

# THE ANTIOCHIAN

# *Leader*

WINTER 2023



ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF  
LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE





# Dean's COLUMN

It's January 2023 and the new year is underway. So much is going on in our Antioch Graduate School community.

We already have the largest group of early admission acceptances for any incoming cohort ever, so plan to welcome a robust Cohort 23 in July. So far, it is an exciting, diverse, passionate group of practitioners looking forward to their doctoral journey. And, we still have months to go in the admissions cycle.

In the meantime, we will be holding the March residency in Los Angeles for Cohorts 21 and 22, and the final residency for Cohort 20 at Antioch Seattle, which is a shift from a traditional Santa Barbara location. With the increased costs for hotel and travel, and after consulting with cohort members about what was important in terms of location for the residency, we made the decision to move to Seattle, where there are far more opportunities for lodging and easier travel options. We'll see what decisions we make in the future, but for now, it will be May 2023 in Seattle!

This academic year, we brought into our program three amazing new core faculty, Lem Watson, Fayth Parks, and Amy Lesen, who officially joins this month! Please read the interview with Amy in this newsletter (page 3). We are incredibly excited by the new talent, expertise, and wisdom that these new faculty members bring and that current and future students will benefit from this journey ahead with them, even as we honor and miss the faculty who have recently retired. We had so many celebrations this past summer in Yellow Springs to recognize achievements of graduates and faculty alike. And, many members of Cohort 1 actually traveled home to share in the retirement festivities (page 7).

You all also know that I have announced my intention to step down as Director of the PhD Program this July, continuing on as Dean of the Graduate School for the foreseeable future. Our national search for the next Director of this amazing program is well underway. We've had fabulous interviews with semi-finalists and our plan is to bring four finalists to the March residency, to meet with faculty, staff, students, and alumni. So, stay tuned for all that news to come.

One thing that doesn't change with the shifts in locations, faculty, or cohorts is our commitment to continue strengthening our mission of an education to 'further social, economic, and environmental justice.' We will remain committed to the rigorous training of cross-sector scholar-practitioners in the theory, research, and practice of leading positive social, organizational, and community change. We will forever strive to be a learning community of diverse leaders and activists who care and who inspire one another to continue the good fight even in dark times.

There will be lots more exciting news in the coming months. For now, I send my thoughts out to all of you. May 2023 be full of joy and justice.

Dr. Laurien Alexandre, Dean

# Interview with

# Amy LESEN



**Dr. Amy Lesen** joins the Graduate School of Leadership and Change (GSLC) as Professor of Environmental Leadership and Participatory Change in January 2023. We are thrilled to introduce Amy to our Antioch learning community with this interview conducted in December. You can find Amy's full CV [here](#).

**We are curious what you find most appealing about the GSLC that convinced you to join us? What is exciting you the most?**

The three most exciting aspects of the GSLC are the social justice focus, the students, and the faculty. Probably the biggest draw when I first learned about the program was the focus on social justice. As my work has evolved over the past 20 years, it has become essential for me that my work be useful to people outside of the academy. As someone trained in natural science, finding an academic and intellectual home like the GSLC that embraces my environmental knowledge but also my wish to work towards change is honestly a dream come true. I am also really excited about working with the GSLC students, from whom I expect I will learn a lot and can only hope they will learn as much from me! I can't wait to exchange ideas and experiences with them. Finally, the faculty and leadership of the GSLC are hugely compelling and – as with the students – I think I will learn a great deal from my colleagues and get the opportunity to form new collaborations that will be innovative and impactful. Many of the perspectives and sectors of the GSLC faculty are new areas for me (for example, organizational leadership), and I'm looking forward to these new collegial relationships.

**You have a deep understanding of, and broad experience with, environmental justice, community resilience, and participatory action. Could you share how you see these professional interests intersecting with the GSLC?**

I don't think there is a field, sector or topic, especially in social change and leadership, that isn't touched by climate and environmental change (C&EC) whether it be now or in the future. I am really excited to work with GSLC students to help them make those connections. Because the social impacts of C&EC are so complex and deep, I do use community-based and participatory methods in all my work. From what I have already seen, many GSLC students are

interested in incorporating those methods into their projects and dissertations, and I think my experience working with a wide range of different kinds of communities from varied geographic locations and demographics will benefit the students as they develop their work.

**We have designed the programs of the Graduate School for cross-sector scholar-practitioners, to train those who are leading with the skills and knowledge as responsible leaders and socially engaged researchers to improve the lives of those they serve. Can you identify the top skills/knowledge you hope to bring?**

I do think that the years I have spent learning and doing community-based and participatory research will benefit the students both intellectually and in a practical, methodological way. This is something I have thought about and researched deeply, and I look forward to working with students to help them think about what their own ethical and inclusive approaches to research might look like. I have also done a lot of work on interdisciplinarity and collaboration, and I think my knowledge of the literature and methods of those practices will be helpful and informative to GSLC students as they do the work of deciding what kinds of leaders they want to be. Collaborating respectfully across sectors, disciplines, backgrounds, and walks of life takes intentionality and training, and I think my approach will be instructive and valuable.

