The 2015-2016 year was exciting for our organization. We changed our name from the Women’s Professional Network of Rowan University to the ACE Women’s Network of Rowan University in order to strengthen our relationship with the American Council on Education (ACE). We hosted six fantastic Lunch & Learn sessions, a networking reception in Hollybush, and two conferences.

We were thrilled to be awarded a grant from TD Bank. This grant allowed us to provide meaningful professional development workshops throughout the year. It also provided Advisory Board members with opportunities to attend leadership conferences and events. By attending these events, Advisory Board members expanded their networking circle and learned leadership skills that were then utilized in the workplace.

In addition, we partnered with Traci Kelly, vice president of Strategic Planning for JML Financial Group, to provide a five session financial literacy conference series. The series focused on Empowered Money Strategies for Women resulting in participants’ ability to better understand and practice both professional and personal financial literacy.

Our Fall Conference, sponsored by TD Bank and the Rowan University Women’s & Gender Studies Program, concentrated on what makes you promotable. Our outstanding speakers discussed what employers look for, the power of relationship building, interview and resume writing skills, and talking about money at work.

This past Spring, we were thrilled to present the Spring Conference featuring Alicia Vitarelli, co-anchor of 6abc Action News at 4 p.m. and co-host of FYI Philly. The Q&A format allowed for a variety of topics from work/life balance to succeeding in a traditionally male dominated industry.

We want to thank the campus community for supporting the ACE Women’s Network of Rowan University and encourage everyone to get involved. A special thanks also goes out to President Houshmand for his continued support of the organization and its mission.

Planning is well underway for the 2016-2017 year with a theme of “Building Your Ladder of Success”. We know it will be our best year yet and can’t wait to see you at upcoming events!

“This year’s financial series was outstanding! I have learned a wealth of information that will help me currently as well as for my retirement!”
— Winona Wigfall, CHAMP, Camden Campus
This past November, we offered a panel presentation on “What Makes You Promotable” at our Fall Conference. Approximately 100 employees attended from all of our campuses, as well as from Rowan College at Burlington County and Rowan College at Gloucester County. We were honored to have Board of Trustees members and alumni also attend. We were pleased to have the conference supported by TD Bank, and to offer the event in partnership with the Women and Gender Studies Program. The panel was facilitated by the ACE Women’s Network Chair, Dr. Joanne Connor, and consisted of women of achievement in their respective fields who provided the tools necessary for getting ahead in the workplace. Dorothy Stubblebine, managing principal of DJS Associates, discussed what employers need. Dean of the William G. Rohrer College of Business, Susan Lehrman, discussed the power of relationship building. Alumna April Carty-Sipp, vice president of Programming at WPVI-TV-6abc, talked about the interview skills necessary, and provided resume tips. And, Karen Steiner, senior manager of Executive Recruitment at TD Bank, provided insight about salary negotiation and raises.

In March, we hosted Alicia Vitarelli, co-anchor of 6abc Action News at 4 p.m. and co-host of FYI Philly at our Spring Conference. Alicia shared what she has learned about overcoming challenges faced by women in the workplace. Through the stories she shared, we learned how she faced obstacles common for women of the media industry and overcame them on her road to success. The conference was attended by women throughout our campuses, representatives from our sister institutions, and alumni. President Houshmand once again demonstrated his strong support for the ACE Women’s Network by attending the conference and speaking to the crowd. Representatives from the Rowan University Board of Trustees and our Foundation Board were also present, as well as Michelle Boyles, executive managing editor of Philly Biz and South Jersey Biz, who covered the event for her publications.

“I enjoy attending the Women’s ACE Luncheon. I meet new colleagues and enjoy seeing colleagues I haven’t seen in a while. Every topic is different and can be applied to different jobs across the Rowan campuses. It is a chance to get up from your desk, have lunch, network, and learn useful topics…all in one hour!”

— Kathy Rozanski, Distinguished Events and Special Projects
The Value of Professional Mentorship: Harnessing the Power of Mentorship to Enhance Your Career
Dr. Maureen Murphy

Dr. Maureen Murphy, president of Brookdale Community College, joined us for the first Lunch & Learn of the 2015-2016 academic year. Her extensive experience in the areas of accreditation, strategic planning, implementing master plans, developing grants, and most importantly, helping people develop and reach their fullest potential has resulted in numerous awards, including the Carolyn DesJardins CEO of the Year Award from the American Association for Women in Community Colleges. We were honored to have Dr. Murphy share her experiences in not only how to seek out a professional mentor, but also how to become a successful mentor. Her message of lifting each other up was inspiring and provided immediate, practical applications.

Communication at Work for Women
Melanie Cloyd

Rowan University director of employee & organizational development, Melanie Knudsen Cloyd joined us this past October to talk about communication at work. She addressed the three communication strategies every female professional should know to be successful. Key topics included what five-letter word women use regularly that can impact their perception on campus (and in life), why conflict is so hard to handle, and why women fall back on being passive-aggressive versus being assertive.

Working as Part of a Team
Dr. Rory McElwee

A well-functioning team thrives on trust and respect, communication, authenticity, shared goals, and intentionality. Dr. Rory McElwee, associate vice president for Student Retention, addressed the importance of working together and developing a team that is greater than the sum of its parts. She also shared guidance on how to right the ship when something goes wrong and provided tips that attendees could immediately utilize upon returning to the office while working with colleagues.
Cooking Demonstration
Gourmet Dining

Campus executive chef, John Birmingham, teamed with registered dietitian nutritionist, Melissa Hudock, to share the importance of proper nutrition for your health and productivity. This session was not only fun, but informative as well, sharing scientific evidence and up-to-date nutrition and lifestyle education to enhance knowledge and application toward development of lifelong wellness practices. Attendees were also provided their own bag of fresh ingredients to recreate Chef Birmingham’s meal at home.

