



Center for Women, Gender
and Global Leadership



Annual Report

Continuing the Legacy. Forging the Future.

20
25



cwagl.howard.edu | [@HUWomensCenter](https://twitter.com/HUWomensCenter) | [#FemmeForwardHU](https://twitter.com/FemmeForwardHU)

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**"WHAT I WANT YOUNG
WOMEN AND GIRLS TO
KNOW IS: YOU ARE
POWERFUL, AND YOUR
VOICE MATTERS."**

-Kamala Harris

INTRODUCTION

Since Howard University first opened its doors in 1867—when the earliest students included the daughters of faculty members—women have played a foundational role in shaping the institution’s character, ambitions, and global impact. In 1884, Mary Ann Shadd Cary broke barriers as the first Black woman to enroll at Howard, marking the beginning of an intellectual tradition in which women scholars, organizers, and leaders have pushed the University toward deeper commitments to excellence, justice, and service. The Center for Women, Gender & Global Leadership (CWGGL) emerged from this legacy, determined to correct that record and illuminate the work of the women who have defined Howard and influenced the world.

The creation of CWGGL in 2020 was neither accidental nor sudden. It was the result of decades of organizing, student activism, faculty scholarship, and institutional advocacy. The founding proposal, written in August 2020 by Professor J. Jarpa Dawuni, articulated a vision rooted in gender equity, interdisciplinary research, and global engagement—a vision that resonated deeply at a historic moment marked by the election of Howard alumna Kamala Harris as the first woman Vice President of the United States. That same year, a transformative \$1 million gift from the Murren Family Foundation catalyzed the establishment of the Center, signaling Howard University’s readiness to invest in women’s leadership.

From its earliest days, the Center has served as both a scholarly home and interdisciplinary space, advancing Howard’s longstanding commitment to addressing inequality through research, education, and public engagement. Over the past several years, CWGGL has documented the experiences of women at Howard through the Women at Howard University Research Project, that produced interdisciplinary scholarship through the Working Paper Series, led public conversations on gender and global affairs, and built signature student-facing programs that expand leadership pathways across the University. The Center’s impact is reflected in its diverse programming, partnerships, and its ability to convene faculty, students, and global thought leaders around the most pressing issues.

The year 2025 continued this tradition of student leadership development and community engagement. Our programming reflected a commitment to equipping students with the tools, networks, and skills to respond in this era.

This annual report is not merely a record of the past year—it is a bridge to the future. As CWGGL enters a new phase of growth, we are defining a strategic vision for 2026–2028 anchored in three commitments:

1. Advancing an Academic & Research Enterprise that situates Howard as a global leader in gender scholarship, builds interdisciplinary thought-and-practice hubs, and launches a forward-thinking initiative on Black women in tech and the AI workforce.
2. Strengthening Leadership Development & Student Success by investing in student-centered programming, expanding mentoring and community networks, and serving as a campus clearinghouse for resources that develop women leaders across disciplines.
3. Growing Institutional Impact & Excellence through strategic fundraising, expanded partnerships, and meaningful engagement across all schools and colleges.

Guided by the values of **Resilience, Integrity, Service, and Excellence (RISE)**, CWGGL remains committed to building a more equitable future at Howard and beyond. This report captures where we have been—but more importantly, signals where we are determined to go.



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



As we move into this next phase of the Center for Women, Gender & Global Leadership's work, I feel a renewed sense of energy and direction. The Center has entered a period of growth, and this moment calls for focus, creativity, and a clear commitment to the Howard University community and beyond.

I want to first thank Dr. Cassandra Veney, who provided dedicated leadership during a period of transition at the Center. Her service strengthened our foundation, and I am grateful for her stewardship. I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. Amy Quarkume, whose tenure as Associate Director of Student Programs transformed our student engagement model. Dr. Quarkume built student-serving infrastructure that reached more than 1,000+ students, leaving a lasting imprint on our community. Her contributions continue to shape how we think about student leadership, belonging, and community-building.

Our mandate remains ambitious and necessary. The Center was founded to support rigorous research, transformative leadership development, and global engagement that center the experiences of women and girls across the world. While the mission is steady, the landscape around us is shifting. Technology, global conflict, economic precarity, and political polarization are reshaping what equity and justice will require in the decades ahead. As our founding director, Professor J. Jarpa Dawuni envisioned when she created the Center, the women of Howard University have always stepped into these moments with courage and vision. We will continue that legacy.

As Executive Director, my priorities are guided by four commitments: First, we will amplify Howard University's intellectual leadership in gender studies and African diasporic scholarship. The Center will support this through stronger publication pathways, interdisciplinary research networks, and collaborative partnerships. Second, we will expand our role as a site of thought leadership. The Center is a place where ideas move beyond the page. We will continue convening conversations that stretch our thinking on gender, justice and domestic/global economic and social issues through our public programs and events. Third, we will strengthen leadership development pathways for students. Our task is to prepare them for a world transformed by technology, shifting labor markets, and geopolitical change. We will continue to cultivate an interdisciplinary pool of leaders who are ready to lead on campus and beyond. Finally, we will deepen global engagement. The challenges women face—whether in health, climate, technology, or economic security—are globally linked. We will continue building partnerships across Africa, the Caribbean, and the broader Global South that allow Howard students and faculty to learn, collaborate, and lead across borders.

One emerging area of focus for the Center, which we expand on later in this report, sits at the intersection of gender, labor, and technology. As artificial intelligence reshapes economies, culture, and governance, the stakes for Black women—access, safety, representation, power, and economic exclusion and opportunities for inclusion—are profound. The Center intends to help shape national conversations on how Black women influence and transform digital worlds. This focus will guide our thought leadership, research, and programming in the years ahead.

