the event to work together, if desired.

Registration and Accommodations
Sponsors will cover the general colloquium costs (there will be no registration fee for attendees) and breakfast and lunch on both May 21 and 22. There may be a reception on Sunday evening before the Colloquium officially begins on Monday. Participants will need to cover the remainder of the expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging). This colloquium will be held on the campus of Utah Valley University (UVU), and recommended lodging is nearby (0.2 miles) in the Hampton Inn & Suites (Orem, Utah). The Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) is a Delta hub, and UVU is located approximately 45-minutes away. Participants would need to arrive by Sunday evening (May 20) to be at the event before 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning; they will also need to be available to stay at the colloquium through 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, so most would need to fly out on Wednesday morning (May 23).

Organizers
Susan R. Madsen, Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership and Ethics, Woodbury School of Business, Utah Valley University (madsensu@uvu.edu; 801-863-6176)
Julia Storberg-Walker, Associate Professor and Co-Director, Executive Leadership Program, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, George Washington University (jswalker@gwu.edu; 202-680-4173)
Wendy Fox Kirk, Assistant Professor, Goddard School of Business and Economics, Weber State University (wendyfoxkirk@weber.edu; 801-821-7970)
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