

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
McDemott Suite

Sept 8, 2017

Women Leading in Diversity

Mei Miao



Melanie Miller



Monique Wedderburn



Ayesha Ahmad



Courtney Brecheen



JOIN US

Help us honor UT Dallas women who focus their activities in support of the various dimensions of diversity.

Program Agenda

Welcome **George Fair, PhD**
Vice President
Office of Diversity and Community Engagement

Breakfast

Recognition of Honorees **Brandy Davis, JD**
Director
Title IX Initiatives
Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance

Introduction of Speaker **Paula Austell**
Director
Development & Alumni Relations

Honored Guest Speaker **Melanie Miller**
Lead facilitator
The Diversity Leadership Academy
The American Institute for Managing Diversity

Honorees **Courtney Brecheen**
Associate Dean
Undergraduate Education

Monique Wedderburn
Director
UT Dallas Asia Center

Mei Miao
Vice President
Regional Multicultural Banking Officer
BB&T

Ayesha Ahmad
Senior
Biochemistry
School of Natural Science and Math

Open Discussion (Moderated)

Keynote Speaker



Melanie Miller

Since 1991, Melanie Miller has achieved great success in linking inclusion strategies with sound business practices for organizations across industries. She focuses on optimizing organizational effectiveness, engagement and productivity. She has spoken at Harvard University's Women's Leadership Institute, IBM's Minority Women in Leadership Institute, The Diversity Leadership Academy, and has appeared and been quoted in several magazines, blogs, radio and TV shows and periodicals. She has spoken, designed and delivered for numerous companies including Coca-

Cola, Microsoft, BCBS, KPMG, Verizon, the U.S. Army, General Dynamics, Siemens, Capital One, UPS and ALCOA. Her professionalism, customer focus, quality, respect and integrity are the values she uses to achieve stellar results across the organization.

Having previously served for several years in corporate America in a sales and advertising capacity, Miller uses her business experience to provide consulting, training, culture audits, keynoting and needs assessments throughout the U.S. and internationally. Her engaging, high-energy, encouraging and interactive style provides effective results. By developing an integrated and strategic suite of solutions for diversity and inclusion, she guides employees to achieve higher levels of engagement and organizations to exceed their business objectives.

In conjunction with Managing Diversity, Miller has also been instrumental incorporating the training of managing/leveraging diversity, communication, organizational change, customer service, inclusive leadership, conflict resolution, team building, sexual harassment, civil treatment in the workplace and leadership development.

Miller's community involvement includes The March of Dimes, The United Way, The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, The Better Business Bureau and AID Atlanta. She also works with Kennesaw State University on multicultural and tolerance issues within the text Current Issues and Enduring Questions.



Courtney Brecheen, PhD

Dr. Courtney Brecheen is a native Texan who grew up in an environment that instilled the value of diversity. During her professional and academic careers, she has maintained a commitment to diversity and advocacy for disadvantaged groups. Currently, Brecheen serves as an Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the Office of Undergraduate Education at The University of Texas at Dallas. In her capacity, she has conceptualized and implemented several programs designed to support underrepresented minority (URM) students. Within the Academic Excellence Scholarship (AES) program,

Brecheen created the Cultural Scholars initiative to support URM scholarship recipients. The group provides personalized support and promotes a sense of belonging among URM scholars.

Brecheen is also conscious of supporting students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, which led to the creation of the Comet Cupboard on campus food pantry in 2012. The student-run food pantry is a self-sustaining service that provided non-perishable food items to more than 2,000 students during academic year 2017. Her goal is to help UT Dallas retain socioeconomically disadvantaged students by providing one of their core needs in hopes that once fulfilled they can direct more energy toward their academics. In her professional capacity, Brecheen is also committed to ensuring equal access to academic enrichment programs such as undergraduate research. The tangible outcomes of these programs can be quantified in many ways, but she is most proud of the notes and emails of appreciation in which students express how her support has helped them achieve their academic and personal goals.