I want to emphasize that this next chapter requires sustained fundraising and donor engagement. Expanding our reach across the University's 14 schools and colleges, building research infrastructure, and supporting student leadership pipelines will require new investments. Philanthropy will be critical to the Center's continued growth and impact and we will call on you to help us!

Anita Plummer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, African Studies

WHO WE ARE

**Focusing On Issues That Women Are Facing In The U.S.
And Across The World.**

The Center for Women, Gender and Global Leadership at Howard University is uniquely positioned to develop the next generation of Black women and Black feminist conscience leaders in the U.S. and worldwide.

As the first and only interdisciplinary research center focusing on gender issues that Black women in leadership face, generating solutions and conversations for much-needed change to ensure that Black women receive equity, fairness, equality and justice in every aspect of their lives.

The barriers to advancement resulting from systemic racism and sexism have led to them being overlooked in professional fields and leadership roles, causing them significant economic disadvantages.

Women of color remain disproportionately impacted economically, politically and educationally. As a Center of Excellence, we aim to be part of the solution by providing students with mentorship, sponsorship opportunities and career pipelines grounded in high-quality research and scholarship.

The Women's Center understands the vital role women play in our society. Our programming and partnerships, which champions transformative leadership, global engagement, research, service learning and building impactful partnerships, will provide robust knowledge, advocacy and positive outcomes for all.

Our values—Resilience, Integrity, Service, and Excellence—shape every aspect of our work, from academic research to student leadership development to global engagement.



CWGGL Provides:

- Interdisciplinary research support across 14 schools and colleges
- Leadership development pathways for student ambassadors, interns, and emerging leaders
- Global engagement opportunities and cross-campus partnerships
- Public programs that elevate gender equity conversations across the African diaspora
- Student-centered support structures, including Mothers of the Mecca and our Feminist Book Club
- Professional development pipelines, including collaborations with AWIS, WBENC, and industry partners

Through research, leadership, and community-building, the Center serves as a catalyst for equity and transformative change.

OUR VALUES



At the Center, our work is grounded in the values of
RISE—Resilience, Integrity, Service, and Excellence.

Together, these principles guide how we engage students, collaborate across the University, and shape conversations on gender and global leadership.



RESILIENCE

We cultivate an empowered student community grounded in intersectional gender consciousness. Through programming and mentorship, we foster leaders who understand structural inequities, embrace gender awareness, and are prepared to make meaningful contributions in their communities and professions.

INTEGRITY

We promote transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership. Our aim is to prepare world leaders who act with clarity, responsibility, and a commitment to advancing equity and justice.

SERVICE

We serve our students, faculty, and broader community through local and global engagement. Our work centers the lived experiences of women of color in the United States and across the African Diaspora, advocating for universal issues that shape their well-being, opportunities, and futures.

EXCELLENCE

We pursue excellence in education, research, scholarship, and global advocacy. Our programs and partnerships reflect Howard University's legacy of academic rigor and its mission to develop leaders who transform the world.

Meet the Team



Dr. Anita Plummer

Executive Director, Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership
Associate Professor, African Studies



Imani Hopkins

Program Coordinator, Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Cassandra Veney and Dr. Amy Yeboah Quarkume for their dedicated service and leadership at the Center for Women, Gender & Global Leadership. Their commitment to student engagement, feminist scholarship, and community-building helped shape the foundation on which the Center continues to grow. We are deeply appreciative of their contributions and remain committed to advancing the work they helped cultivate.

Meet the Team



CENTER FOR
WOMEN,
GENDER
& GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP



Akofa Bruce

Undergraduate Communications Intern,
Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership
Political Science Major
Women, Gender, & Sexualities Studies Minor



Kobii Spruill

Undergraduate Communications Intern,
Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership
Communications Major



Sydney Mathis

Undergraduate Research & Policy Intern,
Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership
Biology Major



Gaelle Castor

Undergraduate Administrative Intern,
Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership
Business Major

Meet our Executive Council



Dr. Calvin Hadley

Senior Advisor for Strategic
Initiatives | Office of the President



Dr. Goulda Downer

Associate Professor
College of Medicine



Dr. Helen Bond

Professor
College of Education



Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad

Associate Professor
Sociology & Criminology



Dr. Krista Johnson

Professor
African Studies



Dr. Earl Ettienne

Associate Professor
Clinical & Administrative Pharmacy
Sciences



Dr. Dana A. Williams

Dean & Professor
Graduate School



Sharon Strange-Lewis

Assistant Dean, Impact & Engagement
School of Business



Bilqis Wilkerson

Managing Director
Thurgood Marshall Civils Rights Center

OUR PILLARS

CWGGL's work is grounded in four interlocking pillars:

Research & Thought Leadership

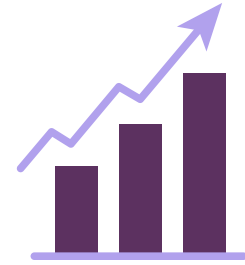
**Leadership Development & Student
Success**

Global Engagement

**Institutional Excellence &
Partnerships**

These pillars guide programming, partnerships, and the forward-looking strategic direction detailed later in this report.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



500

500+ in attendance for our in-person and virtual events

50

50+ faculty members engaged

20

20+ events held since January 2025

17

17 number of partners

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORTERS

A special thanks to all who supported our work!

- Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)
- HU Hip-Hop Studies
- HU Graduate Student Assembly
- WorkHurt.co
- Marty McDonald
- Capital One
- Verizon
- Mahogany Books
- CEV Collection
- The Movement Street, INC
- Jaylon Smith of the Las Vegas Raiders
- Center for African Studies
- Department of World Languages and Culture
- Department of Sociology and Criminology
- Office of University Communications
- Office of the Provost

SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS



100+

Instagram Followers Gained



33,249+

Instagram Views Over Past 90 Days



67

New LinkedIn Followers



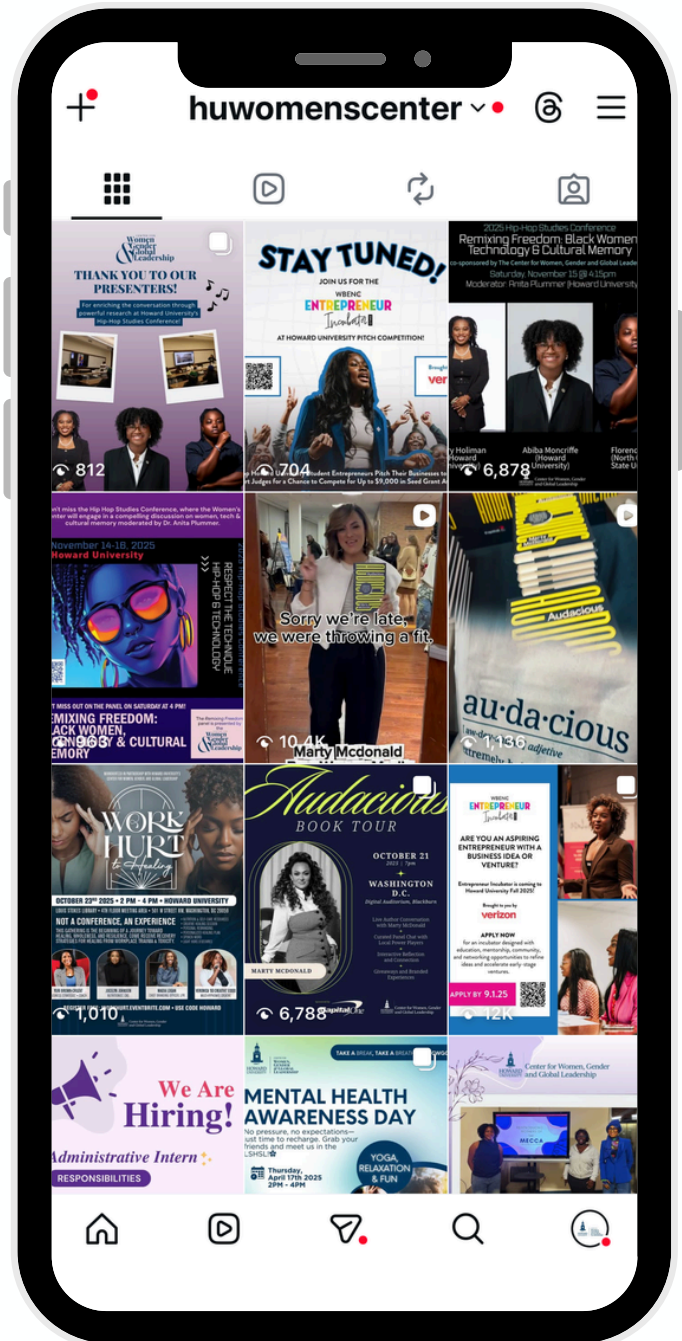
6,675+

LinkedIn Impressions



1,786

Newsletter subscribers





Donate to the Center!



<https://giving.howard.edu/CenterForWomen>

Your support makes possible

- Innovative research
- Student leadership pipelines
- Faculty and student-led scholarship
- Signature public programs

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"AS WE WORK COLLECTIVELY TO PROMOTE WOMEN AND GENDER ISSUES NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY, I SEE THE CENTER AS A BLANK CANVAS, WHERE WE ALL HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE TO PAINT A BEAUTIFUL AND LASTING IMAGE OF WHAT WE WANT GENDER EQUALITY TO LOOK LIKE — AND WHAT IT SHOULD BE."

**– Professor J. Jarpa Dawuni, Esq. Ph.D.
Founding Director, Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership**

Akofa Bruce, a 2025 Howard University graduate from Accra, Ghana and the Bronx, New York, exemplifies the purpose of CWGGL's mission. Graduating magna cum laude with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexualities Studies, Akofa served as a CWGGL intern for two years, playing an integral role in student outreach, event coordination, community engagement, and program development. She is now a postgraduate student at SOAS University of London, pursuing a master's degree in Global Media and Digital Communications.

In 2025, with the support of Dr. Amy Quarkume, Akofa successfully secured a \$24,000 leadership development grant for the Center, strengthening our capacity to build student leadership pipelines and expand professional development opportunities.

She notes: "I was inspired to apply for the Leadership Grant because I saw an opportunity to support ideas that the CWGGL team has had for some time. With every year that passes, we grow and learn from our engagement with our community. As the first and only interdisciplinary research center focused on gender issues that Black women in leadership face, we thought it important to invest in ourselves so we could provide Black students with a chance to enhance their professional development as they work towards building stronger networks in their community. We must understand that these goals are attainable and pouring into ourselves will give us the ability to make a deeper impact on the people we engage with. The CWGGL's future is bright, and I'm honored to be a part of the legacy we are building through opportunities like this!"

