

I AM EMPOWERED FEBRUARY 19th 2022 MORTON COLLEGE

3801 S. CENTRAL AVE. CICERO, IL 60804

McPherson KEYNOTE SPEAKER Tiffany McPherson KEYNOTE SPEAKER

www.morton.edu/wec



Nelcone

WOMEN'S EMPOWHERMENT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Welcome to Morton College's 4th Annual Women's EmpowHERment Conference! Yes, you read that right – FOURTH! Whether this is your first WEC experience or you are a returning participant, we are thrilled to welcome you to Morton College.

Pardon our dust! As you may have noticed, we are undergoing construction to develop a One-Stop Center to better serve our community and help our students reach academic success. We will have volunteers throughout the college to assist you and help answer any questions about workshop locations and the conference in general. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

While you are here, we strongly encourage you to network and make connections throughout the day with all our conference attendees and speakers. We will have a mini resource fair on the main level of Building C between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. Stop by to learn about resources in our community.

The conference has an incredible speaker lineup and we're curious to learn which workshops you attended, what topics to incorporate in 2023, and if you would be interested in presenting next year. Please complete our survey at the conclusion of the event at linktr. ee/mcwec.

We are excited to welcome you and hope you enjoy all that we've created with you in mind.

P.S. Tag Morton College using hashtag #MCWEC in all your posts. We want to see what you capture throughout the conference!

Morton College Women's EmpowHERment Committee

Ana Valdez, Blanca Jara, Gabriela Mata, Maria Anderson, Marisol Velazquez, Perla Santoyo, Rebecca Primm, Sara Helmus





9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

JPAC Theatre Lobby

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

WELCOME | JPAC THEATRE

Vanessa Torres, Communications Director/Theater Producer at The Miracle Center

Dr. Stan Fields, Morton College President

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WORKSHOP CYCLE I

Boundaries: Fence or Fortress | 177C

Are the boundaries you set flimsy as a chain link fence or firm as an iron-clad gate? The boundary lies somewhere in the middle; is there a way to start building our picket fence of boundaries? Please join me to find some balance and learn how to set some personal, professional and relational boundaries to care for yourself in a healthy, wholistic approach.

Orthodontics and Your Health | 327C

We will discuss how a properly lined occlusion impacts hygiene and proper preventative dental care techniques. Proper dental care techniques will be demonstrated and we will talk about how it can impact your general health. Orthodontics are more than cosmetics and straight teeth!





10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WORKSHOP CYCLE I CONTINUED

I Am Confident | 276C

Join me on my mission to help other women reach their highest potential by helping them build their confidence and motivate them to become the best version of

themselves without becoming someone else.

Dating and Domestic Violence: What is it, and what can we do to support survivors? | 275C

Join Sarah's Inn for a conversation about what makes a relationship healthy, unhealthy, or abusive. We will also discuss how to get connected to support if you or someone you know is experiencing harm in a relationship.

I Am Able to Pursue My Career (English) | 277C

It is never too early to start planning for college. This presentation is provided by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state agency that helps make post-secondary education possible. The presentation outlines the post-secondary education and financial aid processes in general terms, lays the groundwork for what to expect with the college-going process, and provides tips and tools students and parents can use to learn more about planning, applying, and paying for a postsecondary education.

Am Beautiful | JPAC | Zoom: www.bit.ly/WEC_SPA

Join us for a One-on-One Virtual Consultation with our Estee Artist. Get all your beauty questions answered or customized private mini lesson with Myron virtually. Pamper yourself with self-care and selflove to celebrate!



10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WORKSHOP CYCLE I CONTINUED

Finding My Way | 278C

As I was talking about being asked to present at this conference to a friend, realizing that I am now one of those "older" people who is supposed to have some sort of wisdom to impart upon the younger generation, I wondered out loud about what kind of wisdom I have to offer. I have always found it interesting to hear how people end up in their careers or jobs - it is rarely a straight path. My path into medicine wasn't necessarily straight, but it never felt very interesting to me. I said to my friend, "I always felt like I was just going through the motions, but really I was finding my way." Suddenly I realized that my path is not as ordinary as I thought it was. I'm excited to share my story in this informal presentation, and hopefully inspire young women to be patient with themselves and to not be afraid to change, try new things, and potentially veer off their expected paths.

I Am a Latina Scholar | 105C

Research shows that Latinx students were less likely to be represented among graduate degrees earned. This workshop will discuss the testimonios of Latina graduate students experience in graduate school and tools to apply for academic success. Participants will walk away with an understanding of Hispanic Serving Institutions and the role they play in supporting Latinx students persist. In addition, participants will learn about the importance of in the academic experience.





10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WORKSHOP CYCLE I CONTINUED

I Am My Own Health Advocate | 178C

Jessica Torres is a public health professional from the Southwest Side of Chicago where her passion for health equity stems from. In this session Jessica will breakdown and review recommended preventative health screenings for women throughout their adult lifespan. Learn when it's important to be your own health advocate and why your wellness can't wait.

I Am Ambitious | Student Union

Our workshop will have two parts: a presentation on student-led initiatives and a panel Q+A. The purpose of the presentation section of our workshop will be to have CAUSE leaders present the work Coalition of Advocates for Undocumented Students' Education has done over the past three years in Chicago Public Schools. The work for more equitable policy changes and opportunities has been carried out primarily by high school students with supporting alum and advisors. Through sharing this content, CAUSE leaders hope to empower others to call on their own administration to create the same changes in their school communities. The panel will be composed of current and former CPS students, sharing anecdotes, tips, and tricks on student organization and how to overcome the systemic disparities of the CPS school system.



