



**U<sup>OF</sup>L** WOMEN'S  
CENTER

**2024**

**WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT  
AWARDS  
LUNCHEON**

**"WHAT IS INTERSECTIONAL  
FEMINIST LEADERSHIP?"**

**MARCH 27TH, 2024  
11AM-1PM  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE  
CLUB**

# U<sup>OF</sup>L WOMEN'S CENTER

The Women's Center is committed to challenging and working to dismantle patriarchy, and other systems of oppression through collectively building a gender-equitable campus and greater community. Applying an intersectional and anti-racist feminist framework, we aim to enhance a sense of belonging and empowerment among women, femmes and gender non-conforming students, staff, and faculty.

The Women's Center is a place where ALL are welcomed to engage in achieving gender-equity and social justice.

In this spirit, we are committed to advocacy, education, empowerment, and action.

## CONNECT WITH US!

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE WOMEN'S CENTER  
120 E. BRANDEIS (BELKNAP)  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40292



PHONE (502) 852-8976

WOMENCTR@LOUISVILLE.EDU  
[LOUISVILLE.EDU/WOMENSCENTER](http://LOUISVILLE.EDU/WOMENSCENTER)



We would greatly appreciate it if you completed this evaluation to provide us with feedback on your experience.

# PROGRAM FLOW

11:00AM - 1:00PM

## Check-In, Music, and Food

### Welcome

*Dr. Jabani Bennett, Women's Center Director*

### Featured Speaker: Aisha Hamid

*Presented by: Abby Maxey-Rezmer, President of the United Nations Association - Women at UofL*

### Awards

#### Community Pearls of Kentucky

*Presented by: Paighton Brooks, President of the Society of Porter Scholar*

#### Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award,

*Presented by: Nichols Family & Phyllis Webb, Women's Center*

#### Tachau Gender Equity Award

*Presented by: Michelle Rodems, Commission on the Status of Women*

### Closing

*Dr. Jabani Bennett, Women's Center Director*



Share your photos with us!

Tag us on Instagram @uoflwomencenter.  
Upload your photos via the QR code.

# FEATURED SPEAKER

---



**AAISHA HAMID**

Aaisha Hamid is an award-winning and Yale-certified global diversity strategist with over a decade of diversity, equity, and inclusion program management experience in some of the largest and most financially successful legal and financial services firms in the nation, in academic institutions, and on community boards. In addition to running early stage, DE&I technology platform Pertineo,

She presently serves as the Assistant Vice President and DE&I Manager at Alliant Insurance Services, where she designed and helps execute the company's six-pillar DE&I strategy, spearheaded the design and launch of the Alliant Insurance Foundation Fellows program, and acts as a thought leader for Alliant's leadership. She is an executive coach, Lawline faculty member, and the author of two grant funded books. Aaisha has been recognized as one of the 2023 Top 50 Influential Muslims in the Americas by EqualityX, one of the 2022 and 2024 Top 50 Women Leaders of Washington by Women We Admire and has received multiple leadership awards from the University of Louisville and the UNA-USA Kentucky board. Her work has been featured in publications such as Business Insurance, Insurance Business America, the Voice-Tribune magazine, Courier Journal, Success Pitchers, and the Ellevote Network.

Aaisha is a graduate of the University of Louisville and former President of Women 4 Women Student Board, another student organization advised by the Women's Center.

# TACHAU GENDER EQUITY AWARD

---

Sponsored by:  **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

The Tachau Gender Equity Award is named in honor of Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau, constitutional scholar, the first woman to serve as chair of the UofL history department, and the first woman chair of the faculty senate and as such, the first female on the UofL Board of Trustees. Dr. Tachau was active in pay equity struggles at the university and in many other issues both on campus and in the community and she was well regarded by her peers. This award is sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women and presented jointly by the Commission and the Women's Center.



**DR. KAILA STORY**

The 2024 Tachau Gender Equity Award recipient is Dr. Kaila Story, Associate Professor, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, with a joint appointment in the Department of Pan-African Studies.

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. Her scholarship and dedication to advocacy has allowed us to honor her with this recognition at a time when we most desperately need to support diverse voices in academia. We are pleased to present the Tachau award to Dr. Kaila Story.

# DR. M. CELESTE NICHOLS AWARD

---

**Sponsored by:** University of Louisville English Department, Student Affairs & Women's Center

The Dr. M. Celeste Nichols Award is given to UofL graduate students for travel or other professional development needs apart from tuition or books. It is named in honor of M. Celeste Nichols--student, scholar, mentor, and professor. She was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from UofL's English Department. Dr. Nichols taught African- American literature and basic writing at UofL, Kentucky State University and at Bellarmine University before her death in 1996 at age 45. Winners are chosen according to how well their intended use of the award supports the mission of the Women's Center and Dr. Nichols' legacy.



## KATELYN MCMAHON

Criminal Justice

*Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Chicago, IL, March 19-23, 2024 on the topic "Child Trauma, Adult Victimization, and Psychological Distress Within the LGBTQIA2S+Community."*



## KATELYN MCMAHON

English

*21st Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), in Denver, CO, May 23-May 26, 2024 on the topic "Rhetorically Reading the TikTok FYP: Social Media Algorithms and Epistemic Injustice."*



## CIARA C. SWEATT

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

*Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education Conference (KABHE) at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY; April 21-23. To help develop her research focus on the educational barriers that aren't preparing students to enter college or succeed.*



## ERICA RANADE

Ph.D in Curriculum and Instruction-Special Education, Early Childhood, & Prevention Science

*The Applied Behavior Analysis-International Conference in Philadelphia, PA, May 23-May 27, 2024 on the topic: "Behavior Analytic Bedside Manner and Psychological Therapeutic Techniques."*

# COMMUNITY PEARL OF KENTUCKY

---



## DIANE PORTER

Jefferson County Public School Lifetime Educator

***Life's work as an inclusive leader in the field of education and civic life.***

During her 39 years of service to Jefferson County Public Schools, Diane Porter served as a teacher, counselor, principal, and central office administrator. Ms. Porter's focus was always dedicated to advocacy of all students and their families. Previously, Diane Porter served on the Jefferson County Board of Education as the representative for District 1.

Ms. Porter was first appointed to the school board in June 2010. She served as the board's chair from January 2011-2014, January 2015 - January 2017 and was re-elected again January 2018 until she resigned in 2023. September 2020 Governor Andy Beshear appointed her to serve on the University of Louisville Board of Trustees. A life-long resident of District 1, Ms. Porter herself is a product of Jefferson County, Kentucky's public schools graduating from JCPS and the University of Louisville.

Diane Porter has served on the Chestnut Street Branch YMCA Black Achievers Celebration Committee and is a life member of both the Louisville Urban League and the NAACP. Besides serving on the school board, she serves her community on the Boards of the Fund for the Arts, Louisville Urban League and Leadership Louisville where she was selected to the 2014 class of Leadership Louisville's Bingham Fellows. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Louisville (KY) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.

Ms. Porter's most cherished role was that of parent to her only child, Alysia Danielle (Dani) Porter, who left this earth far too soon, but not without a long and impactful legacy of love, friendship, and service to everyone she met.