



***WHY DEI? Presents:***



1 - CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY!

*She*

*Her*

*Woman*

*Female*

Each of these monikers signifies influence of the masculine gender. While we coexist with men and work in concert with them, we are enough in our own right. We, the ones who bring feminine energy, the gender who for so long has carried the world in our purses, high heels, and meticulously manicured coiffures are more than those things. We contribute cognitive and creative content to this world. While

we often share parts of our name with men, let us recognize our uniquely divine, individually competent human existence.

*Homage to the Feminine Spirit.*



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**WHY DEI** takes the month of March to acknowledge the accomplishments of dynamic women shaping history. Experience the power, courage, and tenacity of our sheroes.

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## Malala Yousafzai



**Malala Yousafzai** displays her medal and diploma during the Nobel Peace Prize awards ceremony in 2014

Malala Yousafzai was born in Pakistan on July 12, 1997. Her father was a teacher and ran an [all-girls school in her village](#), however when the Taliban took over her town, they enforced a ban on all girls going to school. In 2012, at the age of 15, Malala publicly spoke out on [women's rights to education](#) and as a result, a gunman boarded her school bus and shot the young activist in the head.

Malala survived.

She moved to the UK where she has become a fierce presence on the world stage and became the youngest ever recipient of the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 2014, at 17 years old. Malala is currently studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford. [Malala's Story Here.](#)

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***"I tell my story not because it is unique, but because it is the story of many girls."***

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## Michelle Obama



First Lady **Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama** is a lawyer, writer, and the wife of the 44th President, Barack Obama. She is the first African-American First Lady of the United States (2008-2016). Through her four main initiatives, she became a role model for women and an advocate for healthy families, service members and their families, higher education, and international adolescent girls education.

[White House First Families Michelle Obama](#)



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***“Each of us also comes here tonight,” Michelle Obama told the Democratic National Convention in 2008, “by way of our own improbable journey” and “driven by a simple belief that . . . we have an obligation to fight for the world as it should be.”***

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**Josie Evans-Phillips**





**Josie Evans-Phillips** is the first Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence and Community Partnerships in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services, and Information Technology at the University of Cincinnati.

Serving as a liaison between the college, the larger U.C. community, and the Greater Cincinnati area, Evans-Phillips advocates for a more equitable, just, and inclusive college environment. She plays an integral role in many areas of the college. Here is a small sampling of her work that impacts forward movement for staff, faculty, and students:

**Programming for Staff and Faculty:** CECH Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board, the Annual CECH Diversity Matters Research Day, CECH Anti-Racism Community Space, and the CECH Inclusive Excellence Weekly Update

**Programming for Students:** Triple Play Mentoring Program, UC Scholars Academy, and Upward Bound



## Katherine Moore Porter



**Katherine Moore Porter** is an American law professor, attorney, and politician serving as the U.S. Representative for California's 45th congressional district since 2019. A member of the Democratic Party, she is the first Democrat to be elected to represent the district. Porter is the first single mother in

Congress raising young children. She fights to make it easier for more single parents to serve as congressional representatives and to encourage more people to run for office whose life experiences reflect those of the people they represent, Porter has proposed potentially game-changing legislation that could transform the face of Congress. Additionally, Porter is working with colleagues to make the congressional calendar more family-friendly by lessening the time members spend commuting between DC and their home districts and increasing the time spent with constituents and family.

## Leah Chase



**Leah Chase** was an American chef based in New Orleans, Louisiana. An author and television personality, she was known as the Queen of Creole Cuisine, advocating both African-American art and Creole cooking. Her restaurant, Dooky Chase, was known as a gathering place during the 1960s among many who participated in the Civil Rights Movement, and was known as a gallery due to its extensive African-American art collection. In 2018 it was named one of the 40 most important restaurants of the past 40 years by Food & Wine.