Akofa represents the Center's commitment to cultivating leaders who are intellectually sharp, community-driven, and prepared to navigate the evolving demands of global society.



Alumni Highlight

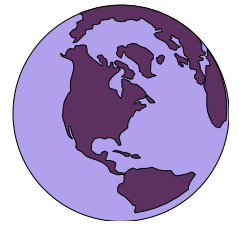
Akofa Bruce

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



The Center hosted a robust series of programs that strengthened student engagement, expanded faculty visibility, and deepened our presence across campus.


Global Changemakers Student Fellowship Program



Cultivating the Next Generation of Leaders Across Diverse Fields
September 2024 to May 2025


**GLOBAL CHANGEMAKERS
STUDENT FELLOWSHIP**

The Global Changemakers Student Fellowship is an innovative program aimed at cultivating the next generation of leaders across diverse fields. It focuses on empowering and advancing Black women in leadership within the Howard University community and beyond.



This fellowship equips student fellows with essential skills, knowledge, and networks to become influential leaders and innovators. Participants engage in a comprehensive development program, featuring leadership training, professional development, networking opportunities, and mentoring.

Our mission is to foster a supportive environment where fellows can thrive and make a significant impact both nationally and globally.

cwggfhoward.edu  #FemmeForwardHU

BEING A GLOBAL MINDED LEADER

Guest Speaker: Deniece Laurent-Mantey
Executive Director | U.S. Department of State | Fmr
Director for Africa | White House National Security
Council | Howard University Alum

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Virtual Lecture and Workshop



The Global Changemakers Student Fellowship is a leadership development program designed to cultivate the next generation of leaders, with a focus on empowering and advancing Black women at Howard University and beyond. Led by our former Associate Director of Student Engagement, Dr. Amy Yeboah Quarkume, and hosted by CWGGL, the inaugural cohort included 27 student fellows. The program offers training in leadership, professional development, mentoring, and entrepreneurship, equipping students with the skills and networks needed to become impactful global leaders. This initiative underscores our commitment to preparing students to make meaningful contributions on national and global stages.

20 Events | Student Engagement

Student Engagement & Leadership Development

CWGGL Spring Open House January 28, 2025



The Spring Open House served as the Center's first major touchpoint with students in 2025, welcoming 20 undergraduate attendees into a warm and engaging environment designed to introduce CWGGL's mission and semester programming. Led by Program Coordinator Imani Hopkins, former Executive Director Dr. Cassandra Veney, and the CWGGL interns, the event offered students an overview of upcoming initiatives, leadership opportunities, and the Center's role as a hub for gender-focused scholarship and community-building at Howard. The open house strengthened the Center's visibility across campus, generated new student sign-ups, and set the tone for an active and highly participatory spring semester.

Mental Health Awareness Day April 17, 2025

CWGGL hosted its first Mental Health Awareness Day, creating a restorative wellness environment for 15 undergraduate and graduate students seeking space for reflection, grounding, and community. The event featured yoga, meditation, art journaling, crochet, and a themed book club corner—activities designed to promote mindfulness and stress reduction during a demanding academic season. Clinical Psychologist Juwanza McIntosh from HU Counseling Services offered insights on mental health practices, signs of burnout, and campus resources available to students. The program emphasized the Center's commitment to holistic leadership development, recognizing that student well-being is foundational to academic success and community engagement.

Student Engagement & Leadership Development

CWGGL Student Ambassadors
Spring 2025



**WBENC Entrepreneur Incubator
& Pitch Day**
Spring & Fall 2025



The CWGGL Student Ambassadors program continued to serve as a foundational leadership pipeline for undergraduate. Across five cohort meetings and supplemental activities, ambassadors received training in event facilitation, community engagement, and professional development. The meetings offered space for students to collaborate, reflect, and practice leadership skills in a supportive environment. Ambassadors also played a key role in staffing and coordinating CWGGL programs, giving them hands-on experience in public engagement and program planning.

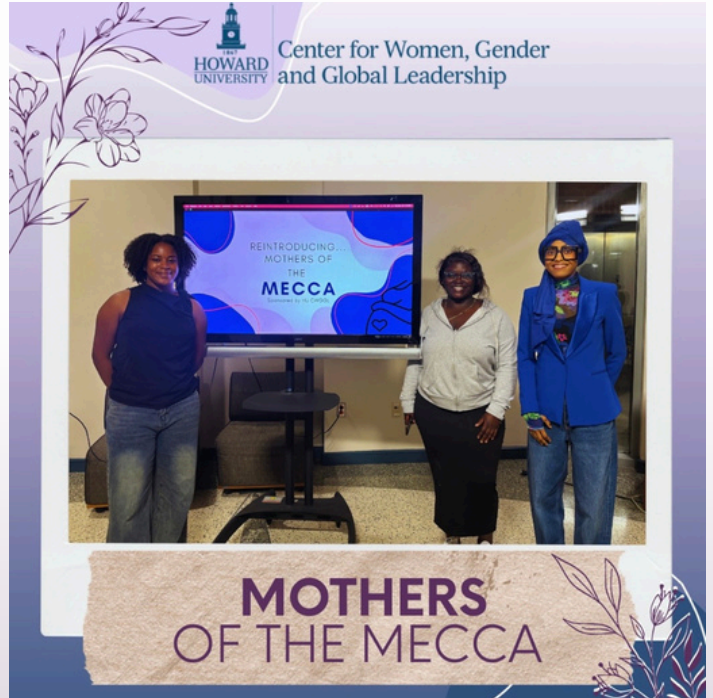
In partnership with the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), CWGGL hosted a hands-on entrepreneurial incubator and pitch competition designed to support women students developing business ventures. Participants engaged in workshops on venture design, branding, business planning, financial readiness, and the strategic use of technology. The program culminated in a high-energy pitch day where students presented their concepts before a panel of external judges and industry leaders. The initiative underscored CWGGL's commitment to cultivating economic empowerment and innovation among emerging male and female leaders at Howard.

