

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



2020 has brought both unexpected challenges and opportunities to us all. As Chair of the ACE Women's Network at Rowan University, I am proud to say that our commitment to providing excellent professional development opportunities has

continued despite these challenges. In fact, the COVID-19 crisis propelled our organization to develop new ways of delivering our programming to the women of Rowan University and of our region.

This year, our Board focused on expanding the reach of organization. Our intent was to create content that would not only provide value for our Rowan University faculty, staff and students – but to begin reaching out to individuals and organizations throughout the South Jersey region.

Our events this year included three Lunch and Learn style events, one conference, and seven virtual events. This programming was developed based on the valued feedback we received last year. We are pleased to report that our new event offerings, including our Open House, Faculty Research Presentation and ACE Talks events were very well received. A first for our organization, we quickly developed and created our new Summer Virtual Event series in response to the rapidly changing environment we are all working and living in.

Our mentoring program was conducted this year to great success. Over an 18-month period, 12

mentoring pairs participated in this program. We received positive feedback from our participants, and are working on ways to enhance this offering in the coming year.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our leadership. We thank Dr. Ali Houshmand for his continued encouragement, guidance and devotion to diversity at Rowan University and beyond.

In addition, we are very grateful to TD Bank for their continued support of our mission. Their grant allowed us to present this year's programming, including two sessions on financial management, and gave us the opportunity to provide our high-level programming to a wider audience.

We are also immensely grateful for and want to thank this year's guest speakers and our attendees. None of the work that we do would be possible without your enthusiasm and effort.

As we enter our next year, we are excited to continue our growth and to develop new ways of connecting. We are honored to have this opportunity and excited for what is to come.

Chrissy Beswick

Director of Planning, Program Development and Special Projects
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Institutional Representative &
ACE Women's Network Advisory Board Chair

New name!

We are pleased to announce that our new name will be the Rowan University Women's Alliance Network (WAN). Our new name reflects our commitment to enhancing the professional development at Rowan and beyond, with an emphasis on building our network and expanding our offerings. Be on the lookout for a new logo soon!

thank you

JOANNE CONNOR

Joanne led the ACE Women's Network at Rowan University from 2015-2020. Joanne utilized her passion, vision and drive to propel our organization. She created opportunity for our Board members to grow, advance, and develop. Creating many of the foundational aspects of the Board, Joanne oversaw the development of our ByLaws, branding, Board membership development, just to name a few. She researched, developed, and created our Mentoring Program. The entire Board thanks Joanne for her commitment and vision. We look forward to continuing the path you forged for us!

“Words cannot adequately describe the impact of Joanne’s leadership. Joanne’s influence, passion and commitment is truly uncompromised. Personally, I am grateful for her wise council, her kind leadership approach, and her trust in me to continue the mission of our Board. Joanne - thank you!” — Chrissy Beswick

“Working alongside Joanne for the past 6 years on the ACE Board has been very rewarding, she not only led as Chair but taught others how to lead. Encouraging and supportive of new ideas she helped pave the way for the future success of ACE. Thank you for demonstrating leadership, you leave behind a solid foundation.” — Andy Watkins

“Joanne truly encompasses the ideals of the ACE Women’s Network: she provides stellar leadership and guidance to the women of Rowan University, opening avenues for networking, professional development and recognition. I value the personal and professional relationships that Joanne fostered with the board, and will treasure my time working with her.” — Jennifer Savage

“Joanne stepped in as Chair for the ACE network with much disarray within our chapter as well as the state chapter. She brought our organization to an unimagineable level of professionalism and allowed for so many of our Rowan family to enhance their careers inside and outside of our community. Her big picture vision created a dynamic environment for the board to work with and gave us each a special place on this team. Thank you for your leadership and I personally look forward to a continued relationship.” — Laurie Dwyer

What’s to come?

Be on the lookout for our schedule of programming! We plan to offer virtual events, and hope for the return of our in-person programming once we are able.

Until then, check out our website at rowan.edu/ace where you can view recordings of our summer virtual programming.

We encourage you to invite your colleagues to our events! Help us spread the word and continue our mission. Our events are open to everyone.

As always, feel free to reach out to any member of the Advisory Board with questions, suggestions, or comments! We would love to hear from you.



YEAR IN REVIEW

The ACE Women's Network at Rowan University is honored to continue its mission of developing women at Rowan University and throughout the state, through mentorship, support and development. Our 2019-2020 programming was designed to expand our professional development opportunities beyond the realm of higher education. This year, our Board was successful in reaching out to a broader audience, and expanding our programming delivery model.