**You are a scientist by training and background so I'm curious how you see and feel that intersection with the social sciences and humanities?**

I love thinking about this question! Firstly, I feel that some of the boxes we put knowledge into are a little deceiving. I think ecology and, for example, sociology probably have as much or as little in common as sociology and history. I think every field of knowledge has many things to contribute to

every other. Since my work started evolving more towards incorporating the social sciences and humanities, I think my natural science background, especially in ecology and the environment, can lend some interesting perspectives to other disciplines about topics like the way “systems” (writ large) work, what knowledge is and how we think about “truth,” as well as understanding deeply the ways ecological and human systems influence each other and are intertwined.

**What scholar-practitioner-activists have most influenced your path?**

Beverly Wright and Robert Bullard, arguably the founders of the field of environmental justice in the United States. My close friends and colleagues Shirley Laska and Kris Peterson who founded the *Lowlander Center* in southeast Louisiana and Alessandra Jerolleman, who is also on that team. Nathan Jessee, a young and revolutionary anthropologist. Scholars of science and technology studies such as Sheila Jasannoff and Frank Fischer. This is an extremely edited list of the many people who have influenced my work.

The people, however, from whom I have learned the most are the community leaders and those individuals outside of academia who have taught me what it means to do environmental justice work in a way that is useful, ethical, and respectful.

**And, would you be willing to share what you’re reading right now – what’s sitting on your bookstand or kindle?**

For pleasure, I just finished two books: *People Person* by the West Indian English author Candice Carty-Williams, which was delightful, and *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews, which I’d been wanting to read for a while and was inspired to finally get it from the library because it was just made into a

film (which I have not seen yet). I have become a bit obsessed with Toews and just got an earlier novel of hers out of the library called *A Complicated Kindness* but haven’t started it yet. For work and pleasure both, I am still making my way through *Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto* by Tricia Hersey, who is the founder of the Organization The Nap Ministry, and posits rest as a way of resisting capitalism.

**You graciously were able to participate in the recent November 2022 residency. You had a chance to interact with our learning community and I’m wondering if you have any first impressions about your new academic home in terms of the students? The faculty?**

My experience during the November residency exceeded my wildest expectations! The students were so enthusiastic about my work and perspective, and I was excited to learn about their work, hear their questions, and begin to understand the huge diversity in the geographic locations and backgrounds of the students as well as their research directions and career foci. As well, both during the interview process and the residency, my interactions with the core faculty have already been stimulating and fun. There are faculty with expertise that compliments mine really well, as well as people whose work is quite different from mine and from whom I know I will learn a great deal. I really can’t wait to start working with everyone.

**If we were doing this interview a few years from now (and I hope we do!), and I asked you to look back on your time with us, what would you have liked to have learned? Done? In what ways would you like to have seen yourself grow?**

I would hope to have formed close and lasting relationships with students, and learned from them about heretofore unexpected possibilities for applying environmental and

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Advancing Conscious Leadership  
Building the Resilient Organization  
Leading for Inclusion and Racial Justice  
Leading Transformative Change



community-based approaches into practice, and melding with other disciplines and fields. I would also hope that I had been able to be helpful to them in seeing new possibilities on their lives and careers. I would hope to be engaged in fruitful collaborations with my fellow faculty members that will have taken us to new places in our work. I am especially excited to see how the expertise at the GSLC in leadership studies and practice will inform my own work and perspective; I don't know what this will look like but I'm looking forward to see how that manifests. I am also looking forward to ways that Antioch might collaborate with my current institution, Dillard University, which is a Historically Black College in New Orleans: I'd love to see what sorts of ways the two institutions might work together in research, learner pathways, and other possibilities I haven't even dreamed of yet.

**I was struck by your commitment to change and your belief in the power of community. I wonder how you've been able to hold onto hope during these most difficult times in our lives. Where do you find strength and hope?**

To be completely honest, I wonder the same thing some days! But I have seen reasons to be hopeful. For example, here in Louisiana, a years-long community fight against a new plastics plant recently reached a new phase when a Louisiana judge denied the permit (read [here](#)) – something almost unheard of in this state. I am also given some hope by the midterm elections and the outcome of the Senate race in Georgia. And my students are always a source of hope: the ones here at Dillard now, and I can only imagine after meeting folks in November that I will gain as much if not more hope from the inspiring work of the students and colleagues at the GSLC.

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## My experience during the November 2022 Ph DLC residency exceeded my wildest expectations!

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**Would you please share something about yourself that you would like our community to know that they wouldn't learn from your CV?**

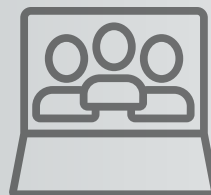
Great question! Well, I adore cats and at some point, you'll all probably meet my current and future cats on Zoom. I have extremely wide-ranging taste in music. I can bench press almost 125 lbs and lift weights three times a week. If I could have dinner with any person in history it would probably be the musician and writer Patti Smith, but I might be too nervous! And my partner and I are very privileged to have a tiny house in rural central North Carolina on a cooperative "women's land" which is part refuge from future hurricanes and part place to go to escape the city.

