

U^{OF}L WOMEN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024:
APRIL 4TH, 2024

A PLACE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ENGAGE IN ACHIEVING
GENDER-EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE.

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

EMPOWERMENT

ACTION

Stay up to date on upcoming events and opportunities during the school year, but as always, for the most up-to-date information, visit our website and follow us on Instagram.

SNAPSHOT: REIMAGINING CLIMATE CHANGE



MESSAGE FROM THE
DIRECTOR

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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ADVOCACY IN ACTION

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WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH RECAP

PAGES 12-15

A publication of the University of Louisville Women's Center.

U^{OF}L WOMEN'S
CENTER

OUR FUTURE IS INTERSECTIONAL:
RE-IMAGINING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WOMEN'S CENTER
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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40292

PHONE (502) 852-8976

WOMENCTR@LOUISVILLE.EDU
LOUISVILLE.EDU/WOMENSCENTER

 FACEBOOK.COM/UOFLWOMENCENTER

 @UOFLWOMENCENTER

 SPOTIFY

 FLICKR



HAPPY EARTH MONTH!

Are you going to observe the Total Solar Eclipse this month? Where do you plan to be during this historic moment? Will you be stationed at your local park, perched at an exclusive spot with the best view or slouched on your couch watching TV – avoiding the ruckus of an excited crowd with makeshift telescopes? I have not decided yet about my own plans to witness this once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon. I marvel at how the Earth finds dramatic ways to get our attention from horrific wildfires, floods, pandemics, droughts, and Kentucky cave systems for the world to behold. I am not going to lie – I welcome the joyful hoopla in this moment after wearily recovering from the aftermath of the latest concerted attempts in the anti-DEI movement here in Kentucky. Thank you, Earth, for giving us an excuse to celebrate!

As an elementary public-school kid living in Louisville in the 1990s, I had the opportunity to celebrate Earth Day through student-led parades, sculpture-making and co-creating rap songs like “Save Our Planet” at Brown School. I can recite those same rap songs now for you if you ask. Our passionate and hippie educators (many who have since passed on) shared with us as young students to deeply value our Earth as a shared space of beauty and generosity. Thirty years later – as a slightly workaholic adult, I try to remember to recycle correctly but I am not consistent. When there is uneven structural reinforcement, policies, or practices to safeguard proper recycling, I sometimes forget – and I am not alone. By raising our intersectional feminist awareness about our intimate relationship with the Earth, this time of the year elevates how complex we really are – on the only known and accessible planet in the universe that nurtures us, human beings, immaculately. How often do you think about the health of the land in your neighborhood and your individual relationship with the Earth?

BOTH/AND THINKING – OUR COMPLEXITIES

I can feel helpless, guilty, and righteous when I consider climate injustices and how I can help Mama Earth. My sister, Nubia Bennett, who works in leadership development, reminds me in our daily chats that as human beings we are always “participating and resisting at the same time” in systems and institutions that consistently devalue our humanity and the most vulnerable members in our communities. From our elderly neighbors, unhoused and uninsured people, rural families, disabled folks, queer folks, artists, sex workers, low-paid laborers or families living in affluent neighborhoods off an elite lakefront, we are all touched by our collective practices in stewarding the Earth. When I get adrenalized about purchasing a new pair of designer high-waisted jeans from an online fashion company, I can conveniently use cognitive dissonance. I can choose to ignore the lived experiences of other fellow humans, mostly women who construct the garment miles away in terrible working conditions as well as the detrimental carbon footprint in the delivery of the jeans to my home. I too am part of the problem.

In the poem, “The World’s Heart,” translated by Khaled al-Masri, the Arab woman poet, artist and filmmaker, Nujoom al-Ghanem writes:

**We only recognized that sea laden
with our mothers’ fear after it raised
its head high and ate the feet of our homelands...**