Open House

Presenters: Campbell Library, Glassboro Campus Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Faculty Center, Glassboro Campus Gender Studies, Glassboro Campus Office of Contracting & Procurement, Glassboro Campus Rowan College of South Jersey Rowan College at Burlington County Rowan Medicine, Stratford Campus Rowan Medicine Obstetrics & Gynecology Women & Gender Studies Women in Engineering, SWE, Glassboro Campus

We kicked off the 2019-2020 Academic Year with the ACE Women's Network at Rowan University Open

House! This dynamic event focused on informing our audience about our programming. Our Open House also featured informational tables with representatives from Rowan University and the Rowan Colleges that provide services and offer programming for women. We are grateful to all of these groups for participating and helping us provide connection.

Financial Planning and Wealth Management with TD Bank

Mary Kay Anthony, J.D. - Vice President, Sr. Trust Advisor, TD Wealth Private Client Group
Ms. Anthony shared with us the importance of financial planning at every stage of life. Covering a variety of issues such as retirement investment, savings, and debt-management, this program provided our attendees with actionable steps that could be incorporated into their financial management strategies.





Guest Speakers:

Dr. Kenneth Lacovara - founding Dean of the School of Earth & Environment

Dr. Steven Trzeciak - Chief of Medicine at Cooper University Health Care and Chair of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Dr. Sarah Bauer - Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Kyle Ruffin - author of *In Stroke's Shadow: My Caregiver Story*

Marianne Aleardi - publisher and editor-in-chief of *SJ Magazine*

In this “TED” style event, our audience heard inspirational talks from our guest speakers, focusing on stories of personal and professional inspiration. This dynamic event provided our audience with an amazing look at how resiliency and dedication can bring change to their everyday lives.

Guest speakers:

Amanda Almon - Assistant Professor, Program Coordinator Biomedical Art & Visualization, Department of Art, College of Communications & Creative Arts

Nidhal Bouaynaya - Professor and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering

Tabbatha Dobbins - Associate Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy, College of Science & Mathematics and Provost Fellow for Research, Division of University Research

Jenny Rich - Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Sangita Phadtare - Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Beth Christensen - Professor and Founding Chair, Department of Environment Science, School of Earth & Environment

Jessica Loweth - Assistant Professor, Department of Cell Biology, Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine;

Kara Ieva - Associate Professor, Counseling in Educational Setting, College of Education

Melanie Stewart - Professor and Associate Dean, College of Performing Arts;

Nina Krey - Assistant Professor of Marketing, Rohrer College of Business

In one of our most popular events of the year, we featured female researchers from throughout Rowan University highlighting the innovation and creativity behind Rowan's progress in the field. All of our presenters provided a brief look into their work, resulting in a powerful and engaging presentation.

SUMMER VIRTUAL SERIES



The ACE Women's Network at Rowan University was pleased to provide the following virtual events during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that this has been a difficult time, but we are committed to providing valuable programming throughout this experience. Our goal has always been to support women with opportunities to network, foster their skills, and develop strategies for advancement. That goal has not changed and while the delivery is different, our purpose remains the same.

You can find recordings of these events, and resources, on our website at rowan.edu/ace.

Wellness & Resiliency during the Pandemic

Dr. Amy Hoch, Associate Director of the Wellness Center and licensed psychologist

Dr. Amy Hoch addressed concerns about the COVID-19 virus, while sharing ways to address the emotional and mental health challenges that the pandemic presents to us all. Including tips on mindfulness and stress-management, Amy encouraged attendees to focus on wellness and self-care during these challenging times.

Building a Foundation for Success in the Remote Work Environment

Jeremy Trowsdale, Director of Training & Development, Human Resources

Jeremy provided an informative presentation on how employees working from home can not only better manage their time and stay focused on work. This session included ways to find balance in their personal life and manage relationships with loved ones while working remotely.

Being Well, Staying Well

Dr. Adarsh K Gupta, Board Certified Physician and Family Medicine Faculty at RowanSOM

Dr. Gupta's presentation focused on incorporating total wellness into our lives. Utilizing the osteopathic approach of mind, body, spirit, Dr. Gupta provided information on the ways that eating, exercise and mental wellness work together to keep our bodies functioning properly and healthfully.

Supporting Children Ages 4-10 during Summer through STEM Experiences, Play and Active Learning

Zeynep Isik-Ercan, Ph.D., Professor, College of Education & co-director of Early Childhood Leadership Institute

Hannah Kye, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, College of Education

With school out of session and many parents taking on dual roles of educator and parent, our guest speakers provided a meaningful presentation on using STEM experiences to engage our children in learning. Practical and manageable resources were provided, giving our attendees real-life examples of how to encourage curiosity and learning.

