

International Black Women's Leadership Project

**Black\* Women Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Leadership,  
Mentorship and Networking  
Call for Proposal  
Central Lakes College, Brainerd, MN  
April 1-3, 2009**

**Deadline for Proposal Submission: Feb. 15, 2009**

The International Black Women Conference is a premier gathering place for black\* women to connect through dialogue, sharing our stories and creating an intentional relationship that crosses cultural boundaries. Everyone who touches on black women's experience is welcome. We hope to attract black women who are from different professional fields and all walks of life. Every black woman who organizes others is a leader. We will explore how we, as leader and as black women, can create the kind of communities, business, lives we want for our families and ourselves. How do you integrate leadership, mentorship and networking into your life? How do you share your passion?

In this call we seek proposals for:

- **Presentations** – One or more people presenting on a topic
- **Panels** – A discussion between a small group of people, co-coordinated by a moderator – each person offering a perspective on a topic
- **Research** – One or more people presenting original contributions to the research, theory and history of black women issues.
- **Pre-Conference Workshops** – Two hour, ½ or full day workshops available to conference participants at additional charge

All proposals should address core issues of black women as they relate to black women in leadership, mentorship, and networking. A wide range of subtopics are appropriate including but not limited to: community building; access to health care; finances; the criminal justice system; raising children on our own; education from birth through higher education; home ownership; the well being of our families in communities; relationships; and sustaining and building our cultural heritage.

We encourage submissions from professional women, artists, academicians, and students. Of equal importance are experienced voices of refugees, mothers, elders and youth. You do not have to be affiliated with an academic institution or a cooperation to submit a proposal or research paper. We seek the wisdom and knowledge of all the black women in the Diasporas. Deadline for submission is Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. We will notify presenters of successful and unsuccessful submissions by Feb. 25, 2009.

\*We acknowledge the term "black" maybe problematic, but for the purpose of this conference the working definition of "black women" refers to those women who identify themselves of having African descent.

## **Theme and topics:**

This year's theme is Leadership, Mentorship and Networking and we wish to examine the following:

- **Rich Leadership**  
Share your experiences as black women excelling in rich yet challenging and complex leadership positions. How did you prepared? What important lessons have you learned? What skill sets are needed? How would you advise other black women seeking top positions of leadership? Where did you find support? How has your community grown as a result of your leadership and talent?
- **Rich Networking and Interaction**  
How do you make connections that capture the opportunity to build rich relationships that are long lasting? Who do you know and how well are you connected? Who knows you? How do we connect to each other, through each other and with each other as black women?
- **Rich Relationships through Mentoring:** Mentoring impacts the life experiences of Black women; advances their career choices, upward mobility in employment, success in education, volunteerism, entrepreneurial endeavors and their personal development. How do we mentor one another through these phases in our home, workplace and life?

## **Session Types**

**Regular program Sessions** – Regular program sessions will be offered during the two days of the conference. A session can be a presentation by one or more speakers or another format as suggested by the submitter. Sessions are typically 45 minutes, but another length can be proposed if appropriate.

**Successful submissions will be judged on the following attributes:**

- **Contribution to black women's practice, theory and community**
- **Value and appeal to black women attendees**
- **Original, inspirational or thought-provoking content**

Deadline for submission is Feb. 15, 2009. Please see the Call for Proposal page for more information: <http://wwwdev.stcloudstate.edu/ws/ibwlp/proposals.asp>. When submitting a proposal for the regular sessions please include:

## **Overview information** (in the proposal form)

- Title of Session
- Name of Presenter(s)
- Type of presentation

- Full contact information of the person submitting, who will be the sole contact person regarding the proposal.
- Summary or Abstract (up to 50 words)
- **Proposal Description**
  - Description of Session (1 to 3 pages)
  - Core black woman related issue addressed
  - Suggested session length
  - Type of Session
- **Speaker details**
  - Speaker biographies (100 words)

Template for regular session proposals and speaker details contain list of information required. You do not have to use these templates, but must provide information for each heading in the template.

### **Regular Program Sessions – Panel Discussions**

Panels are discussions between small groups of people, co-coordinated by a moderator. Great panels give different perspectives on a topic; the speakers are aware of each other's work and views, and they refute or support those views in their own talks; there's real interchange, and the opportunity to quickly move into more depth. They are time-efficient and offer the ability for the audience to participate. Panels are between 45-90minutes.

