

12th Annual Global Well-Being & Social Change Conference

ADVOCACY FOR HUMANKIND

March 20th - 21st
2025

Millersville University
In Person & Virtual, EST

Striving for social justice is the most valuable thing to do in life.
– Albert Einstein



Millersville University
THE LEARNING INSTITUTE
Be Informed, Be Engaged, Be the Change

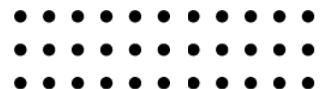
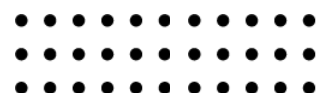
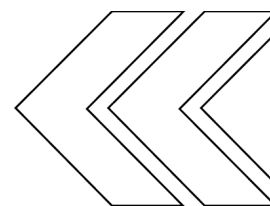


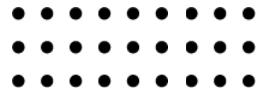


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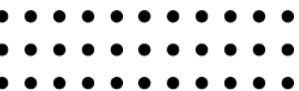
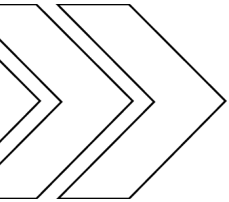
General Conference Instructions



Welcome to our 12th Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference! We are pleased to offer a hybrid conference, welcoming in-person and virtual attendees. See instructions below on how to access all conference sessions.

Tips to make the most of a virtual conference

- **Plan it out:** Look through the program and decide which sessions you would like to view. Next, create a tentative schedule to watch the live sessions/videos and keep yourself on track.
- **Pick the right spot:** It is helpful to find a set-up that allows you to be engaged and attentive while watching participating in the session. For example, if you typically like to take notes, try to find a tables or place where you can comfortably write.
- **Document feedback as you go:** Make sure you are keeping a record of which sessions you've completed. This will help you quickly finish the form for CE (continuing education) certificates. Be sure to also record comments for the sessions while it is fresh in your mind so you can provide feedback at the end. Use the "Session Feedback" document as resource.
- **Engage deeper by adding comments:** Even in a virtual format, there are many opportunities to engage in the session. Utilize the chat feature and speak up when prompted by the presenter
- **Reach out with questions:** If you have any questions or concerns about the conference, please contact Dr. Karen Rice at karen.rice@millersville.edu, 717-871-5297. We want to make this the best experience it can be for you so please let us know how we can assist you throughout the virtual conference.



General Conference Instructions

Accessing Live Sessions

- **See schedule on page on page 7.** Session descriptions and zoom links can be found on pages 10-12. To join a session, open the corresponding zoom link.
- **Sign-in Process:** At the beginning on each session, type your name into the zoom chat. You can introduce yourself to all participants or you can send your name in a private chat to the Tech Support person. We will be using the chat to confirm attendance!

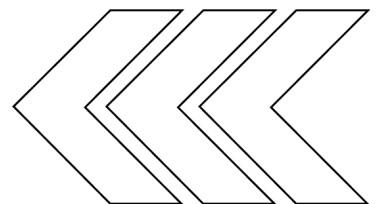


Zoom Etiquette

- Remain muted when you are not speaking as this increases the sound quality for everyone else.
- Participate by adding to the conversation in the chat or speaking up when prompted by the presenter.
- If you are in a vehicle or moving around, please keep your camera off as this can be distracting to other participants.
- *Tip: The Meeting ID is the series of numbers found at the end of the Zoom link. See example below
 - Zoom link:

<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/91823793428>

Meeting ID: 91823793428



General Conference Instructions

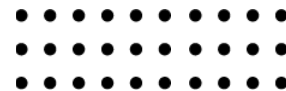
All vehicles are required to display a valid MU parking permit when parking on the Campus - Monday-Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

Directions and Parking Information

The physical address of Stayer Hall is 51 Lyte Rd. Millersville, PA 17551

Building Location Map

- <https://www.millersville.edu/directions/index.php#locations/8f9d7b53f5>



From Baltimore and South

1. Take I-83 North to Route 30 East.
2. Exit onto Route 741 East and continue for about four miles.
3. Turn right onto Route 999 at the traffic light.