10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

WORKSHOP CYCLE I CONTINUED

I Am Ambitious: Multi-layered Learning Opportunity to Elevate the Quality of Life in the Local Community | 331C

Morton College has piloted the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program during the COVID-19 pandemic. In just one year, the program has offered our diverse community a fast pathway to a family sustaining income in an industry with high demand jobs. The students receive licensure preparation, entrepreneur education, career support, and funding assistance. Many female students took advantage of this learning opportunity to achieve their career goals and financial freedom.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

WORKSHOP CYCLE II

Boundaries: Fence or Fortress | 177C

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11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

WORKSHOP CYCLE II CONTINUED

Health is Wealth | 178C

Join me as we discuss topics in women's health such as annual check-ups, insomnia, mental health (anxiety and depression), healthy relationships, safe sex, and family planning

I Am Confident | 276C

Join me on my mission to help other women reach their highest potential by helping them build their confidence and motivate them to become the best version of themselves without becoming someone else.

I Am A Galletera | STEM Center

Participate in a cookie decorating demo. Also, learn how a small idea turned into a growing business. You will hear how vital social media, customer service, and product development are to a business all while decorating your own sugar cookies. It will be a sweet time.

Dating and Domestic Violence: What is it, and what can we do to support survivors? | 275C

Join Sarah's Inn for a conversation about what makes a relationship healthy, unhealthy, or abusive. We will also discuss how to get connected to support if you or someone you know is experiencing harm in a relationship.

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WORKSHOP CYCLE II CONTINUED

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I Am All I Need to Combat Imposter Syndrome | 105C

This workshop provides a community for women pursuing academia and higher education. As a collective, we have supported one another through our academic journey by creating sisterhood, and we want to encourage women to overcome imposter syndrome (feelings of inadequacy after evident success). In spaces that have historically excluded women from higher education, creating spaces that not only nurture and encourage our pursuits but also give us the tools to thrive on our own are foundational to our growth in these positions. Although we may feel uncomfortable or unwelcome in these spaces, they have become a place of growth and transformation that we can take ownership of. In this workshop, participants will hopefully gain a deeper insight on how to personally navigate and confront their imposter syndrome and empower themselves through their academic careers.





11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

WORKSHOP CYCLE II CONTINUED

I Am All I Need to Combat Imposter Syndrome Cont.

The tools you need are already in your hands, we just want to point them out to you.

I am Keeping Me and My Family COVID-19 Safe | 331C | Zoom: www.bit.ly/WEC_COVIDSafe

The Blue Door Neighborhood Center offers resources and a space to find out the latest news about COVID-19. Join us as we talk about ways to continue to keep you and your family safe during the pandemic. Resources on where you can receive a COVID-19 test and vaccination will be provided.

Tea of Ed | 277C | Zoom: www.bit.ly/WEC_Resume

Join the Tea of Ed to hear the experiences of first-generation doctoral program students in graduate school. Learn how we have navigated staying focused during a pandemic with a full-time job while balanc-ing everyday life.

Top Tips from a #ResumeSurgeon | 333C

This hybrid career/professional development session will be facilitated by award-winning, DEI-centered, Latina Career Coach, Lynette Correa-Velez, M.Ed. Lynette will discuss the basics, tips, and tricks of developing a resume that best describes your career and academic journey to the job or internship that you're applying for. There will be a Q & A section at the end of the session.





KEYNOTE SPEAKER LUNCHEON

Gymnasium

Love McPherson & Tiffany McPherson

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

2:30 PM - 2:00 PM

WORKSHOP CYCLE III

Health is Wealth | 178C

Join me as we discuss topics in women's health such as annual check-ups, insomnia, mental health (anxiety and depression), healthy relationships, safe sex, and family planning

Storytelling Moments That Drive Success | 331C | Zoom: www.bit. ly/WEC_Storytelling

My Friend Betty Says Digital Marketing Studio was born out of a desire to level the digital playing field for businesses and entrepreneurs. From Berwyn, Illinois to New York City, to Tokyo, and New Jersey, hear how Betty has used her experiences and storytelling to help her clients gain visibility on social media.

I Am a Galletera | STEM Center

Participate in a cookie decorating demo. Also, learn how a small idea turned into a growing business. You will hear how vital social media, customer service, and product development are to a business all while decorating your own sugar cookies. It will be a sweet time.





2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

WORKSHOP CYCLE III CONTINUED

I Am Able to Pursue My Career (Spanish) | 277C

It is never too early to start planning for college. This presentation is provided by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state agency that helps make post-secondary education possible. The presentation outlines the post-secondary education and financial aid processes in general terms, lays the groundwork for what to expect with the college-going process, and provides tips and tools students and parents can use to learn more about planning, applying, and paying for a postsecondary education.

I Am Beautiful | JPAC | Zoom: www.bit.ly/WEC_SPA

Join us for a One-on-One Virtual Consultation with our Estee Artist. Get all your beauty questions answered or customized private mini lesson with Myron virtually. Pamper yourself with self-care and selflove to celebrate!

I Am Creative | 275C

In this hands-on workshop, we will select words that represent ourselves and create a collage on canvas to take home and display as a daily reminder of our empowerment.

Am Allowed to Paint for Joy | 177C

No experience needed to bring your creativity out! Decorate your very own canvas. During this workshop you will have all the supplies you need to paint a masterpiece. Canvases and paint will be provided for you. If you need a little help, an art instructor will be available during this workshop.



2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

WORKSHOP CYCLE III CONTINUED

I Am A Womxn in Higher Education Leadership: Nuestras Historias y Consejos | 276C

The purpose of this panel is to share tips with those considering the pursuit of a master's degree in higher education leadership. The panel will consist of: ENLACE (ENgaging Latina/o Communities for Education) fellows who will discuss their experiences in the ENLACE Higher Education Leadership Master's Program at Northeastern Illinois University; faculty to share their experience in Academia; and others that pursued higher education roles. Through open dialogue, attendees will be able to learn about the benefits and continued need for more mujeres poderosas to join these career pathways in Higher Education Leadership.

I Am Manifesting My Dream Life | Student Union

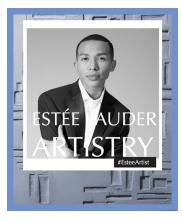
Create and design your own vision board to help you achieve your goals through an intentional goal-setting process. Join with an open mind and some inspirational ideas to help you envision your goals. All materials will be supplied. No experience required.

