



The Susan West Engelkemeyer, PhD

Institute for
Women's Leadership

Nichols College

Fall 2024 Newsletter

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Message from the Director of the Institute



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the progress and impact of Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D. Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL). Our mission—to educate, inspire, and empower women to achieve leadership excellence—has guided us through a year of growth, innovation, and meaningful engagement.

This year, the Institute hosted a record number of events aimed at fostering leadership skills, networking opportunities, and professional development. Our WIN (Women in Nichols) mentorship program continues to be a strong and successful program that pairs students with alumni mentors who offer invaluable insights, guidance, and connections.

I am particularly excited about the launch of our Pathways to Leadership Program, developed through a grant from Berkshire Bank and a gift from Trustee Jim Brown '87, which has seen enthusiastic participation from our student community. The partnership helps to extend our reach and contribute to the broader conversation around gender equity in leadership. These types of community collaborations have become a vital resource for the development and progress of the IWL and Nichols College.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the future. As the institute grows, I remain committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where women can thrive. I look forward to building on this momentum with new programs, deeper connections, and continued leadership development at the core of everything we do.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Institute for Women's Leadership this year. Your dedication and involvement make our progress possible, and I am eager to see what we can accomplish together in the coming year.

Best, Leslee

About Us

The Susan West Engelkemyer Ph.D. Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) at Nichols College was founded in 2013 to develop the leadership potential of female students and serve as a resource and authoritative voice on women's leadership for the community at large.

Our Vision

Empower and Inspire women to reach their optimal potential to become successful, equal leaders in the classroom, business, and society.

For more information,
check out our website!



Fall 2024 Events

September

3rd - 6th: Freshmen Welcome Week

11th: WIN Mentee Meeting

17th: Women's Friendship Day Event

17th: Drive Confidence Golf Clinic

19th: RISE Leadership Conference

21st: Celebrating 50 Years of Women at Nichols during Homecoming

24th: Drive Confidence Golf Clinic

25th: WIN Kickoff Event

October

1st: Sherwin Williams Women in Management Lecture

1st: Drive Confidence Golf Clinic

2nd: General Meeting for all students

5th: Suicide Prevention Walk Providence, RI

8th: Drive Confidence Golf Clinic

9th: Breast Cancer Awareness Tie Dye Event

15th: Drive Confidence Golf Clinic

16th: Women of Color Business Summit at Holy Cross

23rd: Shark Tank Night Cap Lunch at the Bison Den

24th: IWL Halloween Movie Night

29th: Awareness Table at Breast Cancer Walk

November

5th: Women's Leadership Lunch with Enterprise Mobility

6th: IWL Monthly Event

7th: IWL & WRG Potluck

20th: Berkshire Bank Luncheon

20th: Eliminate Violence Against Women Day Self Defense Class & Situational Awareness



Introduction to the Executive Committee

Community Outreach & Relations

Victoria Symock '27

Marketing Major

Communications Minor

Community Outreach & Public Relations Chair

Oversees:

- Adriana Romano '26
- Alyvia Smith '26

Primary Role

- Creating awareness on campus about the IWL
- Connecting with members on a personal level
- Supporting freshmen during their college transitions



Favorite thing about the IWL

"The array of opportunities we offer to students, from networking events, off-campus conferences, and the overall support system that we provide!"

Events and Planning

E'sasia Rivera '25

General Business Major

Psychology Minor

Events and Planning Chair

Oversees:

- Brigid Sheehan '27
- Kiley O'Brien '25
- Sierra Golden '26

Primary Role

- Working with members to develop and plan events
- Aligning events with the IWL mission, goals, and target audience
- Planning events, guest talks, workshops, monthly meetings



Favorite thing about the IWL

"Being more involved with the Nichols College community as well as getting to know the other women on campus while growing together as leaders"

Introduction to the Executive Committee

Marketing and Communications

Lily Marguy '25

Communications Major

Marketing & Psychology Minor

Marketing & Communications Chair

Oversees:

- Tianna Fernandez '26
- Madison Minghella-Paige '26
- Sierra Golden '26
- Michelle Nicholls '27

Primary Role

- Update the IWL Website
- Creating the IWL Alumni Newsletter
- Working on any creative needs



Favorite thing about IWL

"Seeing the transformation of how students are their first year versus how they are as upperclassmen!"