[Watch a PBS special on Leah Chase](#)

[More about Leah Chase](#)



## Louise Derman-Sparks



**Louise Derman-Sparks** has worked for over 50 years on issues of diversity and social justice as a preschool teacher at the Perry Preschool Project, child-care center director, human development faculty member at Pacific Oaks College, and activist. She is author and coauthor of several books, including [\*Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves\*](#), and [\*What if All the Kids are White? Anti-\*](#)

[\*Bias/Multicultural Education for Young Children and Families\*](#), and of numerous articles. She speaks, conducts workshops, and consults on anti-bias education with children and adults throughout the United States and internationally. Louise is now retired as a professor emerita.

[Anti-Bias Leaders in Early Childhood Education](#)

[PBS special on Anti-Bias lessons](#)

## Dr. Maya Angelou



**Maya Angelou** was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. Angelou is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), tells of her life up to the age of 17 and brought her international recognition and acclaim.

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**“If you’re always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be”**

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## Simone Biles



**Simone Biles** is a 23 year old gymnast, born in Columbus Ohio. With a combined total of 30 Olympic and World Championships, Simone is currently the most decorated American gymnast and the world's third most decorated gymnast.



**Dr. Renee Hawkins**





**Renee Hawkins** is director of the School of Human Services and professor for the School Psychology Ed.S. and Ph.D. programs. The programs are unique, in that they train the future generation of school psychologists to become social justice advocates for their students. She supervises students as they complete practicum and mentors doctoral students as they engage in pre-dissertation and dissertation research.

## Bell Hooks



Writer, professor, and social critic, **bell hooks** is undeniably one of the most successful "cross-over" academics of the late twentieth century. Her books look at the function of race and gender in today's culture. Gloria Jean Watkins, better known by her pen name bell hooks, is an American author, professor, feminist, and social activist. The name "bell hooks" is borrowed from her maternal great-grandmother, Bell Blair Hooks

[Learn more about bell hooks](#)

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*"Feminist politics aims to end domination, to free us to be who we are - to live lives where we love justice, where we can live in peace. Feminism is for everybody."*

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## Claudia Gordon



**Claudia Gordon** is the first Deaf Black female attorney in America. She works for the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and ensures that contractors doing business with the federal government take affirmative action and do not discriminate.



## Billie Holiday



**Billie Holiday** is considered by many critics and fans to have been one of the most important jazz vocalists of the twentieth century.

Holiday became the first African American woman to work with an all-white band. One of her most famous songs, “Strange Fruit” was based on a horrific and detailed account of a lynching in the South. Many scholars now consider it one of the first protest songs of the Civil Rights Movement.

[Learn more about Billie Holiday](#)

**Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**



**Ruth Bader Ginsburg (aka RBG)** was a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, the second woman to be appointed to the position. Ruth Bader Ginsburg graduated from Columbia Law School, going on to become a staunch courtroom advocate for the fair treatment of women and working with the ACLU's Women's Rights Project. Architect of the legal fight for women's rights in the 1970s, Ginsburg subsequently served 27 years on the nation's highest court, becoming its most prominent member.

[Learn more about RBG here](#)

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***"Women's rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy."***

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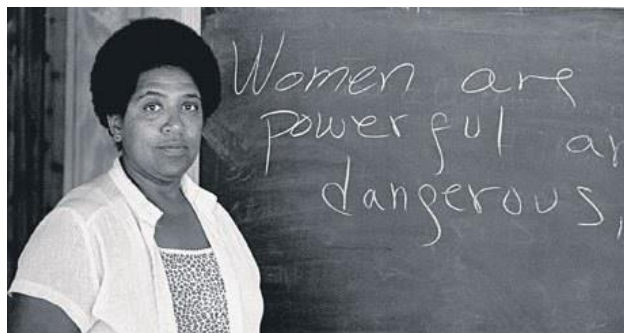
**Dr. Susan Watts-Taffe**





One of only a few African American female Associate Professors in the School of Education, **Dr. Watts-Taffe** is a frequent speaker at state, national, and international conferences, Dr. Watts-Taffe's research interests include vocabulary development, students experiencing difficulty, and teacher professional development, particularly in culturally and linguistically diverse settings. Her research is characterized by long-term collaborations with teachers and administrators to aid struggling readers in urban schools. She spends countless hours mentoring doctoral students and providing valuable insight into the literacy field that informs better practices for disenfranchised students.