Scientists across the world have all agreed upon a powerful truth – that climate change is here. Yet for centuries, indigenous communities were aware of this truth about environmental injustice and tried to warn us about the impact of our continued acts of unkindness upon the earth and its inhabitants. So here we are. Not all of us can board a rocket ship powered by artificial intelligence to find a new habitable planet. I truly believe that we must dream of a better world on the planet we already possess. Our ancestors did and so can we. Intersectional feminism provides an urgent framework of hope and loving action to honor the soil and animals that continuously give us grace despite the negligence we humans demonstrate every day.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This month, the Women’s Center will host our inaugural conference aimed at elevating local women leaders and current scholarship about climate change with a gender equity lens. Who is most impacted by climate injustice? What is the emergent strategy to combat longstanding practices that exploit the Earth, animals, and our families? We are also continuing our second part of our student leadership development series, “Gumbo Ya Ya” with Sister Song, a Southern based, national membership organization, to deepen our understanding about critical strategy work, healing justice and our shared capacities to “do the thang.” We invite you as students, staff, faculty and community members to join us for diverse programming events at UofL and the greater Louisville community to foster an expansion in our imagination of what is possible for all of us. Find your people. We are here.



In solidarity,

Dr. Jabani Bennett (She/They)

#reimaginingleadershipdevelopment

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WOMEN & FEMMES



Aaisha is a UofL graduate and former Women 4 Women Student Board President.

Aaisha Hamid
Vice President and DE&I Manager,
Alliant Insurance Services



ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH APRIL 2024

“Celebrating Arab American Resilience and Diversity”
Celebrating the Arab American heritage and culture by paying tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans.

UPCOMING

APRIL 2024



GUMBO

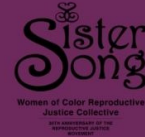
YA YA

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

SERIES

1:30-3PM CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER

APR 10



GUMBO YAYA STUDENT LEADERSHIP SERIES PART 2

APRIL 10TH

1:30-3pm, Cultural & Equity Center MPR

Are you a student passionate about social justice and community-building? Are you curious about the "latest & greatest" ways to work healthfully with others about diverse issues that you care about? Gumbo Ya Ya student leadership development series is just that – "everyone talking at once" about ways to stand up for what you believe and learn more about working with others. We are not perfect. You have something to share. Let's learn, discover, connect and work together. Food provided.

Special invited guest!



• WOMEN'S CENTER •

GENDER EQUALITY SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE: APRIL 7TH

\$1000 one time scholarship will awarded to eight (8) students

APPLY TODAY!

CLIMATE JUSTICE



GENDER, EQUITY & CLIMATE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

APRIL 18TH, 2024 | 10AM-2:30PM
MICROSOFT TEAMS

REGISTER
bit.ly/49jRhzw



GENDER, EQUITY & CLIMATE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

APRIL 18TH

10am-2:30pm, Microsoft Teams | [Register](#)

Join us for the inaugural Gender, Equity, & Climate Justice Conference Thursday April 18th, 2024 10am-2:30pm virtually on Microsoft Teams. Topics include: gender equity leadership in Louisville, climate justice, menstrual equity, human trafficking in the Latinx community, disability justice, and reproductive justice. This is in partnership with Louisville Metro Office for Women, UofL Sustainability, Sister Song of Kentucky and United Nations Association – Women at UofL.

STUDENT FARMER'S MARKET

APRIL 8TH 12-2:30PM | RED BARD

Honors Student Council, Student Sustainability Coalition & SAB

EARTH WEEK SERVICE EVENT (UOFL COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP)

APRIL 15TH 12-7PM | GARDEN COMMONS

SAB, Student Sustainability Coalition & Clean4Cards

EARTH DAY OF SERVICE

APRIL 19TH 2PM | ALBERTA O. JONES PARK

UofL Sustainability, Metro Office of Sustainability, the Louisville Parks Alliance, Beargrass Thunder, and YouthBuild

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION: PAINT, PICNIC, & POTLUCK

APRIL 22ND 5:30PM | WILLIAM B. STRANSBURY PARK

UofL Sustainability

CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTERS

CULTURAL CENTER

LGBT CENTER

MUHUMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR
PEACE & JUSTICE

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AND BELONGING
OPPORTUNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE

WOMEN'S CENTER

GUMBO YA YA

APRIL 10TH 1:30-3PM | CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER

Women's Center & Sister Song

BOLD, BRITTANT & BEAUTIFUL ART SHOW

APRIL 11TH 6PM | CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER

Muhammad Ali Institute & Black Male Initiative

CHARLES DREW BLOOD DRIVE

APRIL 15TH 10AM-4PM | RED BARN

Cultural & Equity Center & Omega Psi Phi

LAVENDER GRADUATION

APRIL 16TH 4-5:30PM | SHUMAKER 139

LGBT Center

SCREENING OF 'RUSTIN'