From Harrisburg and West

1. Take Route 283 East.
2. Exit onto Route 741 East and continue for about four miles.
3. Turn right onto Route 999 at the traffic light.

From the PA Turnpike

Traveling East:

1. Take Exit 19/247 (Harrisburg East) onto Route 283 East.
2. Exit onto Route 741 East, continue for about four miles.
3. Turn right onto Route 999 at the traffic light.

Traveling West:

1. Take Exit 21/286 (Reading/Lancaster) and follow Route 222 South to Route 30 West.
2. Exit onto Route 741 East, continue for about four miles.
3. Turn right onto Route 999 at the traffic light.

From Route 222 (Traveling South)

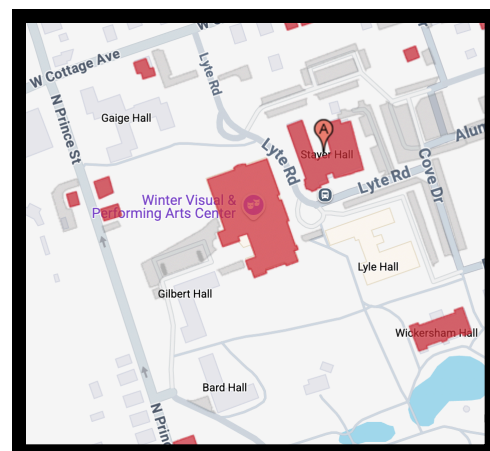
1. Take the exit for Route 30 West.
2. Exit onto Route 741 East and continue for about four miles.
3. Turn right onto Route 999 at the traffic light.

From Downtown Lancaster City

1. Take Orange Street west
2. Turn left on Charlotte Street
3. Bear right onto Manor Street (Route 999).
4. Continue on Route 999, past Route 741 (Millersville Rd.)

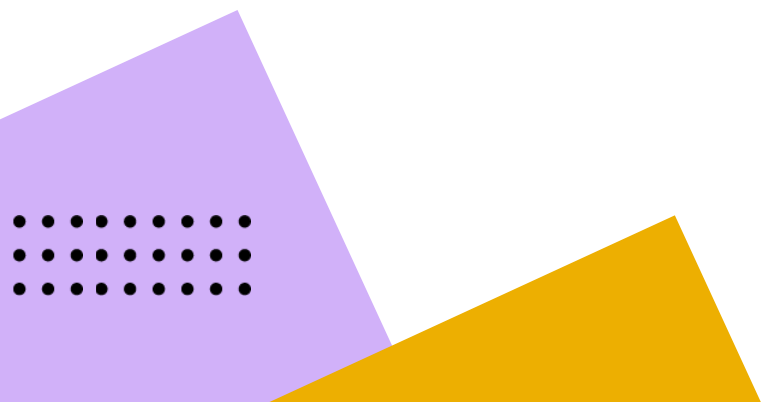
Finding Office 116 in Stayer Hall

1. Enter the lobby and head left toward the elevator, but do not get on.
2. Follow the small hallway through a doorway.
3. The first office on the left is Room 116—you'll find me inside!



Final Steps (From Route 999)

1. After the second traffic light on Route 999, bear left onto N. George Street at the fork.
2. Follow N. George Street to a light, then turn right onto W. Cottage Ave.
3. Turn left onto Lyte Rd—Stayer Hall is the first large brick building on the left.





ACT 48 & CEU Instructions

For those who purchased ACT 48 & CEU credits, you must complete a post-conference survey before receiving your CEU credit. In the survey you will need to properly document which sessions you attended or viewed entirely. In order to properly complete this survey, we recommend that you take notes for each session. Once the survey is complete, you can expect your certificate to be emailed to you within 10 business days.

Sign-in Instructions:

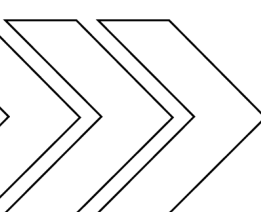
- In order to receive credit for a live Zoom session, you must sign in by sending your name in the chat.

Credits:

- If you attend every zoom session, you can receive up to 5.5 CEU credit hours.

Survey link:

- Will be emailed at the end of the conference



Note: As a university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, Millersville University School of Social Work is approved by the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors to provide Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to qualified participants.

