



Manhattanville College®
School of Business

Women's
Leadership
Institute

**Women's Leadership Institute at Manhattanville College Presented
4th Annual Summit: Dare to Be Bold - Thursday, June 14, 2018**

(Purchase, NY: June 18, 2018) The Women's Leadership Institute (WLI) of the Manhattanville College School of Business hosted its 4th Annual Women's Leadership Summit: Dare to Be Bold on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at Reid Castle, Manhattanville College, from 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. with a networking cocktail reception 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. This year's summit explored how women can be empowered to go forth and conquer challenges with self-confidence. The conference was attended by over 140 women. Mastercard is a platinum sponsor and Pepsico is a silver sponsor of the Women's Leadership Institute.

The annual summit is a landmark networking and professional development event aimed at corporate business leaders, women entrepreneurs, non-profit and government professionals, and their guests. Attendees heard from and networked with many inspirational women, while also engaging in professional development workshops and networking with their peers.

The event began with a continental breakfast followed by professional development workshops and keynote addresses by Col. (Ret.) Donna Brazil, Ph.D., Vanessa Wakeman, and Bonnie St. John.

"While today's women are not faced with the issue of suffrage, we are faced with many other issues, such as pay disparity, harassment in the workplace, gender bias – whether it be conscious or unconscious – and more. There have been successes over the years, but those successes have been achieved painstakingly slow. But it is important for all women to understand that – together, united – we can and will continue to bring change. It is the time to celebrate "Us" and demonstrate the boldness of the suffragettes in our own social, political and professional environments. Let us commemorate the suffragettes of yesteryear, and celebrate today's summit with their colors – to remind and encourage all of us that is our time to **Dare to Be Bold,**" said **Kathy Meany, Women's Leadership Institute director.**

Hon. Nancy E. Barr, Westchester County Legislator, 6th District, said: “Do something you feel good about, something you really believe in. The majority of legislators in Westchester are women (nine women out of 17), for the first time in history. I feel good about that!”

George Latimer, Westchester County Executive, said in his welcome address, “Barriers men create concern me. We have to get away from the locker room mentality because it doesn’t work. The mission is to get the best people, whether they are male or female, gay or straight, regardless of where they are from. A diverse group for decisions is essential today and we need whatever it takes to accomplish the mission. You are here to be a part of that continuing evolution. Where gender doesn’t matter. Slowly things are changing. There are now women CEOs in the major Westchester businesses including IBM, PepsiCo, and Heineken.”

Laura Persky, director, Manhattanville School of Business, said “You don’t have to have the title of leader to be a leader. We all have opportunities and often an obligation to lead by example, to speak up and to inspire others to do the same. When I want to make a change or take a risk, I have to make a plan and prepare. If you’re like me then you might have to find your inner power by educating yourself and gaining new skills with workshops like this one, by enrolling in certificate programs like the ones offered by the Women’s Leadership Institute and the Manhattanville School of Business or degree programs.”

Dr. Michael Geisler, Manhattanville president, said, “There was a time when women were not accepted to MIT or CalTech and those women came to Manhattanville, a college that was originally a women’s college. Manhattanville gave them a chance when it was not a given. I am proud of that. Josie Natori, our 2018 undergraduate commencement speaker, and 1968 alumna, built a successful fashion career after years of success on Wall Street. Judge Elizabeth Fahey, Superior Court judge in MA, was a member of the class of 1974. She became an international judge at The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. Those are the kinds of women we have here and are proud of. Interacting with alumnae is one of the most satisfying parts of my job. I was raised by my mother and grandmother, both strong, professional women. Manhattanville is a place I feel at home because it is a place that enables women to take their place in society.”