Successful submissions will be judged on the following attributes:

- Contribution to black women leadership, mentorship, networking in practice theory and community
- Value and appeal to conference attendees
- Original, inspirational or thought-provoking content
- How well suited the topic is to a panel discussion
- Expertise of the moderator and panelists

Deadline for submission is Feb. 15, 2009. Please see the Call for Proposal page for more information: <http://wwwdev.stcloudstate.edu/ws/ibwlp/proposals.asp>. When submitting a proposal for the regular sessions please include:

### **Overview information**

- Title of session
- Name of Moderator and panelists
- Full contact information on the person submitting, who will be the sole contact person regarding the proposal
- Summary or abstract (up to 50 words)
- **Proposal description (as an attachment):**
  - Goal of the panel
  - Core issues of black women addressed
  - Suggested session length

- A complete list of panelists who have agreed to join
- A short statement from each panelist outlining their position on the proposed subject
- **Additional Materials – one file with materials as needed.**

A template for panel proposals contains a list of information required. You do not have to use these templates, but you must provide information for each heading in the template.

### **Regular Program Sessions – Research Papers**

Research papers provide an opportunity to present original contributions to the research, theory, and issues of black women. Submission should demonstrate an awareness of relevant literature, both empirical and theoretical, while clearly indicating the importance of the research to black women. At the proposal stage we need a full paper between 2000 and 3000 words. Accepted papers can be revised until March 1, 2009. For this reason preliminary work can be submitted as long as the research will be completed by the time the final paper is due.

Although we are seeking original research contributions, this does not mean research contributions must strictly conform to the traditional format for academic research papers. The exact nature and format of the submission lies with the author. However, regardless of the format, research papers should still meet accepted academic standards for quality, clarity, validity, and originality.

#### **For research papers:**

- Authors of accepted papers are expected to present their work in a presentation session during the conference. Presentation sessions are generally 45 minutes, but another length can be proposed if appropriate.
- Accepted papers may be made publicly available on the conference website.

Deadline for submission is Feb. 15, 2009. For submission, please email your complete proposal to Debra Leigh: [DLLeigh@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:DLLeigh@stcloudstate.edu). When submitting a proposal for a research paper, please include:

- **Overview Information (in the proposal form)**
  - Title of Session
- **Name of Author(s)**
  - List of all authors for the paper, including name, email address, and affiliated institution/organization,
  - Contact information for the author submitting the paper. This author will be the sole contact person regarding the paper.
  - Summary or Abstract (up to 50 words)
- **Full Paper (email to [DLLeigh@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:DLLeigh@stcloudstate.edu))**
  - Research papers may be submitted in the following formats: Microsoft Word, PDF, Postscript, or RTF.
  - Submissions should be appropriately referenced in APA style.

- Your paper should include a title, abstract, and the full text. Papers should be single-spaced, no smaller than 10pt. font.
- **Speaker details**
  - Speaker Biographies (1 or 2 paragraphs each.)

**Questions about research submissions can be directed to the chair, Debra Leigh [DLLeigh@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:DLLeigh@stcloudstate.edu)**

### **Pre-Conference Workshops**

Pre-conference Workshops are available to participants at an additional charge. They are typically two hours, one half or one full day and take place during the two days before the regular conference begins.

Pre-conference workshops provide an intensive environment for concentrated learning. They may offer core or advanced skills development; in-depth introductions to new areas of practice, research, or theory; or deliver content in a unique format. Finalized Workshop presentations and handout materials are due February 15, 2009.

Black Women in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Leadership, Mentoring and Networking attendees expect a lot from pre-conference workshops. They expect to be inspired with in-depth learning about a topic, and to have practical skills and knowledge to use later. Most prefer an intense half or full day experience.

Successful submissions will be judged on the following attributes:

- Strong relationship to black women
- Likelihood of attracting attendees
- A workshop structure that maximizes learning capacity
- A clearly demonstrated understanding of the topic and the ability to teach it

Deadline for submission is Feb. 15, 2009. Please see the Call for Proposal page for more information: <http://www.dev.stcloudstate.edu/ws/ibwlp/proposals.asp>. When submitting a proposal for the regular sessions please include:

#### **Overview Information** (in the proposal form)

- Title of session
- Name of Presenter(s)
- Full contact information on the person submitting, who will be the sole contact person regarding the proposal
- Summary of Abstract (up to 50 words)
- **Workshop description** (as an attachment):
  - Description of workshop (1 to 3 pages)
  - Learning objectives

- Justification for a pre-conference
  - How will the workshop be conducted
  - Core black women issues addressed
  - Audiences
  - Where and when the session has been previously presented
  - Restrictions or conditions
  - Infrastructure/material requirement
  - Samples of handouts/takeaways
  - Speaker details
- **Additional materials** – one file with materials as needed

## **OTHER TYPES OF SESSIONS**

If you have an idea for a different type of session, such as spoken word, performing or visual arts, interactive competition or something entirely new, please contact us to discuss how to submit your idea.

### **For Presenters**

Pre-conference workshops are offered at additional charge to conference participants and workshop presenters are compensated a set fee based on the number of workshop registrants, unless otherwise negotiated.

We will notify presenter of successful and unsuccessful submissions by February 25, 2009.

## **CONTACT US**

Contact Debra Leigh, Conference Chair at:

Debra Leigh, Professor  
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South Office Center  
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