Leveling Up Your Career: What You Can do Now to Elevate Your Career | 327C

Lose fear and get involved! Make sure you are promoting yourself and become your own public relations person. Learn how to network and level your career.



ESTĒE LAUDER bloomingdales



Myron Morgan

Workshop Cycle I, Workshop Cycle II, Workshop Cycle III | JPAC

I Am Beautiful

Estée Lauder National Artist Myron Morgan

Behind The Artist

Myron has a passion for artistry in all forms. He brings an expertise in educating in a way that is simple and practical for his customers while providing them with the "celebrity" experience.



Myron's Credits

Serves as lead #EsteeArtist in Florida. Worked for MAC Cosmetics for 5 years prior to joining North America Artistry Team. EL Artist for Studio 189 NYFW 2019 show. Participated as a contestant on Rupaul's Drag Race (Season 5) and Rupaul's All Starts (Season 6). Hosts retailer Trend Shows virtually and in person.

Workshop Description: Join us for a Oneon-One Virtual Consultation with our Estee Artist. Get all your beauty questions answered or customized private mini lesson with Myron virtually. Pamper yourself with self-care and self-love to celebrate!

Plus: Register to Win Baskets

Spa Menus Gift with Purchase and samples Gift Card Raffles



Emcee



Vanessa Torres

Vanessa Torres is the Communications Director and Theater Producer at The Miracle Center (TMC), a non-profit organization that utilizes the performing arts as a catalyst for personal growth, leadership development, academic advancement and community engagement for children, youth and families in the Logan Square/Hermosa neighborhoods. As a TMC Alum, she has personally experienced the impact it can have on the lives of young people. Well before TMC though, she developed a love of the performing arts that began when her parents signed her up for dance classes at the age of 4. A choice that they made in part to them needing to find her an outlet for her hyperactivity instead gave her the map

to discovering her passion. In addition to her early love for dancing, her participation in TMC programming starting at the age of 10 broadened her spectrum and gave her opportunities to perform in music and theater. Her desire to use the arts as a tool for changing lives based on her own background inspired her to learn and apply frameworks for crosscultural engagement through the arts.

In March of 2020, Vanessa was honored and recognized as Negocios Now "Latinos 40 under 40" Class of 2019.

Vanessa is a proud 1st-generation Boricua and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign graduate.



Instagram:



Personal: @VTorres31



Twitter:

- Personal: @VTorres2
- Work: @TMC_Chicago



Keynote Speakers



Love McPherson

Relationship Expert + Certified Marriage & Family Counselor

In a world where failing marriages and toxic relationships have become the societal norm,

Relationship Expert, Love McPherson is the voice of hope that says, "I was born for this." She is apassionate author, captivating speaker, and engaging media personality on a mission to impactgenerations and heal relationships by teaching individuals how to love better. In 2010, shefounded her relationship coaching company, Love Infinity, Inc., which has allowed her the opportunity to make a global impact speaking to national and international audiences such as T.D. Jakes Ministries, Northwestern University, DePaul University, the Black Women's Expo, aswell as various small businesses and non-profit organizations. Love brings over two decades of experience as a mental health professional to her vast audiences.

Love has been a recurring guest on the #1 news broadcast in Chicago, WGN TV, as well as BravoTV's Real Housewives of Atlanta, Windy City Live on ABC Network, and FOX SOUL Network.Graduate of Columbia College Chicago, Love puts her degree in Communication to use bi-weekly on the twotime Stellar Award winning *iHeartRadio station*, Inspiration 1390AM, withhost Sonya Blakey for her "Relationship Talk Thursday" segment during the morning drive. Shehas also been featured on other media outlets such as -NBC network, People Magazine, SarahJake's Woman Evolve Podcast, WVON 1690AM, and V103 FM.

Love says her greatest success by far is being the wife to Anthony McPherson, her husband of 38 years and Vice President of Love Infinity, Inc. Together they have two beautiful daughters, Tiffany McPherson, her Executive Assistant and Brand Manager, and Christa McPherson. When Love isn't on the speaking circuit or conducting private coaching sessions, you can find her dating her husband or enjoying family time.





Tiffany McPherson

Image Consultant, Creative Director, and Brand Strategist are the titles worn by serial entrepreneur, Tiffany McPherson.

Tiffany is a Marketing Communications graduate of Columbia College Chicago.

Keynote Speakers

With almost a decade of experience in the industry, she has managed to become a published stylist and creative consultant recognized by Solange Knowles, Eloquii clothing brand, and other notable influencers. A jack of all trades, Tiffany also works as a Social Media Manager and Website Developer for many recognizable names and brand in various industries. As if two jobs weren't enough, Tiffany also works alongside her mother, Relationship Expert, Love McPherson, as her Executive Assistant, Brand Manager, *whispers* security guard, wardrobe stylist, and travel liaison. The common thread in all her work has always been empowerment that focuses on encouraging people to be their best and live their true image from inside out.

Outside of her career endeavors, Tiffany enjoys entertaining the masses on social media, quality time with her husband, online shopping, and long naps.





I Am Allowed to Paint for Joy Kira Aguirre

Kira Aguirre, who also goes by the artist name VampKira, is a Chicago based mul-

tidisciplinary artist who loves everything Tiki, Geeky and Strange. Her surrealist style has both a dark and whimsical touch. She teaches affordable bi-lingual art classes in Chicago.

Workshop Description: No experience needed to bring your creativity out! Decorate your very own canvas. During this workshop you will have all the supplies you need to paint a masterpiece. Canvases and paint will be provided for you. If you need a little help, an art instructor will be available during this workshop.

email: amuz3m3@gmail.com Instagram: Vampkira_Art

Workshop Cycle III

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I Am Ambitious Isabela Ávila Ríos

Isabela is a current high school senior at Lane Tech College Prep, an incoming freshman at the University

of Chicago, and a daughter of immigrants from the state of Zacatecas, México. Throughout high school she has continued to fight for immigrant rights specifically focusing on creating equitable education opportunities for undocumented students while in highschool and in the transition to higher education. She is a founding member and current president of the Coalition of Advocates for Undocumented Students' Education (CAUSE).