Brecheen enjoys working closely with the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement and the Office of Admission and Enrollment Services to support efforts to increase the racial and socioeconomic diversity of UT Dallas. She serves as an advocate for diversity on the Hispanic Student Success Committee (Latinx Student Success), URM Recruitment Task Force, the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group (QuTD), UT Dallas Strategic Planning Student Success Sub-Committee and several UT System student success working groups. As a first generation student who was inspired by a hardworking single mother, Brecheen has a passion for helping students from diverse backgrounds utilize their college experience to develop the intellectual, social and cultural capital that will improve their personal well-being and long-term socioeconomic outcomes. She is proud to promote diversity as well as minority and first generation student success both within UT Dallas and in the external community.



Monique Wedderburn

Monique Wedderburn has over 20 years of combined experience in international education, business development and human resource management. Currently, Wedderburn works as the director of The University of Texas at Dallas Asia Center. The center is focused on promoting international understanding of Asia by facilitating and coordinating a wide range of educational programs, advanced research projects and community outreach activities.

Prior to joining UT Dallas, Wedderburn served as Senior Program Officer for the East-West Center's Asia Pacific Leadership Program – a program focused on increasing knowledge about the societies and issues of the Asia Pacific region, empowering students to exercise leadership and promoting cooperation in a variety of cultural, geographical and institutional environments.

Wedderburn's prior experience includes working as a business analyst with the University of Hawaii Pacific Business Center and with the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. She advised clients on economic development in Hawaii, the American Affiliated Pacific Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her previous responsibilities as Coordinator of Management Analyst and as Coordinator of Personnel Services for the University of Florida included managing the career development program for 1,000 professional and support employees, developing and administering workforce education programs and recommending policies and procedures to improve management capabilities.

Wedderburn is a graduate of 2012 Texas Leadership Arts Class and the 2013 Texas Leadership Women Class. She currently serves on the steering committee for the Collin County Health and Wellness Alliance for Children and is a director in the Texas Lyceum – a statewide leadership organization. She has served on the boards of many other civic and community organizations.

Wedderburn spent her formative years in Mexico, Zaire (currently the Democratic Republic of Congo), Pakistan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Colorado State University and an MBA with honors from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Honorees



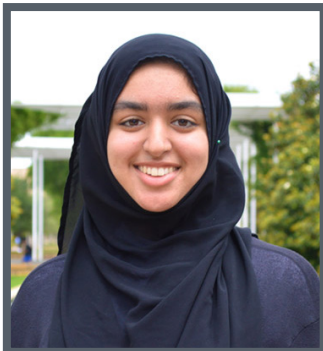
Mei Miao

Born and raised in Taiwan, Mei Miao earned a degree in banking and insurance before she came to Texas to study. She graduated from The University of Texas at Dallas with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting.

Miao has been in banking for 24 years, from the accounting department, retail banking and commercial lending to her current position as Regional Multicultural Banking Officer at BB&T Bank.

Miao loves people and loves helping people. Banking has been the tool and resource for her to reach out to various ethnic groups and local communities to share financial knowledge for a brighter future.

Miao is a current board member of the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Christian Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Chinese Community Center, Asian American Cancer Service Center and the U.S. Mexican Chamber-SW Chapter.



Ayesha Ahmad

Ayesha Ahmad is a biochemistry major and psychology minor in the UT Dallas graduating class of 2019. Her main pastimes are research and organizational work. Besides the Student Diversity Advisory Council, she is involved in service and awareness-based organizations such as UNICEF and She's the First at UTD.

Ahmad loves participating in on-campus events. She is a Dallas-area local who has enjoyed the experiences UTD has to offer and is looking forward to the future of the University through working with the SDAC and being an engaged member of the community. Besides schoolwork, she enjoys reading, bingeing TV shows, spending time with her family and doing mehndi (henna) in her free time.

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Save the Date

THE 9TH ANNUAL

DIVERSITY AWARDS CEREMONY AND SOIRÉE

April 19, 2018
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Davidson-Gundy
Alumni Center