## Join Us for an Information Webinar!

We welcome you to join us for an upcoming webinar session!

Learn more and register today!

[antioch.edu/visit/visit-gslc/](https://antioch.edu/visit/visit-gslc/)



# REFLECTIONS from the International Leadership Association Conference in Washington, DC

The Graduate School of Leadership and Change held a gathering of over two dozen alumni, students, and faculty in a robust networking event in Washington, DC in early October. This event brought together learning community members spanning from Cohort 2 to Cohort 18 and celebrated the nearly 30 sessions led or facilitated by GSLC representatives at the annual International Leadership Association global conference.

“Accelerating the Path to Corporate Leadership for All Women: A Conversation with Stella Nkomo”  
Facilitated by Core Faculty  
**Dr. Lize Booysen**

“Adaptive Leadership Across Cultures: A Panel of Perspectives”  
Panelists including **Dr. Mo Raei**

“Book Buzz! Leadership Authors Share Wisdom from Their Latest Books VI”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Jan Byars**,  
*A Call to Wholeness: Remembering Our Interconnection*

“Book Discussion: *Grassroots Leadership and the Arts for Social Change*”  
Led by alum **Dr. Susie Erenrich**

“Book Performance: *Grassroots Leadership and the Arts for Social Change*”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Susie Erenrich**

“Collegiate Leadership Challenge Program”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Scott Allen**

“Countering Virtual Meeting Fatigue: What Meeting Leaders Can Do”  
Led by alum **Dr. Betty Johnson**  
and Core Faculty member  
**Dr. Beth Mabry**

“Cultivating Leadership Wisdom Through Different Ways of Knowing: An Experiential Opening to Intelligence Beyond Intellect”  
Led by alum **Dr. Stacey Guenther**

“Deepening Presence and Connection Into Our Work”  
Featuring student **Ileya Grosman**

“Differentiated Leadership Learning: Meaning Making Through Identities and Context”  
Featuring student **Ileya Grosman**

“Downloading Wisdom: The Critical Role of Podcasts in Leadership Education”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Scott Allen** and student **Lauren Bullock**

“Dynastic Wealth™ and Generativity-Based Entrepreneurship: Using Wisdom to Create Economic Equality”  
Featuring alum **Dr. LaTanya White**

“Enlivening Zoom Experience: Cultivating Online Depth and Connection”  
Facilitated by alum  
**Dr. Stacey Guenther**

“Exploring Harmony in a Pandemic, Political, and Cultural Divide: Accidental Interactions in the Deep South”  
Presented by student **Ileya Grosman**

“Holding Space - Facing Our Fears: Generative Mindfulness, Dialogue, and Inclusion”  
Led by Core Faculty  
**Dr. Lem Watson**

“How to Teach Leadership Skills in Person and Then Online and Back Again”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Scott Allen**

“Letting Wholeness Lead: Finding Your Path to Wisdom”  
Led by alums **Dr. Jan Byars**  
and **Dr. Laura Santana**

“More Human, Not Less: Acting Wisely in a Fractured World”  
Featuring Core Faculty  
**Dr. Aqeel Tirmizi**

“Reframing Leadership Narratives through the African American Lens”  
Presented by alum  
**Dr. Marion McGee**

“Repurposing Generativity to Cultivate Leaders and Catalyze Change”  
Presented by alums  
**Dr. Marion McGee** and  
**Dr. LaTanya White**

“Sensing Together: Using Different Ways of Knowing to Cultivate Wisdom and Collectivity Make Meaning”  
Presented by alum  
**Dr. Stacey Guenther**

“Stuck in Your Point of View? Let’s Talk!”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Martha Miser**  
and student **Maya Townsend**

“What Does Wisdom in Leadership Look Like? Using Photographs to Give Voice to a Deeper Understanding”  
Facilitated by alum **Dr. Rick Warm**

“Wisdom Perspectives on Personhood in Leadership”  
Featuring alum **Dr. Stacey Guenther**  
and Core Faculty **Dr. Lem Watson**

“Wisdom in Times of Crisis”  
Chaired by Core Faculty  
**Dr. Aqeel Tirmizi** and featuring  
alum **Dr. Betty Johnson**

“Wisdom to Transform How We Teach Leadership: Intersection of Global Inclusion and Critical Studies”  
Chaired by alum **Dr. Holly Diaz**

“Wisdom Walk: Harvesting and Sharing Life Experiences”  
Facilitated by alum  
**Dr. Carolyn Morales**



# YELLOW SPRINGS RESIDENCY

Learning community members  
travelled from near and far  
to be together for the annual  
residency in Ohio.



## COHORT *one*







# COMMENCEMENT

The PhD in Leadership and Change program celebrated its first in-person Commencement post-pandemic with much pride and joy.