## **Audre Lorde**



**Audre Lorde** was an American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist. She was a self-described "Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," who dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, capitalism, heterosexism, and homophobia. Audre Lorde was a native New Yorker and daughter of immigrants. Both her activism and her published work speak to the importance of struggle for liberation among oppressed peoples and of organizing in coalition across differences of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, age and ability. An internationally recognized activist and artist, Audre Lorde was the recipient of many honors and awards.

[Learn more about Audre Lorde here](#)

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***"In our work and in our living, we must recognize that difference is a reason for celebration and growth, rather than a reason for destruction"***

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**Dr. Sarah Stitzlein**





**Dr. Sarah Stitzlein** is a Professor of Education and Affiliate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cincinnati. She is also President of the John Dewey Society, Co-Editor of the journal, *Democracy & Education*, and Co-Director of the Center for Hope & Justice Education. Dr. Stitzlein focuses on issues of political agency, educating for democracy, and equity in schools. Her latest book *Learning How to Hope: Reviving Democracy through Schools and Civil Society* explains what hope is, why it matters to democracy, and how we can teach it in schools, universities, and civil society.

[Read more about Sarah Stitzlein here](#)

[Download her latest book here for FREE](#)

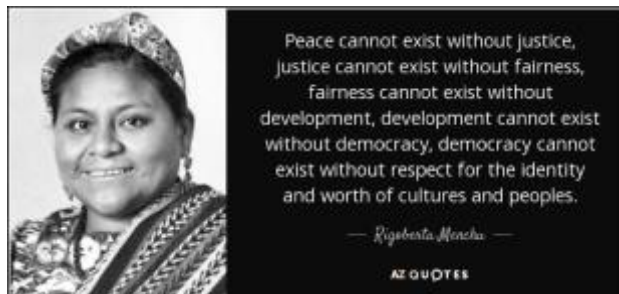
## Rigoberta Menchú Tum



**Rigoberta Menchú** —an indigenous Guatemalan woman of the K'iche' branch of the Mayan culture — has dedicated her life to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. She became active in the women's rights movement as a teenager, later becoming a prominent workers' rights advocate. In 1981, after most of her family had been killed and with her own life in danger, she fled to Mexico, where she continued her resistance work against oppression in Guatemala.

In 1992 she became the first indigenous person to receive a Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of her work for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation for indigenous peoples in Guatemala. In 2006, Menchú was one of the founders of the [Nobel Women's Initiative](#), a group of female laureates who work together to strengthen women's rights worldwide.

[Learn More Here Nobel Womens Initiative-Rigoberta Menchu-Tum](#)



**Daniele Bond**



**Daniele Bond** currently serves as Field Service Associate Professor in Early Childhood Education and Human Development. She has served in many valuable roles in the college, including past co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board. She continues her work for equity and inclusion through continued service to the DEI board, CECH Diversity Matters Research Day, WHY DEI monthly distribution of information, and many other DEI endeavors within CECH and the larger UC community. This year,

Daniele was part of an inaugural School of Education Diversity Working Group, leading the charge to establish a Call-to-Action Framework around diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. In addition, she is designing a new Social Issues course for Early Childhood Education majors.



**Shirley Anita Chisholm**



**Shirley Anita Chisholm** was an American politician, educator, and author. In 1968, she became the first black woman elected to the United States Congress, representing New York's 12th congressional district for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. In the 1972 United States presidential election, she became the first African-American candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

[Learn more about Shirley Chisholm here](#)

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***"You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."***

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**I am eternally grateful for the women who have fought the fights, earned my rights, opened doors, and set the stage for me to live vibrantly.**

**-Sylvia Baffour**