Take Charge of Your Financial Future

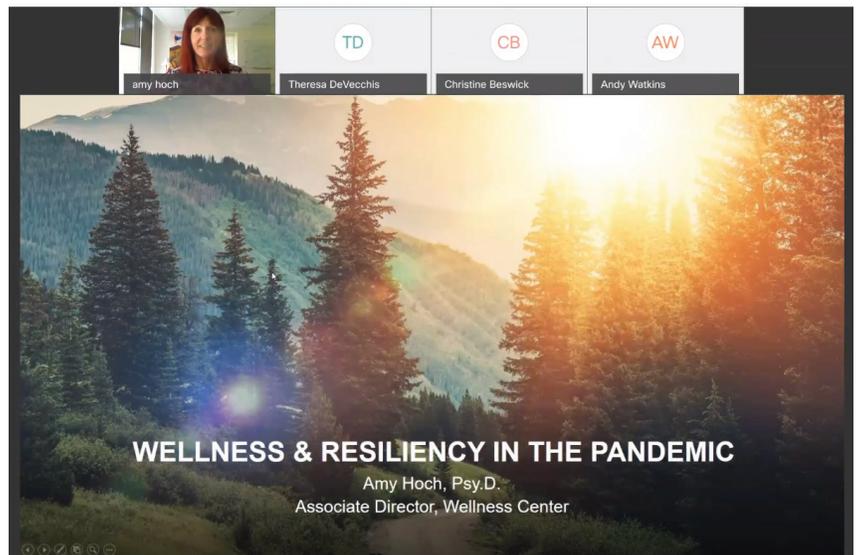
Mary Kaye Anthony, J.D., Vice President, Senior Trust Advisor, TD Wealth Private Client Group

Carla Reinas, VP, Store Manager, TD Bank

Cyndy Smolsky, VP, Senior Relationship Manager, TD Private Client Group

TD Bank representatives provided an in-depth lesson on how estate planning and banking options can be utilized to protect and secure a bright financial future. This presentation emphasized the need to take personal control and ownership of our financial planning.

The Rowan University ACE Network extends a sincere thanks to our speakers and guest panelists for this year's programming.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Monika Williams Shealey for receiving the 2020 Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award, presented by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). Dr. Shealey received the Diversity & Inclusion Advocate award, in recognition of the dynamic, ground-breaking work Monika has done to advocate for inclusion, access and diversity in higher education.

MAKING THE NEWS

The work of the ACE Network Board at Rowan University was featured in nj.com on June 11, 2020. The article focused on how the Board worked to develop virtual programming, responding to the needs of our audience during the quarantine.

Coronavirus

Coronavirus can't stop Rowan chapter of ACE Women's Network from its mission

Posted Jun 11, 2020

By [Kevin Minnick | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

The goal of the ACE Women's Network at Rowan University has always been to support women with opportunities to network, foster their skills and develop strategies for advancement.

That mission has not been put on the back burner during the coronavirus outbreak.

In fact, the group has made sure it continues to provide the same types of services it has for members of the campus community and beyond.

"When everything went into lockdown mode in March, our planning had to be looked at differently," said Deniz Dennery, an advisory board member who works in the Office of Career Advancement. "How do we continue to be a resource and provide services consistent with the mission as a group? It was very important for us to continue to have something we could put in front of people."

Behind the leadership of recently appointed institutional representative and chairperson Chrissy Beswick, the organization developed a series of summer virtual events without altering its purpose. It put together hour-long webinars with experienced speakers on topics relevant to the COVID-19

pandemic, discussions to help people during these unpredictable times.

"In late April/early May, we figured it would be an amazing opportunity for us to start to develop online, remote programming for people," said Beswick, Director of Planning, Program Development and Special Projects at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. "The Covid-19 crisis drove us there, but it also provided us with a great opportunity."

"Rowan University is massive with its various campuses. The one thing this group has strived for in the past several years was taking the programming we do and get it out to a broader audience. We developed the summer series around Covid-19 and had the guest speakers really focus on things and tools people could use going forward. We wanted it to not only get people through today but to show them how to use these skills to get through tomorrow. To promote professional and personal resiliency is important, especially at these times."

The summer schedule includes:

- Wellness & Resiliency during the Pandemic
- Building a Foundation for Success in the Remote Work Environment

- Being Well, Staying Well
- Supporting Children Ages 4-10 during Summer through STEM Experiences, Play and Active Learning
- Keeping Your Network Active
- Engaging with Students - Tips for Faculty

“The topics have been phenomenal. We really looked at how we could reach a lot of different types of subject matter,” Dennergy said. “There’s something for everybody. There are a wide range of topics with little golden nuggets of things for people to enhance their own day-to-day living.”

Weekly events during the pandemic have averaged between 50-85 people. Over 100 participated in its most recent session.

“The response was a lot better than what we expected,” Beswick noted. “When we did the first one, with everyone being so busy and pulled in a lot of directions, we thought maybe 25-30 people. But within an hour of advertising it, we filled it; overfilled it.”

“There was a great positive response and that speaks to the fact that people are looking for connections right now and ways to take some lessons and use them to continue propelling forward.”