# HOME STRETCH FUND EXPANDS

The Home Stretch Fund (HSF) was originally established with a generous gift from Dr. Charlie Nelms to support eligible PhD in Leadership and Change students in the final trimester of candidacy in good academic standing and who are members of under-represented populations. Based on national data, those most under-represented in doctoral programs are ethnic/racial minorities, first-generation students, and those from low-income communities. This criterion, in addition to well-documented financial need and limited access to other financial resources, requires candidates to have completed their data-gathering phase and be in the trimester in which they are completing their dissertation and preparing for their defense. The focus of the HSF funds is to assist directly with tuition. A smaller subset of the HSF has been established to cover costs of Antioch University's Writer's Exchange (WEX) post-defense support if there are additional costs the successful candidate needs to cover and they have demonstrated financial need. These limited funds are available only after the completion of the defense and the candidate must apply for them directly, indicating the amount being requested based on the WEX statement.

## 20x 20 RECAP

**We had hoped to raise \$200,000 in scholarship funds during the 2021-22 academic year, our 20th anniversary. That's mind-blowing enough! Twenty years. But, there's more. We're so pleased to share with you - we DID it and more.** We actually raised over \$230,000 from alumni and friends as part of the campaign. Thank you so much. And, a thank you going forward from the many future students who will benefit from your generosity. And, there's more. I'm thrilled to share that over 35% of our alumni donated to the campaign, which is far beyond the norm of 8-10% for alumni giving nationwide unless, of course, you are Harvard, Princeton or Yale .... or apparently, Antioch's PhD in Leadership and Change. That is truly amazing and demonstrates a commitment to this program and its continued success that fills me with joy. **We are so proud to share reflections from donors in response to being a part of such a milestone effort.**

"Speaks volumes. Proud to be part of this very special community."

"MANY CONGRATS! I'm so happy to hear about this success and that we could play a part."

"I'm glad to be a part of continuing this program that allowed me to gain so much, academically and personally."

"I'm so incredibly happy to be a part of this effort. This program is very important to me because the experience changed my life."

"It's great to learn that such a meaningful goal was reached. All the best to you and all those whom you continue to inspire!"

"I am happy that I could make a small contribution to ensuring as many future students get to experience the PhD in Leadership and Change Program I had the privilege of benefiting from."

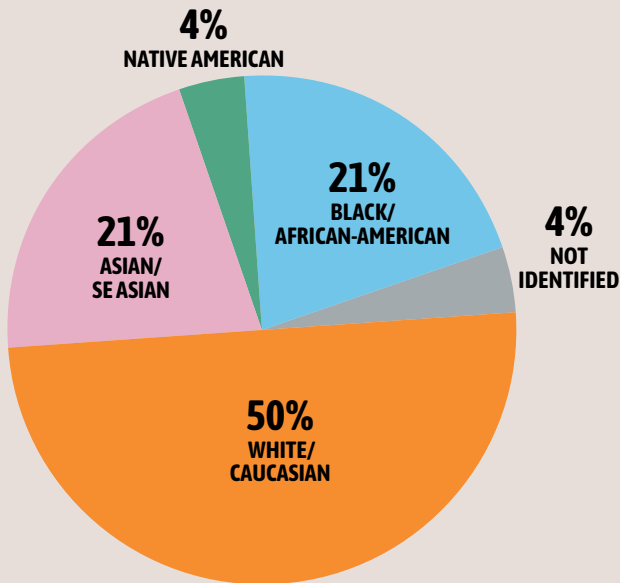
"I am proud to be among the alumni blessed enough to contribute to the enriching and necessary work of the Antioch PhD in Leadership and Change program. I continue to benefit and prosper from all that I learned from being a part of the program, interacting with and learning from the faculty and staff, and from the friends I still embrace in my life."

# Cohort 22 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE\*

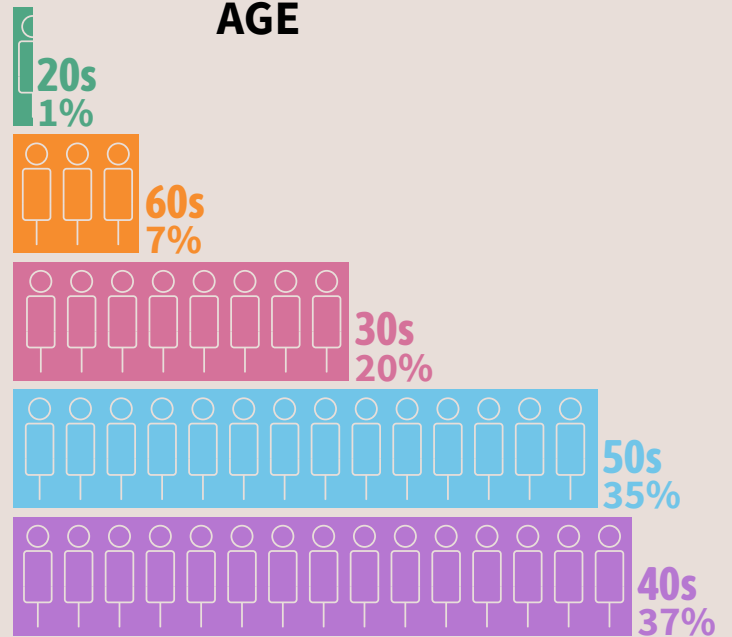
\*as self identified in University application

As we embark on admitting the next class of PhD in Leadership and Change we share the makeup of first year students!