Networking
Patrice Patterson

Advisory Board and faculty member in Marketing and Business Information Systems, Patrice Patterson, addressed the group on the importance and value of networking. Generating connections to grow personally and professionally is a vital part of success. Patrice provided tips to get the most out of networking events and to overcome discomfort or fear in approaching someone new. Attendees were encouraged to put these tips into practice at the June networking reception.

Networking Reception at Hollybush

Attendees of the Networking Lunch & Learn were given the opportunity to practice at an end-of-the-year reception at Hollybush Mansion. This event is a favorite and was a great way to get to know others across campus. In addition, attendees used this final event of the year as an opportunity to collect donations for Distributing Dignity (http://www.distributingdignity.org/), a South Jersey-based organization that distributes new bras and feminine hygiene products to homeless women and other women in need. Attendees were encouraged to bring donations or to make a monetary contribution at the event.

“We enjoy the opportunity to network with a diverse group of women and to learn from our different experiences, but then also share our common interests.”

— Amanda Cox & Tiffany Fortunato, University Advising Center
Andrea Watkins

Andy has been working with the ACE Women’s Network on a volunteer basis for over a year. Her dedication to the organization and significant contributions in a variety of areas motivated the Advisory Board to update its Bylaws and unanimously appoint her as a formal member of the Board. Andy’s outstanding efforts on behalf of ACE and the Board have not gone unnoticed and we are proud to continue working with her for years to come.

Jennifer Savage

We are thrilled to welcome Jennifer Savage, Technical Trainer with Information Resources and Technology, as our newest member of the Advisory Board. Elections were held for one opening on the Board earlier this year. We had wonderful applicants and nominees, but Jennifer’s enthusiasm and expertise make her an excellent addition to the Board. We look forward to working with Jennifer in the future.

Patricia Quigley

After completing her second term on the ACE Women’s Network Advisory Board, we bid farewell to Patricia Quigley. During her six years on the Advisory Board, Pat played a strong role in the development of programming, seeking and securing speakers, and recruiting new members for the organization. Pat most recently served as the Chair of the Marketing/Communications Committee. Although her valuable insight and steadfast dedication to the ACE Women’s Network will be missed, we remain forever grateful for her incredible contributions during her time on the Board.

“It’s been a wonderful experience serving on a board that strives to empower all women on our campuses. We’ve enjoyed remarkable growth in the last year or two, and I hope more of our colleagues will get involved with ACE Net,” says Pat and we couldn’t agree more.
Empowered Money Strategies for Women: A Financial Literacy Conference Series

During the Fall of 2015, a free financial conference series was offered and sponsored by President Houshmand, who is a strong advocate for women's issues and a great supporter of the ACE Women's Network. The free series entitled, “Empowered Money Strategies for Women” was an exciting workshop presented by Traci Kelly, vice president of Strategic Planning at JML Financial Group in Cherry Hill. Each workshop built upon previous topics and resulted in enhanced understanding and practice of professional and personal literacy. The five part series was held on the Glassboro campus in the Chamberlain Student Center. Discussion topics included cash flow and debt, money for women, retirement, savings goals, asset building, risk tolerance, life insurance, investments, money communication, and knowing your worth. More than 50 men and women attended the series. The sessions were informative and fun while offering a wealth of applicable tools to use immediately. After each series, Traci provided one-on-one question and answer sessions where attendees lined up to ask more personal questions regarding their financial health. In conjunction with the President's Office, a continental breakfast was provided and there was no cost to attendees.

Chair Presents at Conference

In April, Rowan’s ACE Women’s Network Chair, Dr. Joanne Connor, was the invited speaker at the President’s Annual Breakfast of the William Paterson University ACE Women’s Network Chapter. This event was attended by female faculty and staff at William Paterson, as well as by its President, Dr. Kathleen Waldron. During her speech, Connor provided information about how Rowan's Chapter made changes in programming and structure to better serve the University community. She also shared the thoughts of the Advisory Board on upcoming programming and future endeavors of our Chapter.

Middlesex State Conference

In late April, members of the Rowan ACE Women's Network Chapter attended the statewide conference of the ACE Women’s Network – New Jersey, which was held at Middlesex County College. The conference focused on “Moving the Needle: Advancing the Impact of Women in Higher Education.” A panel of female community college presidents discussed navigating the path to senior leadership in higher education. This conference provided insight into future programming, and also presented a tremendous networking opportunity for all attendees.

May Retreat

At our first retreat held in May at the historic Hollybush Mansion on our Glassboro campus, the Advisory Board huddled together and discussed programming for the 2016-2017 academic year. This year, we hope to bring men into the conversations we are having about bias in the workplace. By opening a dialogue and focusing on education and partnership, we hope to better understand how both men and women unintentionally perpetuate stereotypes, and how we can work together to stop this cycle.
ADVISORY BOARD

The ACE Women’s Network of Rowan University Advisory Board is pleased to bring you this Annual Report. We are dedicated to providing professional development opportunities on campus and around the State with our eyes on national recognition. We hope that this report is informative and encourages you to get involved. The Board appreciates feedback, suggestions, and new faces so please contact any one of us. We look forward to the coming year and thank the University community for its continuing support.

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