According to its website, the Rowan chapter “has been mentoring, supporting and developing women leaders since the early 1980’s. The chapter was formed as part of the American Council on Education (ACE) initiative to encourage more women in upper-level positions.

“With a strong organizational structure, support from senior leadership and a diverse representation of women, the Network continues to thrive and provide camaraderie, professional development and career opportunities.”

Rowan’s chapter met frequently through the 1980’s and early 90’s. Attendance started to steadily decline until a new female provost re-ignited interest in 2001 and an advisory board was formed.

The group has seven committees: Program, Development, Marketing, Nominating, Constitution and Bylaws, Mentoring, and Special Events.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, seminars were held in a university ballroom. Events are advertised on the group’s Facebook page as well as through the university website.

“We want to provide programming to help people feel they have the tools for whatever steps are next,” Beswick said.



farewell and best wishes

Laurie Dwyer

Laurie served on the ACE Board from 2014-2020. Laurie held many positions during her time on the Board, most recently serving as secretary. Laurie's dedication to the Board's mission, and commitment to providing great experiences for our audience, provided a strong contribution to the work of our Board.

Jennifer Savage

Jennifer served on the ACE Board from 2016-2020. Utilizing her skills in technical applications and development, Jenn helped to design our Board's website and to create our Facebook page. Jenn

recently chaired the Mentoring Committee, ensuring that our Board was able to fulfill its mission of providing development opportunities for women throughout our University.

Andrea Watkins

Andy served on the ACE Board from 2016-2020. Andy most recently served as our Program Committee Chair, helping to flawlessly execute our lunch and learns and special events. From helping to organize guest speakers, to solving last-minute problems, Andy always put her whole heart into the work of our Board.

Welcome to our new board members!

The ACE Women's Network is glad to welcome three new board members this year!

Jessica Kanady – Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement

Jessica works in the Alumni Engagement to plan, promote and implement programming for alumni. Providing opportunities for over 90,000 alumni, Jessica provides hands-on coordination of events, creating connection for our alumni. Her work also involves volunteer management and coordination.

Tina Doran – Operations Coordinator, University Events

Tina has been with Rowan University since early 2015. She prides herself in her ability to problem-solve, develop relationships, and provide excellent customer service. Tina is also a member of the commencement planning team, helping to plan Rowan University's annual commencement ceremonies.

Amanda Ciavarella – Digital Strategist, Strategic Planning and Management

Amanda is responsible for creating dynamic and engaging digital engagement for Rowan University. Working with leadership throughout the University, Amanda develops digital experiences and plans the approach for how visitors engage with the University through the internet or applications.

Alexis Jones – Supervisor & Procurement Contract Manager, Office of Contracting & Procurement

Alexis leads our contract management and administration, creating procedures and plans to assure contracts are executed well. Alexis brings her attention to relationship building and proper planning to our Board.

words of thanks

Without the generous support of many, the programming and outreach we provide would not be possible. The Board sincerely thanks our supporters for their efforts as we continue our mission to create, develop, and deliver programming that furthers the growth and development of women in our region.

To Dr. Ali Houshmand, for his continued leadership and dedication to diversity of all types, and for his commitment to the mission of ACE Women's Network.

To TD Bank, for their continued sponsorship of our programming. This sponsorship allowed our Board to expand our offerings, grow our outreach and expand our audience. Thank you.

To Gourmet Dining, for their continued demonstration of excellence, and partnership. From developing programming to helping with our in-person event execution, your partnership and enthusiasm is truly appreciated.

A special note of thanks to the many departments throughout Rowan University for their annual sponsorship and continued support of the Rowan ACE Network.

Office of the President
Division of University Advancement
College of Communication & Creative Arts
Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
College of Science & Mathematics
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Division of Information Resources & Technology
College of Performing Arts
Rohrer College of Business
Division of Research
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
School of Earth & Environment
College of Engineering
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Division of Student Affairs
Facilities, Planning and Operations Division

Congratulations to our Mentoring Program participants! This June, we celebrated the success of our mentoring program with a virtual event. The mentoring program's goal is to provide a path by which participants can, with the guidance and support of upper level administration, develop the strategies necessary to advance in a career in higher education. Our program ran from 2019-2020, with 24 participants. In this formalized program, our mentors/mentees developed meaningful relationships, focused on professional growth. We look forward to the continuation of this dynamic offering.

MENTORING



Virtual Summer Series

What People Are Saying...

“I learned that we can all contribute to each other's growth in some way regardless of our professional level.”

“PHENOMENAL SUBJECT MATTER”

“Great WebEx, especially during a time when lifestyles have been changed so much!”

“more **relaxed** environment”

“As a new employee, I found the platform to be useful and engaging”

“spoke about all components of wellness with specific examples that can be implemented right away.”

“**Great presentation.**
A lot of very insightful thoughts and tips were presented.”