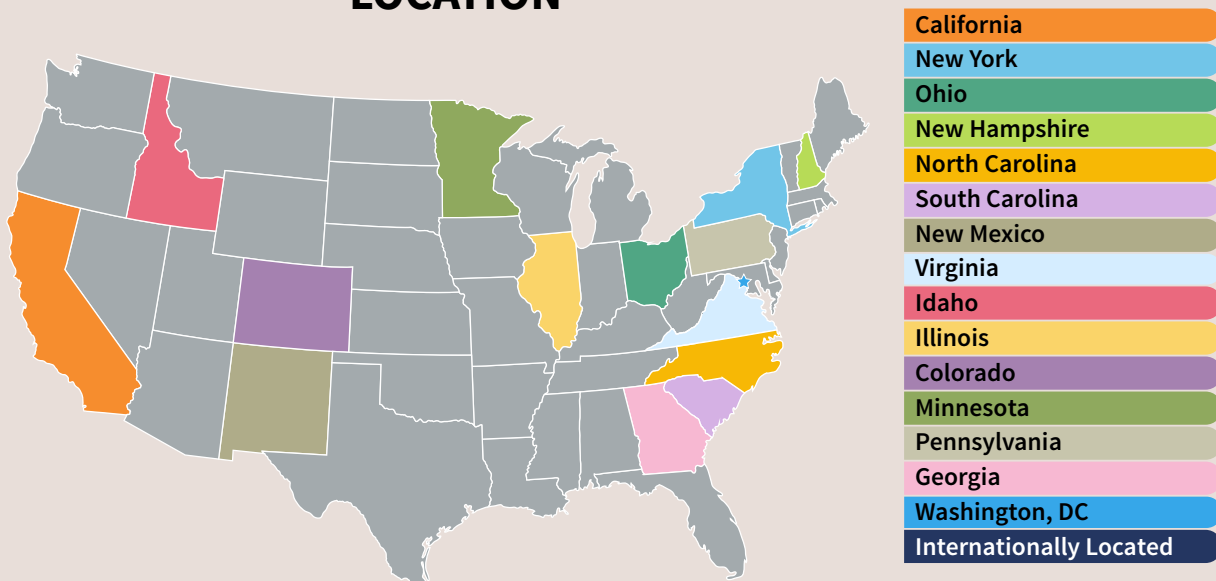
## RACE/ETHNICITY



## AGE



## LOCATION





# STUDENT AND ALUMNI UPDATES

## COHORT 1

**Dr. Beth Birmingham** has co-authored the book entitled, *Creating Cultures of Belonging. Cultivating Organizations Where Women and Men Thrive* (IVP, 2022). Along with co-author Eeva Sallinen Simard, Birmingham offers solutions for leadership teams, board members, and managers that reshape organizational culture in ways that invite and celebrate gender equity.



## COHORT 2



**Dr. Sean Creighton** has been named President of The Washington Internship Institute following the merger of the organization with the New American Colleges and Universities (NACU) where he remains President. Additionally, he was recently featured on the podcast, *Rebuilding the American Dream*. In this episode, Creighton discusses his passion for the intersection of higher education and partnerships, and how the institutions that belong to the New American Colleges and Universities have built a trusted network for collaboration and deliver a purposeful education.

**Antioch University**  
*Mission*

Antioch University provides learner-centered education to empower students with the knowledge and skills to lead meaningful lives and to advance social, economic, and environmental justice.

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## COHORT 4

**Dr. Lucy Barbera's** book, *The Expressive Arts in Teacher Education: Cultivating Social Justice Leadership*, which was based on her doctoral dissertation and published as a textbook in 2011, has been translated into five languages, French, Italian, German, Spanish, and Portuguese.



President and Positivity Strategist at TGC Consulting, Inc. **Dr. Nicole Bossard** has launched *Practicing Positivity The Studio*. This innovative YouTube channel builds upon her background in creating thriving cultures through coaching, strategic consulting, and positivity-infused facilitation and training to cultivate a powerful, engaging vision of the future emboldened by aspirational values powerful enough to guide day-to-day practice. With over 20 years of experience Nicole has extensive expertise in leveraging engagement and inclusion to build and maintain positive focus helping individuals, organizations, and teams worldwide.

## COHORT 5

Dr. Susie Erenrich has co-edited the new book entitled *A Grassroots Leadership and Arts for Social Change Primer: For Educators, Organizers, Activist, and Rabble-Rousers* (International Leadership Association, 2022). The volume highlights authors from around the globe, who have contributed to the ongoing effort to expand the field of leadership from a bottom-up, collective, collaborative, and horizontally-based perspective.