Women's Research and Advocacy

Saige Fraizier '25

Finance Major

Women's Research and Advocacy Chair

Oversees:

- Samantha Rogala '26
- Leah Nadeau '27
- Gabrielle Case '27

Primary Role

- Oversees the Research and Advocacy Team
- Conducts research and studies on various topics
- Promotes changes on campus and the wider community by running events, awareness campaigns, and lobbying for policy changes



Favorite thing about the IWL

"The important discussions and topics that we shine a light on as women in business!"

IWL Welcome Week

"When Leslee approached me to organize Welcome Week, I was beyond excited to have the opportunity to do something that would directly impact our Nichols community, particularly the Class of 2028. As chair of Community Outreach, I spent the summer connecting with incoming students, but hosting Welcome Week was even more thrilling as we got to show the IWL in action! My favorite event was our Glamour & Goals Networking Event, as we celebrated the connection between female faculty/staff and IWL members by discussing career aspirations. It was an unforgettable event with a special appearance from President Pieczynski and invaluable career advice from faculty & staff. In fact, it is a source of inspiration as we have planned upcoming events with faculty/staff coming up soon—stay tuned!"

-Victoria Symock '27



"As a freshman, the IWL was such a huge part of me acclimating to life here at Nichols. Being around the members made me realize how much of a supporting group of girls it was. Everyone was so sweet and came up to talk with me and really brought me out of my shell. Now I am friends with many of the girls and work alongside them in the IWL. I can't wait to help the next freshman class find the same love for it that I did."

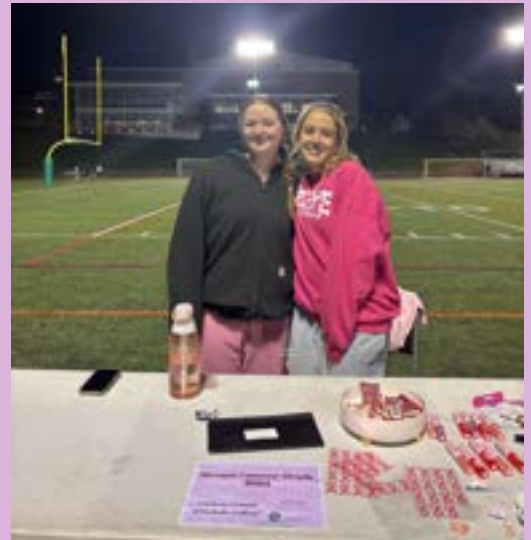
-Ellie Daly '28



Why Choose IWL?

"I joined IWL to be a resource to the other girls on such a male-dominated campus. It's empowering to be a part of fostering a community dedicated to my fellow girlies."

- Mallory Gilmore '26



"I joined the IWL for the opportunity to make campus a safer and more welcoming place for women, and to get more involved in the community."

- Samantha Rogala '26



"I joined the IWL to learn and grow as an individual while helping others to do the same. I am eager to be a part of this inspiring community and see what we can accomplish together. There is nothing better than a successful group of women!"

- Sierra Golden '26



"I joined IWL because I wanted to connect with like-minded people all supporting each other on their successes. The number of opportunities and connections I have made through the IWL is something I will be grateful for forever! Being around a strong support system is both encouraging and motivating."

- Makala Dube '26

Women in Nichols Mentorship Program

The Women in Nichols (WIN) Mentorship Program runs throughout the academic year and pairs students with alumni in relevant career fields to help them develop their professional skills.. Students get first-hand experience in the industry and career of their choice as well as receive professional advice. In our kickoff event, *Susan DiClemente*, a coach and consultant, led a *Core Values Workshop*, where mentors and mentees were able to identify five achievable core values that help guide future career decisions. During the year, student mentees also take part in virtual sessions on topics relating to professional development in the workplace with some of our previous WIN mentors.