Conference Planning Committee

Amanda Amspacher

Administrative Assistant, Office of the Dean, College of Education and Human Services, and School of Social Work

Laura Brierton Granruth

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Laurie Hanich

Professor, Department of Educational Foundations

Kazi Hossain

Associate Professor, Department of Early, Middle, Elementary Education

Thomas Neuville

Professor, Department of Special Education

Karen Rice

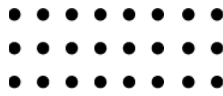
Department Chair, Professor, School of Social Work

Lara Willox

Dean, College of Education and Human Services, and School of Social Work



Conference Schedule



NOTE: All times are in EST

Thursday March 20th

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Slack
Biemsderfer Concert Hall, Winter Center

Note: Keynote Session is in-person only,
however a recording can be shared upon
request.

Friday March 21st

8:30 am - 8:45 am

Registration, Networking & Welcome Address
MPR, Stayer Hall

8:45 am - 9:00 am

Welcome Address: Dr. Laura Willox
MPR, Stayer Hall
[Meeting ID: 919 9394 6358](#)

9:10 am - 10:10 am

Concurrent Sessions

10:20 am - 11:20 am

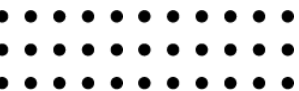
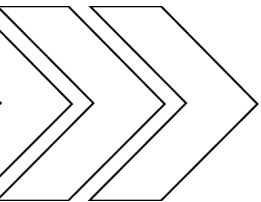
Concurrent Sessions

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

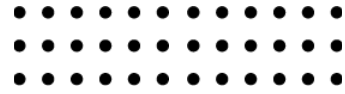
Lunch & Plenary Speaker: Dr. Heather Girvin
MPR, Stayer Hall
[Meeting ID: 917 5828 7111](#)



Keynote Speaker

Lockey Lecture Keynote Address

Andrew Slack



Live Session: Thursday March 20th at 7:00 pm

Location: Biemsderfer Concert Hall, Winter Center

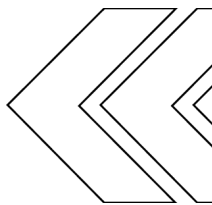
Title: Advocacy for Humankind

Andrew Slack is dedicated to harnessing the power of popular stories to inspire a more just, compassionate, and imaginative world. This passion has shaped a dynamic career spanning multiple roles.

As a narrative strategist for Avaaz, a global civic organization with over 69 million members, Slack has coordinated efforts with A-list celebrities—including Leonardo DiCaprio, Meryl Streep, Pedro Pascal, Mark Ruffalo, and Adam McKay—as well as elected officials, to advance pro-democracy, climate, and human rights campaigns worldwide.

As a content producer, his videos have amassed over 100 million views. One of these projects, Save Santa's Home, is a children's book he co-authored that takes a playful approach to empowering kids in climate activism.

Slack is also the co-founder of the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA), now known as Fandom Forward. Over a decade, he leveraged themes from Harry Potter to inspire hundreds of thousands of fans to become first-time activists, leading successful campaigns and establishing chapters in over 30 countries. His pop culture-driven campaigns—drawing connections between The Hunger Games and economic inequality, Superman and immigrant rights, and Star Wars and money in politics—earned him fellowships at Ashoka, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and Civic Hall.



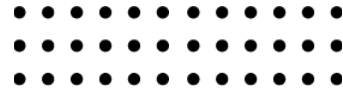
His work has been featured in over 100 major news outlets, including The New York Times, The New Yorker, Comedy Central, and People Magazine. A sought-after speaker, he has delivered talks on the power of storytelling for social change at TEDx Youth, SXSW, the American Library Association, and prestigious institutions such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and MIT, among more than 100 other venues worldwide. Additionally, he has contributed writings on civic imagination to The Los Angeles Times and CNN.

As a thought leader, Slack's insights and counsel have influenced the ways academics, nonprofits, and major foundations engage with fandom and pop culture. His pioneering work would not have been possible without the collaboration of brilliant colleagues along the way, and he looks forward to continuing to connect with new partners to craft better stories for a better world.

Note: Keynote Session is in-person only, however a recording can be shared upon request.