Viridiana (Viri) Martínez

Viri comes to the Coalition of Advocates for Undocumented Students' Education (CAUSE) as a Program

Mentor. She is a current Junior at National Louis University in the Psychology and Human Services field, is a second-generation immigrant and victoriously so, a first-generation college student. Having lived in the Southwest side



for nearly her entire life, and having attended CPS just as long, she finds value in investing time and effort into our Chicago communities through business, residential, and legal services and resources. She likes to live by the mantra that "si la riegas, creces"



Ileanne Cecilio

Ileanne is a senior at Walter Payton College Prep from the Southwest side of Chicago. An ambitious student, organizer and artist, they

seeks to pursue a variety of skills from the visual and performing arts to community organization and activism. Through her affinity group, Latin American Coalition as their co-chair as well as secretary and ambassador to CAUSE, Ileanne seeks to intersect the many amazing aspects of their identity to better support and advocate for her community. They will be the first in their family to attend college

Workshop Description: Our workshop will have two parts: a presentation on student-led initiatives and a panel Q+A. The purpose of the presentation section of our workshop will be to have CAUSE leaders present the work Coalition of Advocates for Undocumented Students'

Featured Speakers

Education has done over the past three years in Chicago Public Schools. The work for more equitable policy changes and opportunities has been carried out primarily by high school students with supporting alum and advisors. Through sharing this content, CAUSE leaders hope to empower others to call on their own administration to create the same changes in their school communities. The panel will be composed of current and former CPS students, sharing anecdotes, tips, and tricks on student organization and how to overcome the systemic disparities of the CPS school system.

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email: cause.chicago2018@gmail.com Website: Causechicago.org Instagram: cause.chicago

Workshop Cycle I





I Am A Galletera Maricela Busso

Maricela is owner of The Casa Galleta, LLC a custom sugar cookie boutique. Originally beginning her

career as a fundraising professional, her creative nature led her to grow her passion into a business.

Maricela's previous fundraising work led her to champion for several Chicago area non-profits. From housing to education, her efforts helped support individuals facing homelessness and introducing students to the world of STEM. Most recently, Maricela completed her work as a Development Director for the James R. Jordan Foundation (formerly the Michael Jordan Foundation).

Maricela is a graduate of DePaul University and holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and a Masters Degree Public Administration. **Workshop Description:** Participate in a cookie decorating demo. Also, learn how a small idea turned into a growing business. You will hear how vital social media, customer service, and product development are to a business all while decorating your own sugar cookies. It will be a sweet time.

email: casagalleta@outlook.com

Workshop Cycle II & Workshop Cycle III



Tea of the Ed Flor Carabez

Flor E. Carabez is a Senior Success Coach and Adjunct Professor for the undergraduate college at

National Louis University. There she provides high-touch advising to students under the Human Behavioral Sciences programs and educates students on goal-setting and internships. Additionally, Flor is co-founder and co-facilitator of Exuberance: An Intentional Sisterhood and advisor to the Cygnets of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority Inc.



Prior to joining NLU, Flor focused on providing financial education and resources at Columbia College Chicago. There she collaborated with students and various departments on creating an engaging financial education program through the College's online course platform, Canvas. Additionally, she met with the College's international student population to ensure their legal and financial compliance. Before joining Columbia, Flor worked as a corps member to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), where she met with students from marginalized communities to discuss and assist with the college-going process.

Flor holds a Master of Education in Youth Development from the University of Illinois in Chicago, and a Bachelor of Science in Community Leadership and Civic Engagement from Northern Illinois University. Additionally, she is on track to graduate with her Doctorate in Education from National Louis University where she is focusing her research on capital within the Latinx community in the United States. On her free time, she teaches Zumba at the Hammond YMCA.

Featured Speakers



Susan Demming

Susan Taylor-Demming is an Empowerment Advocate. As Elgin Community College Foundation's (ECCF's), Director of Leadership

Giving, Susan creates opportunities for students to fulfill their educational dreams. Forging relationships with donors who desire to see students thrive and successfully reach their academic goals, Susan connects donor's philanthropic interests in ways that strengthen the foundation's Endowment, Planned, and Major gifts bottom lines. Prior to higher education, Ms. Taylor-Demming's background includes directing Workforce Development programs in the not-for-profit sector with the Urban League, and teaching MBA classes at Elmhurst University as an adjunct professor. She began her professional career in the corporate environment as a sales and marketing manager with AT&T and then Viacom, Inc.

Susan is an elected school board member with Illinois' fourth largest school district – IPSD 204. She has enjoyed working on the boards of Girls Scouts of America, Big Brothers /Big Sisters, and Women In Cable. She is a wife and proud mother of two daughters.



Susan received her BA in Business and Psychology from Rice University in Houston, and her MBA in Marketing and Management is from Columbia Business School /Columbia University – New York, NY. She is excited to be in her second year as a Doctoral Candidate – Higher Educational Leadership at National Louis University and pleased to share a little of her doctoral journey with you today!



Milana Migic

Milana Migic received her Bachelor's degree in Human Services and Counseling from National Louis University in 2018

and Masters of Psychology with a Teaching Concentration, also at NLU, in 2020. She always knew that her love for Education existed, and she knew she had to do something with that also. Due to that, she enrolled back into school and is currently working on her Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Leadership at National Louis University. She began her student support career back at her community college where she was tutoring students. Then started working as a Student Success Coach and currently is a Team Lead for her Student Success Department, and absolutely loves what she does. For Milana, the most rewarding part of her role is watching students grow professionally and personally and reaching their end goal – graduation. She is inspired by the motivation and dedication that students show while they pursue their degree.

Milana came to America as a refugee, and although it was a difficult transition, she believes it's made her who she is today. She states that she knows she would never have these opportunities back home, and that is why all of her passion is always driven toward education. This is Milana's way of giving back to her family who came to America with just one plastic bag in their hands of clothes and started their lives over from scratch. Milana currently lives with her husband and they just welcomed their baby girl, Lea, into this world in October 2021. Milana says that being a mom is the toughest, but most rewarding job. Lea reminds her daily why she is doing what she is doing, and Milana cannot wait to experience life through Lea's eyes. In her spare time, she loves to cook and to try out new recipes. She also loves exploring the outdoors and traveling.