Student Engagement & Leadership Development

**Pathways to Leadership:
Career & Life Journeys**
February 11, 2025



**Mothers of the Mecca
(M.O.M.)**
Spring 2025 Relaunch



In partnership with the AWIS and the Karsh STEM Scholars Program

Recognizing the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, CWGGL and the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) convened a dynamic conversation featuring Karene Richards-Wise, Meredith Gibson, and Dr. Julia Omotade. The speakers shared candid reflections on navigating STEM fields, overcoming structural barriers, and sustaining purpose-driven careers. Students engaged directly with the panel, asking questions about career mobility, mentorship, and work-life integration. This event helped demystify STEM leadership and highlighted the importance of representation, resilience, and confidence for women scientists.

The Mothers of the Mecca (M.O.M.) program relaunched in 2025 with a renewed commitment to supporting student parents, caregiving staff, and faculty navigating the dual responsibilities of academic life and family care. The spring session facilitated honest dialogue about the challenges of balancing coursework, parenting, financial pressures, and mental health. Participants expressed a clear need for community support and consistent programming. The event positioned M.O.M. as a restorative space within the Center, emphasizing care as an essential leadership practice.

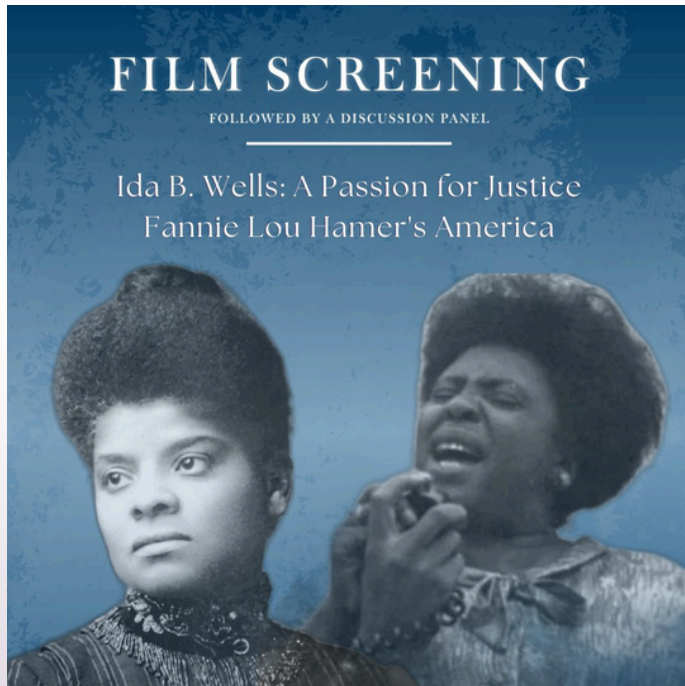
RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



Research, Scholarship & Thought Leadership

Film Screening: Ida B. Wells & Fannie Lou Hamer

March 12, 2025



Redefining Power, Misogynoir, Black Women's Leadership, and The Legacy of Black Women's Studies

March 13, 2025



This screening honored the legacies of Ida B. Wells and Fannie Lou Hamer, two of the most influential figures in Black feminist political history. Following the film, students engaged in a reflective discussion on freedom movements, racial justice, and the ongoing resonance of women-led activism. The event highlighted CWGGL's commitment to highlighting historical narratives that inform contemporary struggles for justice and visibility.

Moderated by Dr. Carolette Norwood Department of Sociology and Criminology and Dr. Carole Boyce-Davies Department of English.

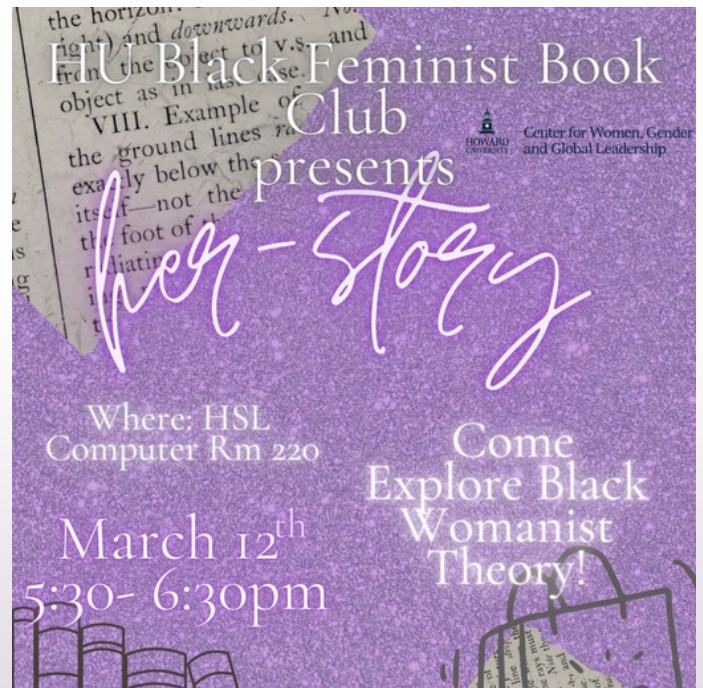
This dynamic virtual discussion explored misogynoir with experts from across the world. Each of the presenters shared insights on resilience, academic activism, and the evolution of feminist thought. The session provided a structured space for collective reflection and emphasized the need for systemic change to support Black women in all walks of life.