APRIL 17TH 5:30-7:30PM | RED BARN

LGBT Center

BM&I: MELANIN MUSIC MONDAY

APRIL 22ND 11:30AM-1PM | RED BARN

Cultural Center & Society of Porter Scholars

NOCHE DE FAMILIA Y AMIGOS

APRIL 23RD 6-8PM | JIM PATTERSON STADIUM

Hispanic/Latinx & Indigenous Initiatives

COSTURAS Y COMIDA

APRIL 24TH 4-5PM | CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER

Hispanic/Latinx & Indigenous Initiatives

GRANDMOTHER POWER ORAL HISTORY

KICK-OFF

MAY | TO BE ANNOUNCED

Women's Center

THE STATE OF BLACK FOOD SUMMIT

Food Security for
Black People

 TRANSPORTATION
PROVIDED

 CHILDCARE
PROVIDED

 13
APRIL
8 AM - 5 PM



Sponsored by



UofL Health Equity Innovation Hub
515 W. Market St Louisville, KY

 Seeking 90 attendees, providing \$100 incentive to attend

 WWW.CHANGE-TODAY.ORG

UOFL AAPI MONTH

Keynote Speaker

Chef Edward Lee



Breaking Down Barriers through Culinary Experience

Room: IT131G (Bigelow Hall), Miller IT Center

Date & time: Tuesday, April 9, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Welcome**

Remarks by President Kim Schatzel Catered food from
Nami

Admission is Free • RSVP Required (using QR code)

**ANNE
BRADEN
INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL
JUSTICE
RESEARCH**

KIESE LAYMON

FREE AND
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC WITH
BOOK SIGNING

Why America
Needs Revision

April 18, 2024
6pm, Bigelow Hall
Miller IT Center

Register: bit.ly/ABML





BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK 2024

APRIL 11 - 17TH, 2024

“Our Bodies STILL Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice NOW!”

A week-long campaign to build awareness, activism, and community-building to amplify the voices, perspectives and lived experiences of Black Mamas and birthing people.

CAMPUS KICKOFF BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

APRIL 9TH 5:30PM | CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER

National Association Colored Women’s Club

2ND ANNUAL BLACK MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH SYMPOSIUM 2024

APRIL 12TH 9AM-5PM | NORTON HOSPITAL WADE MOUNTZ AUDITORIUM

Louisville Coalition for Black Maternal Health

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE MONOLOGUES

APRIL 14TH 2-4PM | THE GATHERING PLACE

Sister Song & Girl Code Louisville

Free baby items!

BIRTH BALL

APRIL 25TH 6-9PM | STELLA’S VENUE

Granny’s Birth Initiative



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK 2024

Campus Kickoff Black Maternal Health Week

WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION COLORED WOMEN'S CLUB

APRIL 9TH AT 5:30 PM

UOFL CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER
200 E. BRANDEIS AVE LOUISVILLE, KY 40208



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK 2024

Campus Kick off to Black Maternal Health Week

APRIL 9

This event will be held on the University of Louisville Campus at 5:30 pm.

The 2nd Annual Black Maternal and Infant Health Symposium 2024

APRIL 12

This event will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 9 to 5 p.m., at Norton Hospital Wade Mountz Auditorium (200 E. Broadway Street Louisville, Ky). Register at Nortoncmh.com

Perinatal and Membership Mixer

APRIL 17

This event will be held at 6:30 pm and is by invitation only.



GET INVOLVED

W4W STUDENT BOARD

OPEN HOUSE

Come get to know us! We'll be making friendship bracelets and shrinky dinks, have a congressional letter writing station, and a free pizza!

April 9th,
12:30-1:30
Cultural and
Equity Center



Celebrate

Black Women's History Month

April 2nd
5:30 PM
HUM 114

Test your knowledge of important Black women and femmes in history



American Association of University Women

[GET CONNECTED](#)

Student-Parent Association

[GET CONNECTED](#)

United Nations Association - Women

[GET CONNECTED](#)

Women 4 Women Student Board

[GET CONNECTED](#)

Student Women Veteran Support Group

CONTACT:
PHYLLIS.WEBB@LOUISVILLE.EDU

Feminist Social Justice Leadership LLC

CONTACT:
JAMIECA.JONES@LOUISVILLE.EDU

Women's Center Programming Committees

- Gender, Equity, & Climate Justice Conference
- Women's Center Marketing Team

EMAIL:
WOMENCTR@LOUISVILLE.EDU

International Women's Day Committee



COMMUNITY PEARL OF KY SPOTLIGHT

An inclusive leader for the campus community committed to nurturing spaces of belonging at the University of Louisville Cultural & Equity Center.