Col. (Ret.) Donna Brazil, Ph.D., retired from the United States Army with over 31 years of leadership experience in a variety of different areas, including serving as Deputy Head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the United States Military Academy, was the keynote speaker at the summit. “Confidence, composure, and resilience are key, but the

internal piece -- your character, who you are -- is essential. At your core, your non-negotiables influence how you live and how you lead. The energy in our authenticity needs to be captured in a way that is always accessible," said Col. (Ret.) Brazil. "The first step is to take a deep look at ourselves about what's really important. Identifying and getting our comfortable with who we allow us to learn the skills. Dig and explore, muck around with who you are, your values, and then move forward, Daring To Be Bold. The second step is to make a statement about yourself. What's your legacy? For me, life is a competition. There is always a winner -- and others. Commit to how you are going to live up to your core values. It's you at your best. Find a way to make it work in what you are doing. And then share it. Bring it out. Tell others what's important to you. We can do it alone and have been for a long time. But let's bring more people on. Life is a team sport. We will be so much more authentic and able to be bold if we are in touch with our core beliefs and self. It's about team building. There's lots of room at the top. This is a work in progress. We are a work in progress." Col. (Ret.) Donna Brazil, Ph.D., is also a highly experienced teacher and lecturer and has led discussions surrounding Leader Development, Resilient Leadership, Organizational Teams, and more.

"We are at a tipping point in the history of our country where it is imperative that women use their voices for change and come together," said **Vanessa Wakeman, futurist and CEO of the Wakeman Agency**, regarded as a champion for non-profits and progressive organizations, as well as an innovator in the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she was acknowledged by PRNews as one of 50 PR Game Changers, and by 914Inc. Magazine as one of 22 key "Women in Business" in the New York City Region. Following her launch of She Roars, a thought leadership program for women, she intends to increase the number of female thought leaders to 2,020 by the year 2020.

"I learned that people fall down, winners get up, and gold medal winners just get up faster," said **Bonnie St. John, bestselling author, leadership consultant** for Fortune 500 companies, television and radio personality, and an experienced conference facilitator. In 1990, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard University, and won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, taking a Master of Letters degree in Economics. St. John is the first African-American to take home a silver and two bronze medals at the Winter Paralympics in 1984. She was appointed by President Clinton as a Director for Human Capital Issues on the White House National Economic Council. The celebrated author of seven books, St. John's most recent book, *Micro-Resilience: Minor Shifts for Major Boosts in Focus, Drive, and Energy* outlines a quick, easy, and immediately effective program of tools and techniques to give you a competitive edge in today's dynamic world of changes and challenges. St. John will be available for a book signing

that day.

Please see <https://www.mville.edu/programs/womens-leadership-institute> for upcoming Women's Leadership events.

About The Manhattanville School of Business

The Manhattanville School of Business (MSB) helps prepare today's professionals for tomorrow's business. Students capitalize on the school's industry-driven content, convenient formats, and extensive faculty and alumni network. Graduates and faculty are employed at top companies including Morgan Stanley, MasterCard, PepsiCo, the NFL, Verizon, and the New York Stock Exchange. Located in the heart of Westchester County in Purchase, NY – and surrounded by Fortune 100 and 500 companies – MSB offers six career-focused master's degrees, APPEAL: four accelerated bachelor's degree programs for evening adult learners and degree completers; several dual B.S./M.S. degrees options; Post Baccalaureate/Pre-health course of study; the Institute for Managing Risk; and the Women's Leadership Institute, designed to meet the leadership and professional development needs of women in the workplace. Additionally, MSB's Corporate Learning Services offers an array of industry-driven resources to assist organizations in the professional development of their employees and help them achieve their goals. For more information about MSB visit <http://www.mville.edu/business> or call 914-323-5150.

About The Women's Leadership Institute (WLI)

Facing challenges of managing careers and personal goals, women sometimes struggle with how to develop their own leadership styles and effectively embrace their power and status in the workplace. To reach the highest levels of leadership, it is essential for women to recognize, understand, and transform common business challenges and organizational strategic priorities into career development opportunities.

Vision

To provide women with the skills and resources needed to succeed in business as well as creating a place where they can collaborate, allowing them to develop their own unique presence in the executive suite.

Mission

To advance the personal and professional development of women by offering a comprehensive array of programs, mentoring and coaching, and training.

For more information, please visit the [Women's Leadership Institute](#) or call Program Director Kathryn Meany at 914.323.1482 or email kathryn.meany@mville.edu.

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