Research, Scholarship & Thought Leadership

Faculty Luncheon: Taking a Seat at the Table
April 3, 2025



Black Feminist Book Club
Spring & Fall 2025



In partnership with *Dr. Veronica Thomas*
Department of Human Development and
Psychoeducational Studies at Howard University
and *Dr. Carolette Norwood* Professor and
Department Head of Sociology and Criminology at
Howard University

This luncheon brought together faculty to discuss tenure, including strategies for career navigation, mentorship, and academic advancement. Speakers shared practical tools for thriving on the tenure track.

The Feminist Book Club (FBC) remained a cornerstone of intellectual community-building throughout 2025. FBC is a community-centered reading group that brings together students interested in exploring feminist scholarship, literature, and contemporary issues related to gender, equity, and social justice. Students explored foundational and contemporary Black feminist texts, engaging in conversations that linked theory to lived experience. The book club created an affirming space for dialogue on different issues.

Research, Scholarship & Thought Leadership



Hip-Hop Studies Conference Panel Sponsorship "Remixing Freedom: Black Women, Technology & Cultural Memory"

November 15, 2025

2025 Hip-Hop Studies Conference
**Remixing Freedom: Black Women,
Technology & Cultural Memory**
co-sponsored by The Center for Women, Gender and Global Leadership
Saturday, November 15 @ 4:15pm
Moderator: Anita Plummer (Howard University)



Mary Holiman
(Howard University)



Abiba Moncriste
(Howard University)



Florence Aloorh
(North Carolina State University)



In partnership with Howard University's Interdisciplinary Studies Program's Third Annual Hip Hop Studies Conference.

CWGGL contributed to the 3rd Annual Hip-Hop Studies Conference by sponsoring a panel comprised of graduate and undergraduate student scholars. The Center's participation helped highlight scholars who are mapping the ways Black women curate, archive, remix, and reinvent cultural memory in both regional and global contexts. Students and faculty engaged with artists, scholars, and practitioners exploring the transformative potential of hip-hop as both art and activism.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY IMPACT



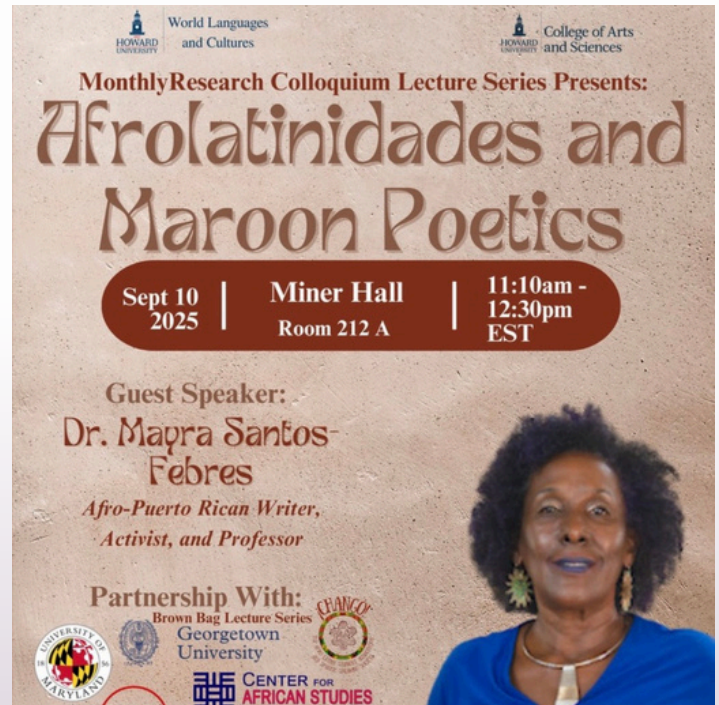
Global Leadership, Partnerships & Community Impact

**International Women's Day 2025:
Rethinking Trade & Gender**
March 18, 2025



International Women's Day 2025: Rethinking Trade & Gender with Alexandra Whittaker: Chief Trade Counsel & Trade Subcommittee Staff Director, U.S. House of Representatives focused on "Rethinking Trade & Gender," exploring how global trade systems shape economic opportunity, labor rights, and gender equity. Speakers emphasized the unequal distribution of benefits within global markets and highlighted the need for feminist economic policy frameworks. The event connected students to global conversations on trade justice, international development, and the political economy of gender.