## COHORT 6

Dr. Janet Dewart Bell has launched the *LEADing JUSTICE* podcast. This new platform highlights the importance of courage, commitment, compassion, vision, and hope to ensure and secure a just and equitable future and features singular guests who make a difference in the fight for freedom worldwide. Scholar, author, activist, and professor Dr. Janet Dewart Bell is a nationally recognized leader in social justice, media advocacy, and politics. She is founder and president of LEAD InterGenerational Solutions.



## COHORT 8

Dr. Dawn Hardison-Stevens (*Omushkeg Cree-Metis, Ojibway, Cowlitz, Steilacoom*) is Assistant Professor in Native Education for The University of Washington Tacoma School of Education's inaugural Muckleshoot Tribal partnership. The majority of students in their monumental incoming Master's Cohort are Native American/First Nations. Dawn is an experienced educator providing leadership and advocacy to promote academic success for Native students, families, and communities, focusing on positive change in Native communities within academic systems through personal experience as a practitioner and professional examining and identifying perspectives from people within schools, tribal communities, and Native leadership. Dawn will be building on and supporting the creation of Indigenous/Tribal partnerships in the South Puget Sound and Washington State. Additionally, she has published the chapter entitled, "Learning With Each Other: A Relational Indigenous Leadership Philosophy" within *Unsettling Settler-Colonial Education: The Transformational Indigenous Praxis Model* (Teachers College Press, 2022).



Dr. Mike Young published *Nuclear Vigilance: The Creation of the Atomic Energy Detection System and its Impact on Nuclear Arms Control Goals during the Eisenhower Administration* (Airforce, 2022). As the Command Historian for the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Mike was able to tell this story about the initial creation of the nation's treaty monitoring system and organization tasked with surveilling nuclear detonations worldwide, based on recently declassified documents. The story illustrates how the innovative leadership of two key scientists working in a highly classified organization could have far-reaching influence over the formulation of American foreign policy and national security in the 1950s.

## COHORT 10

Dr. Lisa Berkley has accepted the position of Director of Resiliency at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Dr. Juan "Kiko" Suarez has been appointed Chief Academic Officer at Huntington Junior College in Huntington, WV. The appointment to this newly-created position was made by HJC President Fred Fransen and is an important step in positioning the college for future success. As Chief Academic Officer, Suarez is tasked with growing the college's academic offerings based on the needs of the local business community and national trends.

**The Graduate School of Leadership and Change** supports the fight against global warming by offsetting the climate impact of all work-related air travel of program faculty and staff through annual donations that support projects involving renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reforestation.

## COHORT 11

**Dr. Abi Abrash Walton** presented at the 5th National Adaptation Forum in Baltimore. She and Antioch University Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience colleagues presented on the Centering Equity in Climate Resilience Planning and Action [publication](#) which was released in connection with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Office.

She and the team also presented on the Climate and Health Resilience Initiative as a multi-year climate and health adaptation project, pursued with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, she published the new article entitled, "[Facilitating Behavior Change: Introducing the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change as a Conservation Psychology Framework and Tool for Practitioners](#)" in the journal of Zoo Biology as part of a new special issue on conservation psychology.

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## COHORT 12

**Dr. Holly Diaz** is the new Associate Director for the Morse Leadership Institute at Western Washington University. Holly is an experienced administrator and professor with a history working within higher education. In this new role she will bring her expertise in nonprofit leadership and community outreach to the Institute's mission to foster responsible, ethical, and inclusive leadership in students and graduates.

**Dr. Audy Johnston** has been selected as one of the members of Leadership Palm Beach County's Engage Class of 2023. Leadership Engage, presented by iTHINK Financial, is a highly selective 10-month program which unites community leaders and offers participants a transformative learning experience and a powerful network, with the intent to better Palm Beach County, Florida.



**Dr. Mo Raei** recently presented "Coaching and Adult Development Using the Spiral Dynamics AQAL Model" for the International Coaching Federation-Jordan Chapter. He was also interviewed by fellow GSLC alum Dr. Scott Allen (Cohort 2) for the [Phronesis](#) podcast. This new episode regarding adult development, specifically touches upon his expertise regarding the way in which adult development impacts leadership.



## COHORT 13

**Dr. Maria Chavez-Haroldson** has been appointed to the Oregon State University Board of Trustees by Oregon Governor Brown. Maria is Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Willamette Education Service District where she specializes in cultural intelligence, diversity management, information management, and data analysis.



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## COHORT 14

**Dr. Atim George** has recently been selected by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and World Learning, for placement on the Fulbright Specialist Roster. This opportunity offers U.S. academics and established professionals to engage in two - to -six week collaborative projects, sharing their expertise and gaining international experience to learn about other cultures, at host institutions across the globe.

**Dr. La'Shelle Jefferson** recently joined Central State University faculty as full-time Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice.