"The WIN Mentor Program through IWL gave me an outlet straight into the business world giving me an insight into my future career. Meeting Tara Ostromecky has allowed me to make a friend as well as a great mentor." - Zoe Cataldo '27





"The WIN mentoring program has been incredibly rewarding for me. I've been fortunate to have to mentor who understands my aspirations and provides valuable guidance. Her insights into the HR field and advice on post-graduation pathways have been truly enlightening. Through this program I've gained clarity and a supportive network that I cherish." - *E'sasia Rivera '25*



"As a three-year participant in the WIN Mentoring Program, I've had very different and unique experiences with each of my mentors. Not only have I gotten professional and personal advice from my mentors, but they have helped me gain insights into the type of career I want to have post-graduation. As a senior, I encourage all girls to at least participate in the WIN program at least once to expand your professional network, explore different potential career and industry paths, and to gain a friend for life." - *Lily Marguy '25*



Drive Confidence

The Drive Confidence Program is a golf clinic open to all women students to learn about the game of golf. For four weeks, students are immersed in tips, etiquette, and instruction with Nichols Golf Coach Tim Howard. The program has run successfully for five semesters with more planned in the future. Since the Drive Confidence Golf Clinic was established, Nichols College has introduced a women's golf team into the athletics program. Several students who participated in the program have become members of the women's team!



"The Drive Confidence program is one of my absolute favorite programs that the IWL offers! It not only teaches us the fundamentals of golfing, but also the proper etiquette on the golf course. As a business student, I find it incredibly important to learn how to golf since so many professionals in the business world are avid golfers." - *Madison Minghella-Paige '26*



"I loved participating in Drive Confidence. I was able to learn a lot about golf and how to further my skills. Me and the girls enjoyed practicing and having fun together." - *Brigid Sheehan '27*

Fall Conferences

RISE Leadership Conference – Providence, RI

Attending business conferences provides students with valuable networking opportunities. By connecting with like-minded professionals and leaders in relevant fields, students can gain insights into their chosen industry. Furthermore, conferences often empower students, particularly women, fostering confidence and community.

This semester, students participated in two significant events: the R.I.S.E. Leadership Conference in Providence, RI, and The Bold and Beautiful Conference at The College of the Holy Cross. We chose to attend the R.I.S.E. Leadership Conference due to its unique breakout sessions and keynote speakers who facilitated discussions on gender parity, socio-economic issues, and workplace equality. Additionally, we attended The Bold and Beautiful Conference to support our initiative of creating a diverse and welcoming environment at the Institute for Women's Leadership.

"The RISE conference was very well put together and the atmosphere was empowering. They were focused on building women up, especially in the workplace. One thing that I really took away was when they talked about names and how people pronouncing/spelling your name correctly is basic business etiquette and respect! Don't take less because of your gender!" - Keira Goldsmith '28



The RISE conference was an amazing experience that allowed me to be immersed in female leadership in business and tactics for becoming a female leader in the workplace. The RISE conference shared many female speakers who provided insight on real world business and testimonials on real harrowing experiences being a woman in a non-tolerant workplace. RISE is a great foundation, and I would be more than happy to attend another conference. - Addy Dawe '28

Fall Conferences

Bold and Beautiful Boss Conference - The College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA - Hosted by the Center for Women & Enterprise



"The Bold and Beautiful Boss" conference is probably one of the best conferences that I have ever attended. I loved how the conversation was not only about women, but also about women of color. I took away from them all that there was a common understanding among diverse women in their careers about what it means to be a boss and being one's TRUE authentic self, without the corporate persona. My experience gave me confidence and a positive attitude that I would use throughout my career and at Nichols."

- Alisha Masson '26

Want to Keep Up With the IWL?

Follow us on our social media accounts and website!



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