**Afrolatinidades & Maroon Poetics
Lecture Series**
September 10, 2025

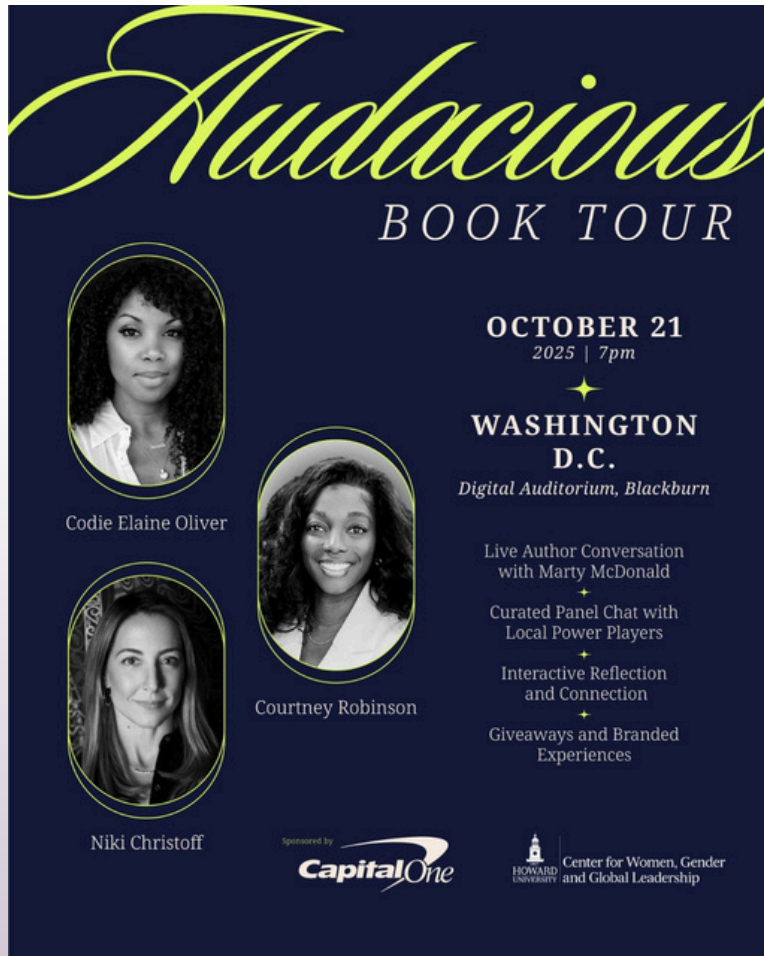


In partnership with the Department of World Languages and College of Arts and Sciences.

CWGLL supported the Department of World Languages and Cultures' research colloquium featuring Dr. Mayra Santos-Febres, a renowned Afro-Puerto Rican writer, activist, and professor. Her lecture explored themes of Black identity, diaspora histories, and literary traditions, engaging students, faculty, and campus partners in a dynamic conversation. A book signing followed, giving attendees the opportunity to further connect with Dr. Santos-Febres. Our support strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration and highlighted global conversations on race, culture, and gender.

Global Leadership, Partnerships & Community Impact

Audacious Book Tour with Marty McDonald
October 21, 2025



CWGGL hosted successful entrepreneur and author Marty McDonald for the first stop on her *Audacious* book tour. The event centered on themes of boldness, authenticity, and self-definition for women navigating personal and professional spaces. Students and community members engaged in a rich discussion about building social networks, vision-setting and the importance of audacity in leadership. Capital One engaged attendees through on-site recruitment and information sharing, while Jaylon Smith's CEV Collection offered branded eyewear experiences. Guests also received free copies of *Audacious* during the book signing.

Global Leadership, Partnerships & Community Impact

**Work Hurt to Healing: A Wellness &
Recovery Experience with Yuri Brown-Cruzat**

October 23, 2025



WORK HURT to Healing

OCTOBER 23RD 2025 • 2 PM - 4 PM • HOWARD UNIVERSITY
LOUIS STOKES LIBRARY • 4TH FLOOR MEETING AREA • 501 W STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20059

NOT A CONFERENCE, AN EXPERIENCE

THIS GATHERING IS THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY TOWARD HEALING, WHOLENESS, AND RESILIENCE. COME RECEIVE RECOVERY STRATEGIES FOR HEALING FROM WORKPLACE TRAUMA & TOXICITY.

- NUTRITION & SELF-CARE RESOURCES
- CREATIVE HEALING SESSION
- PERSONAL REBRANDING
- PERSONALIZED HEALING PLAN
- SPOKEN WORD
- LIGHT HOURS D'OEUVRES



YURI BROWN-CRUZAT
BUSINESS STRATEGIST • COACH



JOCELYN JOHNSON
NUTRITIONIST, CNS



MADIA LOGAN
CHIEF BRANDING OFFICER, LPR



VERONICA 'SO CREATIVE' ESSEX
MULTI-HYPHENATE CREATIVE



This immersive wellness activation invited participants to reflect on the emotional and physical impacts of labor, grief, burnout, and recovery. Through guided exercises, collective dialogue, and storytelling, attendees explored practices for healing and personal restoration. The program underscored CWGGL's commitment to holistic leadership—recognizing that sustainable leadership requires spaces of care, rest, and healing. Chief Communication's Officer, Lydia Sermons of Howard's Office of University Communication played a critical role in bringing this event to out community.



Scan the QR code
watch an interview
with Harold Fisher
on the Daily Drum!



STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2026-2028



STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2026–2028

Our Academic & Research Enterprise

The Center is entering a period of expansion in its academic and research identity. Over the next three years, CWGGL will strengthen its Interdisciplinary Collaborative Networks through “Thought & Practice Hubs,” interdisciplinary clusters that bring faculty expertise into conversation with student inquiry, public scholarship, and global issues.

A central thematic anchor for this next phase is the intersection of Black women, technology, and workforce transformation. As AI reshapes labor, politics, culture, and governance, Black women sit at a precarious crossroads—simultaneously innovators, early adopters, and disproportionately vulnerable to structural inequities and exclusion.

The Center is entering a period of expansion in its academic and research identity. Over the next three years, CWGGL will strengthen its Interdisciplinary Collaborative Networks through Thought & Practice Hubs—interdisciplinary clusters designed to connect faculty expertise with student inquiry, public scholarship, and pressing global issues.