**Dr. Tyler Olson** has been awarded the 2022 APSA Community College Faculty Award. This award is presented annually by the American Political Science Association (APSA) to honor exemplary contributions that advance the multi-faceted goals of community college faculty.



**Dr. Chris Taylor**, Managing Director of Solar Thermal Australia and leader in supplying renewable energy products to the energy and plumbing trade across Australia, has led the organization in its recognition as the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Award for future energy as an industry leader for 2022.



#### COHORT 15

**Dr. Sara Frost** launched the *Moms in Academia* podcast with her friend and co-host Nancy Rodriguez. In this new podcast the two discuss the joys and challenges of juggling motherhood, work, and doctoral studies. Season one wrapped this summer and season two will launch soon in the coming months. Amongst the variety of topics planned for the upcoming season, Sara and Nancy will discuss the proposal process, self-care tips, and dads in academia.

#### COHORT 16

**Dr. Kelly Cerialo** recently co-chaired a responsible tourism workshop at EuroMAB, a biennial conference hosted by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Nockberge, Austria. Kelly is Associate Professor and Program Coordinator in the Business and Hospitality Department at Paul Smith's College, specializing in social impacts of tourism in protected areas, tourism in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves governance and management, recreation overuse, youth leadership mentoring in sustainable communities, and cross-cultural communication.



**Dr. Sara Safari**, who is featured in the new Netflix documentary entitled, *Aftershock: Everest and the Nepal Earthquake*, which recounts the 2015 natural disaster from firsthand accounts of survivors. The event shaped the life and work of Sara who is an internationally renowned author, speaker, and advocate for women. She is Founder of Climb Your Everest, a non-profit empowering women one adventure at a time.

#### COHORT 17



**Dr. Mea Ashley** recently presented her doctoral research at the Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors annual meeting. The presentation, for association members including representatives from international sorority and fraternity headquarters, focused on her dissertation entitled, *Because God Said So: A Thematic Analysis of Why People Denounce Black Greek-Letter Organizations*, which delves into the reasons why members are leaving Black Greek-Letter Organizations (BGLOs) especially in cases where the organizations find the anti-BGLO movement to be a threat to organizational vitality. Mea is Director of Student Life at Mississippi University for Women and specializes in student affairs, student leadership, and student development.



**Renee Bradford** was recently honored with inclusion in the International Association of Management, Spirituality, and Religion's (IAMSR) annual conference in Vienna, Austria. The conference brought together participants from eighteen countries and four continents to share insights and reflect on the future of management, spirituality and IAMSR. Renee is a servant leader, philanthropist and champion for women, children and families. She is Founder and Vision Keeper for First Purse, Inc., an innovative nonprofit organization that empowers girls and young women to be financially literate, invest in their communities and to own their "first purse" of financial independence.

Access all  
PhD in  
Leadership  
and  
Change

**DISSERTATIONS  
HERE!**



**Dr. Greta Creech** recently published a new research article, “[Relationships, Power, and Ambiguity: How do U.S. Intelligence Officer Responses to Toxicity Affect Support to the Core Mission?](#)”

Dr. Creech explores U.S. intelligence core teams at the cultural and functional levels, and how intelligence officers respond to toxic interpersonal relationships remains unexplored. Her study found power, agency, and acumen play central roles, along with relational ambiguity and toxic memory as contextual factors. Additionally, Greta participated in a panel on Women in Intelligence at the International Association of Intelligence Education (IAFE) annual conference where she spoke about the often unique challenges of being a woman in the male-dominated intelligence field, the ways in which to navigate that world successfully, and the positive efforts that the U.S. intelligence community is engaged in to improve gender equity and inclusion.



**Dr. Stacey Guenther** has just completed “From Me to We: A Phenomenological Inquiry into Coherence” in the *The Journal of Awareness-Based Systems Change*.

**Dr. Kathy Hoffman**, Agency Policy and Rules Manager for the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, participated in a plenary panel at the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA) annual conference discussing hemp-derived cannabis products.

Additionally, she chaired the panel entitled “Cautionary Tales for Leaders” and presented her first post-doc work entitled, “The Illusion of Social Equity: Exploring the Study of “Leadership” as a Foundation of Structural and Institutional Racism in the United States” at the 20th International Studying Leadership Conference at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England.



Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Human Dynamic Group, **Dr. Eric Kung** recently presented “Leadership As Practice of Middle Managers During Organizational Change” at Hong Kong University’s SPACE Institute of China Business Senior Executive Academy (SEA). Eric has over 27 years of experience in management consulting and leadership development in the Asia Pacific region. He and his company operate in 8 different countries across Asia offering integrated solutions in leadership and change to global companies across industries.

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## COHORT 19

CEO of Golden Spike LLC **Dr. Bonnie Curtis** has joined the faculty of Northern Kentucky University (NKU). Nationally recognized for empowering diverse learners for economic and social mobility, and its inclusive mission, NKU has 16,000 students, many of them first-generation college students. In this new role, Dr. Curtis will be teaching at the Master’s level as part of the Supply Chain stack in the MBA program. The course, entitled “Strategic Sourcing”, will utilize her vast experience working in the global supply chain as well as the scholarly research completed throughout her time in the PhDLC program and highlighted in her [dissertation](#).



