Leadership Symposium Background

Celebrating its 15th year, the Leadership Symposium for Student-Community Wellness is a unique forum which engages higher education leaders and other national experts in a panel presentation on a topic strategic to positive campus community growth and development. Current challenges facing higher education are addressed to promote dialogue in search of understanding and possible institutional change. To date, this program has attracted distinguished panelists from across the nation. Drawing on their leadership experience and expertise, panelists offer their perceptions of the issue, its causes, implications for learning communities, and possible alternative responses. In addition to Stony Brook faculty, practitioners, students, staff, and alumni the event attracts a broad audience of educators from other colleges and secondary schools in the Greater New York area.

Since its inception, the Leadership Symposium has been dedicated to promoting and sustaining a University community that nurtures individual, group, and community development consistent with Ernest Boyer’s concept of a purposeful learning community. The Symposium has evolved over time to meet the needs of our community; the current format focuses on challenges in higher education. Experts from the fields of student affairs and social work are invited to speak on a contemporary issue that is pertinent to campus communities. Topics provide an opportunity for social workers and student affairs professionals to share their expertise and perspectives on the issue toward greater understanding and collaborative responses. Past Symposium topics and speakers are listed as an addendum to this packet of material.

The Symposium is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment and Retention Management and the School of Social Welfare. Through this partnership, the Symposium has become part of the Student Affairs and Enrollment and Retention Management Professional Development series and is a featured offering of Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare’s pioneering Student-Community Development Specialization in Higher Education. This one-of-kind graduate specialization prepares new professionals for work in higher education. It partners with student affairs professionals to train social work students to address issues currently facing national student populations.

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