Learn more about our Community Pearls!



JAMILEH RAMADAN

"Mother to the Cultural & Equity Center"

UOFL SPOTLIGHT

2024 Tachau Gender Equity Award recipient

Dr. Story has a joint appointment in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Pan African Studies. She has held the Audre Lorde Chair in Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality studies at the University of Louisville for the past 17 years. In addition, Dr. Story is the creator of the podcast Strange Fruit, an award-winning show that has been in production for 8 years. She is a celebrated professor and mentor to LGBTQIA+ students at UofL, a role model for young women and femme students, and a credit to the community.

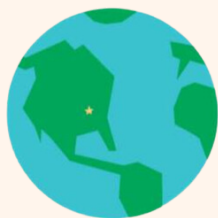
U OF L COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN



DR. KAILA STORY

Associate Professor, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, with a joint appointment in the Department of Pan-African Studies

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



**AMERICANA
WORLD COMMUNITY CENTER**

Americana Community Center's mission is to provide holistic services to Louisville's refugee, immigrant and underserved population to build strong and healthy families, create a safe and supportive community and help every individual realize their potential. We help bridge the gap from surviving to thriving through education, family support, youth achievement, and career & financial development. Each year, we serve more than 5,000 people from over 100 countries in their pursuits of better days and brighter futures.



www.americanacc.org/

NOMINATE A STUDENT, FACULTY, STAFF AND/OR COMMUNITY MEMBER/ORGANIZATION!



ADVOCACY IN ACTION



Campbell Clark (She/Her) Class of 2027
United Nations Association - Women Advocacy Chair

Many people think advocacy is all protests and petitions and while these are GREAT ways to get active, it is important to do what is best suited for you. Not everyone can attend protests, make signs, or go face-to-face with legislators and that is OK! Advocacy can be what you make it. It can be:

Checking in with friends

Correcting a person's language in a friendly manner

Checking in with yourself

Actively participating on conversations that pertain to causes you are passionate about

Educating yourself & those around you on your rights

Educating yourself & those around you on your rights

It is important to remember advocacy is a collective effort. You do not have to go to every protest or speak up for every cause but when you don't, make sure someone else is. Making the world a better place is not solely on you!



Lee Gill J.D., Vice President for the Office of Institutional Equity, Joy Priest, Dr. Jabani Bennett, Women's Center Director & Dr. Karen Chandler



Dr. Tytianna Ringstaff



Deedee Cummings



Brittany J. Thurman



Joy Priest & Minda Honey



Joyce Lewis, Dr. Jabani Bennett & Peggy Grimes



Beatriz Perez



Jen Erocity



Gretchen Hunt, Louisville Metro Office for Women & Myra Ramos Johnson, OFW Ambassador



Hui Kaululehua



Dianna Rae



Cishela Durling, Abby Maxey-Rezmer & Jamieca Jones at Americana's International Women's Day event



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Jamieca Jones & Abby Maxey-Rezmer at Mesa de Abuela



Gumbo Ya Ya Student Leadership Series Part 1

Dr. Jabani Bennet facilitating Gumbo Ya Ya Student Leadership Series



Gretchen Hunt (Louisville Metro Office for Women), Dr. Jabani Bennet (UofL Women's Center) & Dana Bisignani (University of Cincinnati Women's Center) at UC Women's Center Black Feminist Symposium





Angela Sprowl, Barbara Bishop, Tami Harbolt, Dr. Kaila Story, Michelle Rodems, & Ginerva Courtade

SHARE YOUR WOMEN

FEATURED SPEAKER: "INTERSECTIONAL FEMINIST LEADERSHIP. WHAT IS LEADERSHIP TO YOU?"