Blanca Jara

Blanca E. Jara currently serves as Vice President of Institutional Advancement/ FOIA Officer for Morton College.

As Vice President of Institutional Advancement/ FOIA Officer, Blanca has significant leadership responsibilities. She oversees all communications, marketing, media, and community outreach efforts on behalf of the community college. She is also responsible for intergovernmental relations, development, alumni relations, and community and continuing education areas. Her role is continuously growing and evolving; she takes on challenges head-on and seizes any opportunity available.

Before Blanca arrived at the college, the Public Relations Department was non-existent. With her innovation, creativity, and relationshipbuilding skills, she has built the department from the ground up. She is recognized across campus as a community builder and a charismatic spokesperson. Blanca has created campus unity among staff through various unique efforts such as volunteer events for staff, potlucks, bowling outings, and simple venues where our team feels proud to be at Morton.

Featured Speakers

In an ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, Blanca collaborated with writer, actor, and producer Rick Najera to bring his nationally acclaimed series Latino Thought Makers to Morton College.

Working directly with the President's office, she has made the President's office accessible to not only staff and faculty but also to students. Unequivocally she has revolutionized the college's image internally and externally.

Blanca currently serves as a board member for the IL Transplant Fund. She served as a board member for the Illinois Spina Bifida Association (ISBA). For ISBA, she provided education to new families of children with Spina Bifida, particularly Latino families. She also organized Expungement Workshops in the Little Village and Pilsen neighborhoods of Chicago, collaborating with the Little Village Community Council and Fiesta Del Sol organizers. She takes pride in giving back to the community that has given her so much.



Blanca is a Fellow for the National Community College Hispanic Council and is currently in the National Louis University Higher Education Leadership Doctoral Program.



email: blanca.jara@morton.edu

Workshop Description: Join the Tea of Ed to hear the experiences of first-generation doctoral program students in graduate school. Learn how we have navigated staying focused during a pandemic with a full-time job while balancing everyday life.

Workshop Cycle II



I Am Ambitious: Multi-layered Learning Opportunity to Elevate the Quality of Life in the Local Community

Irina Cline

Irina has been with Morton College for 9 years, starting as an Adult Education tutoring program coordinator. In her current role, she oversees non-credit career programs, collaborative partnerships and special community projects. She previously worked as an English Adjunct Instructor at Columbia College and Writing Tutor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Irina's academic interests include innovative career pathways, human optimization, and institutional effectiveness. She made presentations at the state and national conferences such as Coalition on Adult Basic Education Conference, Forum for Excellence and Colorado State University Society for the Interdisciplinary Studies Conference. Irina holds a B.A. in English from Roosevelt University and an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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email: irina.cline@morton.edu

Workshop Cycle I





Top Tips from #ResumeSurgeon Lynette Correa-Velez,

M.Ed.

Lynette Correa-Velez is a trained Executive Career Coach with over 19 years of professional experience. She is the Creator of #CriticalCareerCoach and #ResumeSurgeon. She co-empowers, both in-person and virtually, with an equity-centered and intersectional lens. As a life-long social and racial justice advocate, Lynette is a current 3rd year doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in the Diversity and Equity in Education with an emphasis in Human Resource Development (HRD) program. She has her B.S. from Lesley University located in her home state of Massachusetts and her M.Ed. is from the UIUC where both degrees are in Human Resources as a first-generation high school and college graduate. Lynette also has her Certificate in "DEI in the Workplace" from the University of South Florida-Muma School of Business. She is an active member of several professional associations such as the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and the National Association of Colleges & Employers (NACE). Lynette has over 15 awards and honors in recognition for her passion as a

Featured Speakers

career resource broker in support to all. She is also a former Education Social Entrepreneur and has served on several non-profit and forprofit boards. She lives in Chicago, IL and loves spending time with her husband and son.

Workshop Description: This hybrid career/ professional development session will be facilitated by award-winning, DEI-centered, Latina Career Coach, Lynette Correa-Velez, M.Ed. Lynette will discuss the basics, tips, and tricks of developing a resume that best describes your career and academic journey to the job or internship that you're applying for. There will be a Q & A section at the end of the session.

Website: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ lcorreavelez/

Virtual: Link: bit.ly/WEC_Resume

Workshop Cycle II





I Am Able to Pursue My Career

Anayeli Crisantos

Anayeli Crisantos is a first-generation, Dreamer, Latinx college graduate. An-

ayeli was born in Puebla, Mexico and raised in Cicero, IL. Anayeli holds an associate's degree from Morton College and a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Illinois at Chicago and will be pursuing a Master's degree in Communication. Anayeli is an ISACorp Representative.



Jocelyn Ramon

Jocelyn Ramon is a first-generation Mexican-American college graduate working in the northwest suburbs. Jocelyn

received her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Aurora University and is pursuing her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. She is passionate in helping her community learn about the opportunities post-secondary education can bring to them. Jocelyn currently works as an ISACorp representative Workshop Description: It is never too early to start planning for college. This presentation is provided by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state agency that helps make post-secondary education possible. The presentation outlines the post-secondary education and financial aid processes in general terms, lays the groundwork for what to expect with the college-going process, and provides tips and tools students and parents can use to learn more about planning, applying, and paying for a postsecondary education.

Anayeli Crisantos-

email: Anayeli.Crisantos@illinois.gov

Jocelyn Ramon-

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email: jocelyn.ramon@illinois.gov

Workshop Cycle I (English) & Workshop Cycle III (Spanish)





I Am Manifesting My Dream Life Daisy Dominguez

In 2010, Ms. Dominguez received her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and

Science with a major in Political Science from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2013, Ms. Dominguez received her Juris Doctor from UIC Law School. Pursuing a legal career dedicated to social justice, Ms. Dominguez founded Dominguez Legal Justice Center, LLC (DLJC) with a focus on immigration. DLJC was founded under the mission to build a socially-conscious law practice that provides affordable legal services to low and moderate-income people. DLJC provides holistic representation by connecting clients with free counseling services and the necessary resources to assist them with their non-legal issues that are affecting their life and families. DLJC provides educational legal workshops in communities to educate residents about their legal rights and collaborates with community organizations to host legal consultations and staff training at their local centers. While in law school, she founded the Academic Enhancement Program (AEP) at UIC The John Marshall Law School to assist in increasing the retention rate of first-year

Featured Speakers

minority law students. Ms. Dominguez is currently an Adjunct Law Professor at UIC Law School.