**Ileya Grosman** has been selected as the lead photographer and co-creator of “Why We Work?”, an exploratory photo-essay of dignity, work, purpose, and Catholic values. By capturing people in their practice: a barber and rural veterinarian, to baker and translator, Ileya

and fellow partners highlight what is true and timeless in the deeper motivations and desires of work. The project will be featured at the [New York Encounter, February 17-19, 2023](#) in New York City.

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## COHORT 20

Chief Executive Officer and Principal Owner of ClearVision Mediation, **Alesia Grace Thompson**, facilitated an impactful interview with communications coach and author Lorraine Segal, which was hosted by Meditate.com, an online resource for the global mediation community. For nearly two decades Alesia has been providing NGOs, families, foundations, and non-profit organizations with mediation expertise, conflict resolution, and diplomacy. In recognition of her scholarship and work she was recently awarded the The Marge Ramsey Scholarship from the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE). This award assists union women in both leadership and career development and recognizes recipients that have a demonstrated record with labor activism and have outlined professional development goals.



**Alicia Wargo** recently participated in the National Summit for Courageous Conversations on Race, held in Washington, DC. Her session entitled, “Abolishing Whiteness in Educational Spaces” highlighted her expertise in equity-focused education which supports school leaders and teams to serve young people through an anti-racist lens. Alicia is Program Director of Leadership Development for the School Empowerment Network where she brings her decades of experience in the field of education to create thriving schools and caring communities.

## COHORT 21

**Maya Townsend**, Founder and Lead consultant of Partnering Resources, delivered the keynote address entitled, “Centering Humans: A Call for Radical Humanity at Work” at the Organizational Network Analysis Summit 2022. Maya specializes in helping individuals, teams, and organizations thrive in our networked world.



**Emily Aiken** has been awarded the The Utah Phillips/J. David Singer Chapter 93 Veterans For Peace Scholarship Award. The scholarship offers support to students in programs that actively promote the study of global conflict resolution or issues of peace and justice and is in recognition of Emily’s commitment to bringing people together across cultural differences to promote peace and understanding. Emily is a Program Coordinator and Qualifying Seminar Instructor for the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). The IDI is a diagnostic tool that provides an opportunity for individuals and groups to learn more about their orientation toward cultural differences, as well as how they can continue their development.



**Lynn Horan** recently published two articles on her research regarding embodied leadership and boundary work of female clergy. The first entitled “Separation of Church and State Fails to Protect Female Clergy” was published by *Young Clergy Women International* and the second published by *Presbyterians Today* is entitled “A Time to Dance, Belief and Healing Begins in Our Bodies”. Lynn Horan is an ordained Presbyterian minister and leadership consultant specializing in women’s leadership development in both secular and religious contexts

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**Jamie Moyer** and alumna **Dr. Rosalind Cohen** (Cohort 17) recently collaborated with the International Leadership Association to respectively host interactive roundtable discussions during their Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Virtual Summit. Jamie, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Business Consultant for Within Collective led the roundtable entitled, “Ethical Considerations as a White Bodied Practitioner of DEI” which explored the ethical implications of racial justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion work. Rosalind, CEO and Founder of Socius Strategies, led the roundtable entitled “Rethinking Recruiting for Talent: Connecting Inclusive Leadership, Employee Engagement, and Identity” which provided space for participants to consider and share thoughts regarding her research pertaining to the relationship between inclusive leadership, employee engagement, and identity for providing a pragmatic model of talent acquisition.



**Techa Smalls-Brown** recently facilitated a workshop entitled, “Creating a Sustainable Whole Child Ecosystem” at the 2022 Collaborative for Spirituality in Education at the Spirituality Mind Body Institute Teachers College of Columbia University annual conference. The Collaborative for Spirituality in Education is dedicated to nurturing the innate spiritual capacity of educators through enriching activities, engaging discourse, scientific research, and contemplative practices. Techa is an expert in mindfulness and meditation. An experienced educator with over two decades of service, she specializes in helping educators in all facets, especially in regards to the ways in which to reclaim their passions as educators.



## COHORT 22

**Bree Derrick** was asked to speak at the Correctional Leaders’ Association (CLA) All Directors’ Symposium in San Antonio, Texas. CLA is the association for all state correctional directors in the United States. The session entitled, “Leading Change” included facilitated leadership exercises and shared change management strategies for change champions. Bree is Deputy Director of the Idaho Department of Corrections and has worked for more than 20 years to change criminal justice and behavioral health systems.

## FACULTY

Professor of Relational Practice and Higher Education (and member of C5) **Dr. Harriet Schwartz** served as the keynote speaker for the Cedar Crest College summer 2022 faculty development day. With Relational Cultural Theory as a foundation, Harriet presented her work on relational teaching. In addition, she engaged the faculty in dialogue regarding authenticity, and role and relational clarity in the teaching space.

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