A central thematic anchor for this next phase is the intersection of women, technology, and workforce transformation. As AI reshapes labor, politics, culture, and governance, Black women occupy a pivotal position—driving innovation while confronting structural inequalities that shape access, exclusion, opportunity, and representation. CWGGL’s research enterprise will examine these dynamics through rigorous scholarship, collaborative inquiry, and applied learning opportunities that prepare students to navigate and influence an evolving digital economy.

Rather than limiting the Center to a static set of outputs, this model emphasizes a structured but adaptive research agenda—one that allows CWGGL to respond to emerging questions, pursue new partnerships, and scale programming in alignment with funding and institutional priorities. This approach ensures the Center’s work remains both strategic and responsive, positioning Howard University as a national leader in scholarship on gender, technology, and the future of work.

Global programming remains essential to this vision. Issues shaping women’s lives—whether access to technology, workforce mobility, climate pressures, or political participation—are inherently transnational. CWGGL will continue to deepen collaborations across Africa and the global South, ensuring that our research, teaching, and leadership development efforts reflect global realities and build global solidarity.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2026–2028

Leadership Development & Student Success

Student leadership has always been central to the Center’s mission, and over 2026–2028, CWGGL will formalize its role as a university-wide hub for leadership development, ensuring that women and gender-expansive students have coordinated access to opportunities that support their academic, personal, and professional growth.

As workplaces and global systems evolve—shaped by rapid technological change, shifting labor markets, and new forms of digital engagement—students need a leadership model that prepares them for both current challenges and emerging futures. CWGGL’s student-facing agenda reflects this reality. Our vision prioritizes skill-building, ethical leadership, community wellness, and the ability to navigate and shape environments increasingly influenced by technology.

Through this expanded model, CWGGL will:

- Serve as a centralized resource for student leadership opportunities, offering guidance and support for women-led student organizations, campus partners, and emerging leaders across disciplines.
- Strengthen professional and academic pathways for students connected to the Center, including WGSS minors, graduate certificate students, interns, and participants in our student organizations.
- Integrate training in digital literacy and emerging technologies into leadership development so students gain confidence and adaptability in a changing workforce.
- Create leadership environments that center community, care, and well-being, recognizing that sustainable leadership requires practices that prevent burnout and affirm students’ emotional and intellectual labor.

At the same time, the Center will continue investing in the anchor programs that foster belonging and intellectual community on campus: the Feminist Book Club, Mothers of the Mecca, and the CWGGL Internship Program. These programs remain essential spaces where students can explore ideas, strengthen networks, and develop as scholars and leaders.

Through this multi-layered approach, CWGGL aims to cultivate resilient, critically engaged, and globally aware leaders who are prepared not only to excel in their fields, but to shape more just and equitable futures.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2026–2028

Institutional Growth

The Center for Women, Gender & Global Leadership enters 2026 with momentum and vision. Our work—rooted in research, powered by student leadership, and strengthened by campus and community partnerships—reflects Howard University’s legacy of excellence and its long-standing commitment to gender equity and global justice. As the Center moves into its next phase, our goal is not only to sustain our programming but to build the infrastructure necessary to elevate CWGGL into a nationally recognized leader on gender, leadership, and the future of work.

Over the next three years, CWGGL will prioritize strengthening its internal capacity and expanding its external reach. This includes:

Expanding collaborations across all 14 schools and colleges at Howard

The Center will deepen its academic footprint by working with faculty across disciplines to develop thematic programming, convene research collaborations, support student pathways, and embed gender analysis into campus-wide initiatives. This cross-university approach ensures that CWGGL remains an intellectual and convening hub for students, researchers, and practitioners.

Building sustainable administrative structures and staff capacity

To deliver high-quality public programs, coordinate interdisciplinary research hubs, and manage student leadership pipelines, CWGGL must expand its operational capacity. This includes securing staffing for program coordination, research support, communications, monitoring and evaluation, and student engagement. Increased staffing will ensure that the Center can manage the scale and complexity of its growing portfolio—particularly its expanding work on technology, global leadership, and equity.



STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR 2026–2028

Developing a strong, sustainable fundraising pipeline

Fundraising is central to CWGGL's long-term sustainability. To fulfill our research mission, scale student programs, and launch new initiatives—particularly those focused on technology, AI literacy, and global workforce equity—we must secure multi-year philanthropic commitments. The Center plans to:

- Cultivate donors and philanthropic partners aligned with gender equity, innovation, STEM access, and leadership development.
- Pursue federal and foundation grants that support interdisciplinary research, student training, global programming, and workforce development
- Expand corporate partnerships, particularly in industries shaping the future of work, to support workshops, fellowships, experiential learning, and applied research.
- Develop annual giving and alumni engagement strategies to sustain core programming such as the Feminist Book Club, Mothers of the Mecca, student internships, and International Women's Day.

Each of these funding strategies is tied directly to programmatic needs. Multi-year investment will allow CWGGL to:

- Expand the Thought & Practice Hubs to support new research clusters on gender, technology, and global leadership
- Strengthen student-facing initiatives, including leadership pipelines, cohort-based training, digital literacy programs, and wellness-centered development.
- Support faculty-led and student-led research projects that advance Howard's national profile on gender issues
- Enhance public programming, including signature events such as International Women's Day, lectures, community conversations, and collaborations with global partners.

A call to invest in the future of leadership:

With renewed strategic focus and sustained investment, CWGGL is poised to shape national and global conversations for years to come. The Center's next chapter depends on building the financial and operational infrastructure that matches its intellectual ambitions. Investment in CWGGL is an investment in Howard University's legacy of producing trailblazing leaders—women who transform institutions, industries, and societies.



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