Workshop Description: Create and design your own vision board to help you achieve your goals through an intentional goal-setting process. Join with an open mind and some inspirational ideas to help you envision your goals. All materials will be supplied. No experience required.

Workshop Cycle III



I Am a Latina Scholar Melanie Flores, Ed. D

Dr. Flores has over 15 years of experience working in education and is an expert

on program development, grant sourcing, and equity in education. Dr. Flores specializes in program development for marginalized student populations and has experience leading Hispanic Serving Institution initiatives at the undergraduate and graduate level.



Melanie has supported the writing and implementation of over \$5 million in federal funding for HSI programs. Dr. Flores received her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from National Louis University and her masters from DePaul University. She currently resides in Orlando, Florida with her husband and four active boys.

Workshop Description: Research shows that Latinx students were less likely to be represented among graduate degrees earned. This workshop will discuss the testimonios of Latina graduate students experience in graduate school and tools to apply for academic success. Participants will walk away with an understanding of Hispanic Serving Institutions and the role they play in supporting Latinx students persist. In addition, participants will learn about the importance of in the academic experience.

email: melaniefloresfragoso@propelconsultllc.com

Workshop Cycle I



Storytelling Moments That Drive Success Betty Galvan

Originally from Chicago, Betty is a proud first-generation Mexican-American. She

graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a major in English and a minor in Secondary Education. Prior to her husband's transfer to Tokyo in 2006, Betty taught middle school Language Arts and Reading. Tokyo was where she found preschool teaching and documenting online her experience of raising a Spanish-speaking son in Asia so fulfilling! As an early adopter of creating and pushing content out on social, Betty considers herself a Social Media OG.

When not scrolling through TikTok or riding her Peloton, Betty can be found on a field (soccer, football, or baseball) or on a tennis court. She lives in NJ with her husband, 3 boys, and rescue pup, Bella.

Workshop Description: My Friend Betty Says Digital Marketing Studio was born out of a desire to level the digital playing field for businesses and entrepreneurs.



From Berwyn, Illinois to New York City, to Tokyo, and New Jersey, hear how Betty has used her experiences and storytelling to help her clients gain visibility on social media.

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email: bettygalvan08@gmail.com Website: https://www.myfriendbettysays. com/

Virtual: Link: bit.ly/WEC Storytelling

Workshop Cycle III



I Am All I Need to Combat **Imposter Syndrome**

Ana Maria Hernandez & **Marisol Jimenez**

Ana María is currently a third-year Ph.D. student in Sociology with a concentration in Latina/Latino Studies. Her research interests are Race/Ethnicity, racialization, Afro-Latin America, Race in Latin America, and more specifically, the African diaspora in Colombia. Her professional goal is to become a professor.

Featured Speakers

Marisol is a third year Ph.D. Student in Educational Policy, Organization, and Leadership with a minor in Latino/a Studies. Her research interests focus on the effects of politics on public education, School Choice, and Critical Race Theory in education. Her professional goal is to become a professor and continue mentoring other first-generation students.

Workshop Description: This workshop provides a community for women pursuing academia and higher education. As a collective, we have supported one another through our academic journey by creating sisterhood, and we want to encourage women to overcome imposter syndrome (feelings of inadequacy after evident success). In spaces that have historically excluded women from higher education, creating spaces that not only nurture and encourage our pursuits but also give us the tools to thrive on our own are foundational to our growth in these positions.



Although we may feel uncomfortable or unwelcome in these spaces, they have become a place of growth and transformation that we can take ownership of. In this workshop, participants will hopefully gain a deeper insight on how to personally navigate and confront their imposter syndrome and empower themselves through their academic careers. The tools you need are already in your

hands, we just want to point them out to you.

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email:academicamigas@gmail.com

Workshop Cycle II



I am Confident Alex Jones -District Manager for QSR/Wendy's

Grew up in Zacatecas Mexico and currently live in

Lansing IL. 30 years in QSR industry Created a development group for Hispanic General Managers within Wendy's, top 3 DM in Chicago and top 10 DM in the company for 2021 To become a motivation and inspiration for other women to become the best version of themselves. First Hispanic District Manager in Chicago I'm Focus and driven to accomplish any goal that I set up on a personal and professional level.

Workshop Description: Join me on my mission to help other women reach their highest potential by helping them build their confidence and motivate them to become the best version of themselves without becoming someone else.

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email: alex.jones@wendys.com

Workshop Cycle I



I Am Keeping Me and My Family COVID-19 Safe Rosalía Lugo Ed.

Rosalía Lugo was a previous high school educator work-

ing on the building of bridges between STEM fields and Chicago's urban youth communities. Working as a health educator, she remains working with families in the South/Southwest side of Chicago.



She received both her master's in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership and Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Latina/Latino Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Workshop Description: The Blue Door Neighborhood Center offers resources and a space to find out the latest news about COVID-19. Join us as we talk about ways to continue to keep you and your family safe during the pandemic. Resources on where you

can receive a COVID-19 test and vaccination will be provided.



email: Rosalia_Lugo@bcbsil.com

Virtual: Link: bit.ly/WEC_COVIDSafe

Workshop Cycle II

Featured Speakers



I Am A Womxn in Higher Education Leadership: Nuestras Historias y Consejos

Susana Mares

Susana Mares is the new

Undocumented Champion Program Manager for Chicago Public Schools. Susana graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, and later from Northeastern Illinois University where she obtained her B.A in English, and M.A. in Higher Education Leadership (ENLACE). Susana also worked with Chicago GEAR UP for about 13 years serving students and parents in post-secondary readiness. Susana is also an English Language Learner, and is now serving families in CPS navigating resources for those the identity as undocumented. Prior to joining CPS,

Susana also worked for a year as Director-Student Development Projects of a Title V Grant at Wilbur Wright College.





