

## **The Women's Business Leadership Center (WBLC) in the A-State College of Business, in collaboration with the College of Sciences and Mathematics 2018 M.I.N.D. Matters Academic Conference**

The theme of the conference is mentoring, inclusion, networking and diversity “(M.I.N.D.) Matters”; empowering the workforce in business and STEM. The conference takes place **Monday, September 24, 2018** from 8:30AM to 4:00PM in the Reng Student Union on the A-State campus, Jonesboro, AR.

Keynote speaker for the 2018 WBLC **MIND Matters** Academic Conference is **Dr. Lakshmi Iyer**, program director of applied data analytics, and professor in the Walker College of Business' Department of Computer Information Systems and Supply Chain Management at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. *Her research interests are in the area of emerging technologies & its impact on organizations and users, and social inclusion in computing. Her research work has been published in or forthcoming in Communications of the AIS, Journal of Association for Information Systems, European Journal of Information Systems, Communications of the ACM, Decision Support Systems, eService Journal, Journal of Electronic Commerce Research, Journal of Computer Information Systems, Information Systems Management, Journal of Global Information Technology and Management, and others.*

The conference committee invites higher education faculty, administrators and graduate students to submit papers or poster presentations on best practices, current practical application research and initiatives to advance a culture of diversity in higher education, business and STEM fields. Papers and presentations must be aligned with the conference theme, “MIND Matters” in the workplace. Attendees are encouraged to become proactive in advancing a culture of inclusion and diversity through cultural change, purposeful networking, mentorship, economic empowerment, career advancement and responsibility within their own organizations and institutions.

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The WBLC academic conference will serve as a forum for reflection and knowledge transfer for stakeholders in higher education, business, economics, law, psychology, education, nursing and STEM fields, etc. All disciplines are welcome! Researchers and higher education administrators will be invited to present their work in any of the four tracks.

### **Track 1: Mentoring – creating a culture of support to effect meaningful change**

Research exploring the creation of a culture of support, formal or informal relationships, talent discovery, career growth and professional development, and empowerment of others within organizations, particularly within STEM and business organizations, and related topics and outcomes is welcomed.

## **Track 2: Inclusion – recognizing the impact of all stakeholders in the workplace**

Research about practices, laws, and/or policies that promote integration of diverse individuals into the workplace and other organizations. Research about inclusion may include research about recognition and appreciation of the uniqueness of individuals, creation of inclusive environments, anti-discrimination laws and policies, and/or integration of diverse individuals so that they can fully contribute and have a sense of belonging. This track includes, but is not limited to papers about inclusion of individuals of diverse race, color, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, socio-economic status, and personality.

## **Track 3: Networking – building significant and valuable connections**

Research about building professional networks and career development are encouraged. This track includes topics such as developing professional relationships, interpersonal communication, personality and behavior management, leadership, community service, managing perception, and developing professional skills such as etiquette, protocol, and soft skills.

## **Track 4: Diversity –leveraging individual differences, the gestalt effect**

Research focusing on the impact of individual differences within the workforce, and its effect on productivity, creativity and innovations. Submissions should include, but not limited to, research on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, and religion as influencers in organizational growth and development.

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Presentations and papers submitted should help to further understand and develop possibilities of action to promote diversity and inclusion in business and STEM. A **best paper award** will be presented based on each track and the recipients announced at the conference.

Participants may submit papers to be presented in 30/45 minute sessions, panel participation or poster presentation. All submissions will be peer reviewed and acceptance to present at the conference will be based on submissions that best fit the conference theme.

**If you would like to be a peer reviewer please submit an updated CV to the conference committee at [MINDMatters@astate.edu](mailto:MINDMatters@astate.edu) by latest February 22, 2018 at 5PM.**

## **Submission & Review Timeline**

**Abstracts:** Submission open **January 15, 2018 to February 28, 2018 at 11:59PM:** All abstracts conform to APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition and should be between 150 and 250 words. [Click](#) to submit abstracts. If the link does not open, please click <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MINDAbstract> to submit your abstracts.

**Feedback on Abstracts Communicated to Submitter: March 22, 2018.**

**Summary Briefs:** These are due **June 15, 2018 to July 15, 2018 at 11:59PM**. The maximum length for summary brief is **3 pages**, and must conform to APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition. [Click](#) to submit summary briefs. If the link does not open, please click <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MINDMattersBriefs2018> to submit your summary brief.

**All conference attendees, including presenters, must register to attend the 2018 M.I.N.D. Academic Conference.** [Click](#) to register. If the link does not open, please click [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MIND\\_Registration](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MIND_Registration) to complete your registration.