AAISHA HAMID

AVP, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION MANAGER | ALLIANCE & FORMER UoL Women's Board President, 2016

INTRODUCTION BY: ABBY MAKEY-REZMER, UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION



Speaker Aaisha Hamid



Dr. Jabani Bennett



Jamieca Jones & Diane Porter, 2024 Community Pearl of Kentucky



Phyllis Webb, Ciara C. Sweatt, Katelyn McMahon, Erica Ranade, Rachel A. Morgan & Dr. Jabani Bennett



Talayah Childress, Green Dot Coordinator

RESOURCES



EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS

UOFL FACULTY HANDBOOK



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

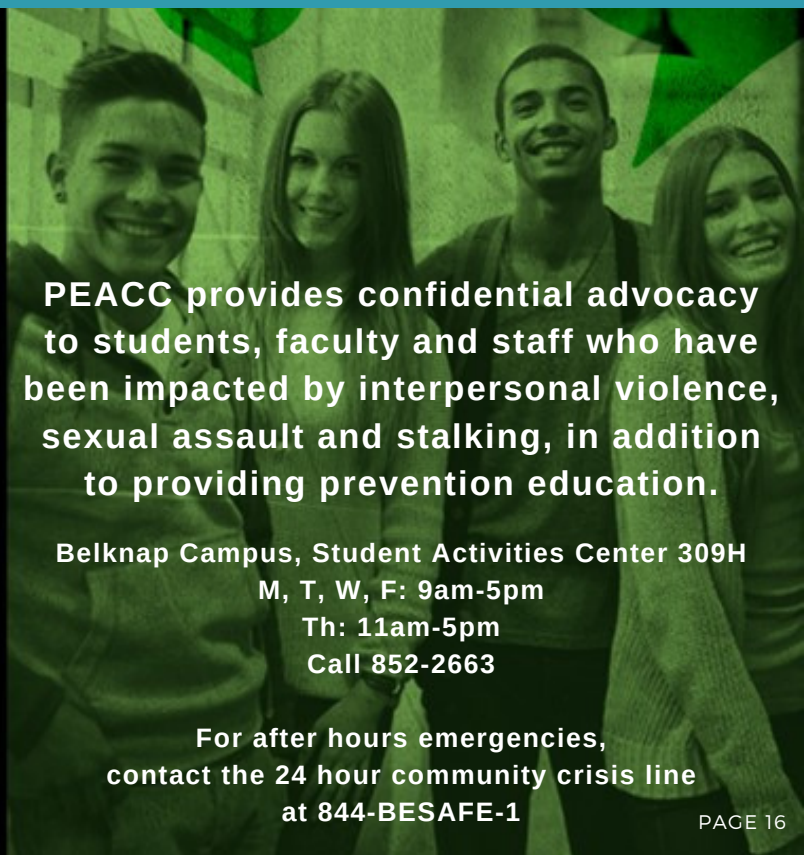
OUR VOICES HAVE POWER. TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD SAFE
AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNITIES.

[NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER](#)

WE'RE ALL
in this
TOGETHER

The
PEACC
CENTER

Prevention, Education and Advocacy
on Campus and the Community



PEACC provides confidential advocacy to students, faculty and staff who have been impacted by interpersonal violence, sexual assault and stalking, in addition to providing prevention education.

Belknap Campus, Student Activities Center 309H
M, T, W, F: 9am-5pm
Th: 11am-5pm
Call 852-2663

For after hours emergencies,
contact the 24 hour community crisis line
at 844-BESAFE-1

CONTACT US!

We are here to support you!



GET A WOMEN'S CENTER COACH!

Women's Center Staff offers 1-on-1 Coaching for all students.

- *Student Leadership*
- *Academic*
- *Financial*
- *Campus Involvement*
- *Personal Matters*
- *Get connected to campus & community resources*
- *Student-Parent support*

Schedule an appointment or stop by during our drop-in hours!

[LEARN MORE](#)



Jabani Bennett, EdD, MAT
Director
(She/They)
Email: jabani.bennett@louisville.edu

OUR

TEAM



Phyllis Webb, M.A.Ed
Program Coordinator & Women's Center Coach
(She/Her)
Email: pmwebb01@louisville.edu
Contact me if you're a student-parent!



Jamieca Jones, MSSW, M.A.
Program Coordinator & Women's Center Coach
(She/Her)
Email: jajone19@louisville.edu
Contact me if you're interested in leadership!

CULTURAL & EQUITY CENTER
120. E. BRANDEIS AVE.
HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM-5PM