Isaura Pulido, Ph.D

Dr. Isaura B. Pulido is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Inquiry and

Curriculum Studies and Latin American and Latino/a/x Studies program at Northeastern Illinois University. Dr. Pulido has over twenty years of experience in higher education and has spent her career focused on three areas: building institutional capacity for justicecentered education, diversifying the teacher education pipeline, and increasing Latinx educational attainment. She has held various positions, including department chair and Special Assistant to the President for Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Affairs. Dr. Pulido teaches courses in Educational Foundations. Community and Teacher Leadership, and Latino/a/x Studies. She is co-editor of the book, Latina/o/x Education in Chicago: Roots, Resistance and Transformation (in press).

Workshop description: The purpose of this panel is to share tips with those considering the pursuit of a master's degree in higher education leadership. The panel will consist of: ENLACE (ENgaging Latina/o Communities for Education) fellows who will discuss their experiences in the ENLACE Higher Education Leadership Master's Program at Northeastern Illinois University; faculty to share their experience in Academia; and others that pursued higher education roles. Through open dialogue, attendees will be able to learn about the benefits and continued need for more mujeres poderosas to join these career pathways in Higher Education Leadership.



Melissa McGlynn

Melissa McGlynn is a Belmont Cragin native on Chicago's Northwest side. She recently completed her M.A. in Higher Education at

Northeastern Illinois University (ENLACE) and is currently the Associate Dean of Enrollment Management at Harold Washington College. She also coordinates a food pantry, and leads peace and justice work in her neighborhood. Her passion for the work she does in Higher Education stems from its transformative abilities. She believes that students are incredible



when they enter our school buildings, make us as practitioners better at service and support and then shine and change their lives, sometimes their families lives, their communities and the world around them. She think that is one of the most incredible things to witness.

Workshop Cycle III



Leveling Up Your Career: What You Can do Now to Elevate Your Career Maggie Mathews

Magda Antillon-Mathews (Maggie) is an award-

winning business leader and educator in the real estate industry. Formerly, the Chief Executive Officer of her own brokerage firm before joining forces at Realty of Chicago [ROC], in 2017. Today, she serves as the Managing Broker at our Northside location.

Maggie's bold and bright spirit is infectious, she leads with her heart and cultivates a learning environment in her office where she frequently provides professional development opportunities for her team and has contributed to Realty of Chicago's growth and revenue in sales of 1 billion to date since its inception, in

Featured Speakers

2012. Her contributions to the industry include a host of awards including Chicago Agent's "Who's Who," ranked in the Top 250 by the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), Top Producer among her peers at Realty of Chicago, Top Producer by the Chicago Association of Realtors and Managing Broker of the Year (1-50), Chicago Association of Realtor in 2021-2022. Her affiliations include member of the Council of Real Estate (CBR), Illinois Association of Realtors (IAR), National Association of Realtors (NAR), Women's Council of Realtors (WCR), serves on the Illinois Coalition for Housing board, and is accredited in Distressed Property Management (ADPM), and HAFA Short Sale certified.

In addition to her contributions in the industry Maggie continues to be a driving force for women in business. Maggie co-authored the book "Latina Empowerment Through Leadership," in 2017 and "Inspired Latina" an anthology of Real Estate which will be published in the spring of 2022.



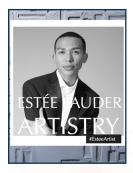
Maggie continues to serve as a stellar leader in the real estate industry. She embodies our mission and core values and delivers excellent standards of service to her clients and those around her.

Workshop Description: Lose fear and get involved! Make sure you are promoting yourself and become your own public relations person. Learn how to network and level your career.

email: maggie@realtyofchicago.com

Workshop Cycle III

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I Am Beautiful Myron Morgan

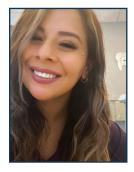
Workshop Description:

Join us for a One-on-One Virtual Consultation with our Estee Artist. Get all your

beauty questions answered or customized private mini lesson with Myron virtually. Pamper yourself with self-care and self-love to celebrate! Bloomingdale's 900 N. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL. (312) 440-4460

Virtual Link: bit.ly/WEC_SPA

Workshop Cycle I, Workshop Cycle II, Workshop Cycle III



Orthodontics and Your Health

Liliana Perez

Hello, my name is Liliana Perez and I am a First Generation Latin American

student with about 10+ years of Dental experience. I found a love for Dentistry while undergoing my own Orthodontic treatment. I found it fascinating how teeth worked in correlation to one another and how aesthetically pleasing it was to put each one in its place. It was like working on a human puzzle. My curiosity continued to grow as I worked each little branch within the field, learning the ins and outs of preventative dental care. I fell in love with teeth, and I found many wonderful mentors along the way. I became inspired to go back to school and pursue a higher education in order



to continue to grow within my field. I have been a student at Morton College for a little over two years now in pursuit of an Associates in Science. I plan to transfer to UIC and continue to feed my curiosities in pursuit of becoming a Dentist someday. I have an energetic fouryear-old son and a very supportive partner with whom I enjoy spending my free time with. I really enjoy working in a lab setting and creating beautiful things with my hands. I believe in spreading kindness. I believe it's very important and I put a conscious effort into giving people a positive experience every day. Whether it's by helping them achieve their perfect healthy smile or just by simply sharing a meal. I have a passion for beautiful words and deliciously cooked food and if time really permits, I enjoy playing with paint and indulge in photography.

Workshop Description: We will discuss how a properly lined occlusion impacts hygiene and proper preventative dental care techniques. Proper dental care techniques will be demonstrated and we will talk about how it can impact your general health. Orthodontics are more than cosmetics and straight teeth!

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email: l.perez24187@my.morton.edu

Workshop Cycle I & Workshop Cycle II



Am Creative Rebecca Primm

Now in her 9th year, Rebecca teaches design, digital art and 3D arts at Morton College. Previous

to her tenure at MC, she spent six years as a freelance artist, creating everything from designs, illustrations, murals and set designs. She aspires to infuse her students with love of the arts and a desire for life-long learning though encouragement and advocacy.

Workshop Description: In this hands-on workshop, we will select words that represent ourselves and create a collage on canvas to take home and display as a daily reminder of our empowerment.

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email: primm.rebecca@gmail.com

Workshop Cycle III





Boundaries: Fence or Fortress

Ami Stephens, LCPC

My name is Ami Stephens and I am married to my high

school sweet heart for the last 13 years and have two rotten, beautiful children, Chloe (10) and Ben (7). I live in Louisville, KY and work at a private practice as a licensed professional clinical counselor. I have a passion for working with women ages 16 to in their 60s with presenting issues ranging from situational to mood to personality disorders; Seeking positive change for your life from a wholistic approach is what I encourage and walk alongside my clients in each and every day. I feel grateful for the opportunity to share an ounce of that passion here with you and hope you find motivation for a small step of positive change in your own walk. I am blessed to be here at the invite of Morton College and bonus, my beautiful sister is a professor here and I feel humbled to share alongside her.

Workshop Description: Are the boundaries you set flimsy as a chain link fence or firm as an iron-clad gate? The boundary lies somewhere in the middle; is there a way to start building our picket fence of boundaries? Please join me to find some balance and learn how to set some personal, professional and relational boundaries to care for yourself in a healthy, wholistic approach.

email: amirstephens@gmail.com

Workshop Cycle I & Workshop Cycle II





I Am My Own Health Advocate

Jessica Angelica Torres

Jessica Torres is a public health professional from

the southwest side of Chicago with a Master of Public Health focusing on Healthy Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is Manager of Health Education at the Blue Door Neighborhood Center in South Lawndale with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. Her work is rooted in health equity, leveraging resources into historically under-served communities, and ensuring culturally and linguistically appropriate health education material is available to Latinx populations. Jessica is currently an Associate Board member of Girls on the Run Chicago and alumni of Chicago United for Equity and the New Leader's Council fellowship programs.

Featured Speakers

Workshop Description: Jessica Torres is a public health professional from the Southwest Side of Chicago where her passion for health equity stems from. In this session Jessica will breakdown and review recommended preventative health screenings for women throughout their adult lifespan. Learn when it's important to be your own health advocate and why your wellness can't wait.



email: Jessica_torres@bcbsil.com Website: https://www.bcbsil.com/bdnc/ southlawndale

Virtual: Link: bit.ly/WEC_HealthAdvocate

Workshop Cycle I





Dating and Domestic Violence: What is it, and what can we do to support survivors?

Aniela Tysinski -Training and Education Program Supervisor - Sarah's Inn

Aniela is the Training and Education Program Supervisor at Sarah's Inn, a community-based organization that provides services to individuals and families who have been impacted by domestic violence. Aniela first found their passion for this work as an intern with Sarah's Inn. After graduating from school, Aniela worked at an emergency domestic violence shelter and then returned to Sarah's Inn as a Community Advocate providing direct support to survivors and their families. **Workshop Description:** Join Sarah's Inn for a conversation about what makes a relationship healthy, unhealthy, or abusive. We will also discuss how to get connected to support if you or someone you know is experiencing harm in a relationship.



email:anielat@sarahsinn.org

Workshop Cycle I & Workshop Cycle II



Health is Wealth Alina Vargas, RN, BSN

Alina Vargas RN BSN, I am 36 years old, currently a nurse at UCM. At Morton

College, I played for the Women's Basketball team, was in the Honors Society, vice-president of the Science Club, and graduated in 2016. I transferred to Dominican University where I graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor's in Nursing. I am undocumented and still a DACA recipient. I am also a single mom of 3. Beyond the bedside, I want to continue to help others in the community. My personal goals are to never stop trying and achieve a Ph.D. or doctorate degree in my field.



A quote I deeply resonate with is "I have not failed. I found 10,000 ways that won't work" Thomas A. Edison.

Workshop Description: Join me as we discuss topics in women's health such as annual check-ups, insomnia, mental health (anxiety and depression), healthy relationships, safe sex, and family planning

email: linav911@gmail.com

Workshop Cycle II & Workshop Cycle III



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Finding My Way Dr. Cindy Rubin Pediatrician

Cindy Rubin is the owner and sole physician at In Touch Pediatrics and Lacta-

tion, PLLC, a "boutique" house call pediatrics and lactation practice in Chicago's western suburbs. She has lived on both coasts of the US but was born and bred in Oak Park and somehow found her way full circle back to the Chicagoland area.

Featured Speakers

She has 2 young children (9 and 7 years old) who keep her and her husband on their toes constantly and make her realize how little you learn about what it's REALLY like to be a parent during training to be a pediatrician.

Workshop Description: As I was talking about being asked to present at this conference to a friend, realizing that I am now one of those "older" people who is supposed to have some sort of wisdom to impart upon the younger generation, I wondered out loud about what kind of wisdom I have to offer. I have always found it interesting to hear how people end up in their careers or jobs - it is rarely a straight path. My path into medicine wasn't necessarily straight, but it never felt very interesting to me. I said to my friend, "I always felt like I was just going through the motions, but really I was finding my way." Suddenly I realized that my path is not as ordinary as I thought it was. I'm excited to share my story in this informal presentation, and hopefully inspire young women to be patient with themselves and to not be afraid to change, try new things, and potentially veer off their expected paths.

email: anielat@sarahsinn.org

Workshop Cycle I, Workshop Cycle II



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Thank you

See You Next Year STAY TUNED FOR 2023 Event Details

Took a picture today? Use our hashtag! #MCWEC Check out our official Spotify playlist: bit.ly/MC_WEC

For more information on our featured speakers visit www.morton.edu. Interested in speaking next year? Let us know by visiting and completing the WEC Speaker Form: bit.ly/WECSpeakers