Plenary Speaker

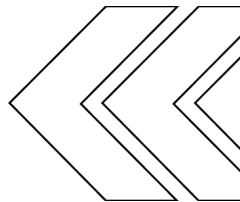


Dr. Heather Girvin



Live Session: Friday, March 21st at 12:30 pm
[Meeting ID: 917 5828 7111](#)

Title: Leading with Responsibility and Compassion:
Lessons from the Herd

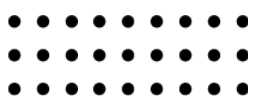


Heather Girvin, Associate Professor at Millersville University, teaches across the BSW, MSW, and DSW programs. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Dickinson College and both her Master's and Doctorate in Social Work from Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research. With a background in child protective services, foster care, and outpatient therapy, Dr. Girvin's work focuses on supporting children and families. She has experience in residential programs, public child welfare agencies, and in-home services.

At Millersville, Dr. Girvin played a key role in launching and accrediting the MSW program and remains actively involved in its development. She teaches courses on diversity, cultural competence, child welfare, family violence, and social theory, emphasizing active learning and critical thinking to prepare students for professional practice.

Her research explores trauma, social justice, and systemic change, with a particular focus on children and families. She has evaluated child maltreatment prevention programs, developed trauma-informed interventions, and collaborated on global service-learning projects in South Africa, Haiti, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. She is especially interested in the role of expressive arts in healing trauma and promoting social change.

Dr. Girvin's work extends beyond the classroom through numerous publications and presentations on child welfare, social work education, and cross-system collaboration. She remains dedicated to strengthening social work practice through research, innovation, and advocacy.



Concurrent Sessions

Friday, March 21st

9:10 am - 10:10 am



Meals on the Go: Exploring the Challenges of Navigating Charitable Food While Homeless

Stayer Hall Room 106

[Meeting ID: 995 4053 6718](#)

This project gathered perspectives from individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness about the process of and insights regarding accessing charitable food. Fifteen semi-structured interviews were conducted with homeless individuals at a lunch meal. Findings revealed challenges in finding food, with communal eating, and regarding the risks associated with meeting daily food needs.

Presenter(s):

Dr. Jennifer Frank, LSW

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Millersville University

Dawn Watson, LSW

Qualitative Research Specialist, Central PA Food Bank

Dr. Mary Glazier

Professor Emerita of Sociology, Millersville University, Chair, Ambassadors for Hope (Supporting Children with a Parent in Prison)

Equine Empowerment: Leadership Lessons from the Herd

Stayer Hall Room 110

[Meeting ID: 948 0432 0534](#)

Presenters will share an overview of youth leadership programs in their equine-assisted leadership training program. Strong Oaks, a leadership training program for male college students, will be piloted this summer. Boss Mares, a parallel program for young women, has been successfully implemented and the presenters will share results.

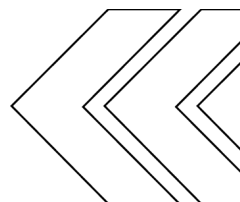
Presenter(s):

Dr. Heather Girvin

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Millersville University

Dr. Abigail Wilson

Adjunct Professor, School of Social Work, Millersville University



Concurrent Sessions

Friday, March 21st

10:20 am - 11:20 am



Collaborative Partnerships to Empower Latinx Youth Through Cultural Relevant Programming

Stayer Hall Room 106

[Meeting ID: 969 1949 5858](#)

The School District of Lancaster serves a racially and economically diverse population of students, with 60% of students who identify as Hispanic. This presentation will highlight the key concepts, strategies and lessons learned from partnering with an elementary school to empower students in their identity.

Bridging Digital Divides: Empowering Women Through Digital Literacy in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa

Stayer Hall Room 110

[Meeting ID: 920 0212 0811](#)

This session will focus on the critical intersections of gender, digital literacy, and women empowerment in rural Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite the transformative potential of digital technologies for economic and social inclusion, women in rural sub-Saharan Africa face multiple layers of exclusion due to infrastructural limitations, cultural barriers, economic barriers, and limited digital skills. This presentation explores how tailored digital literacy programs can effectively address these challenges and serve as catalysts for women's empowerment.

Presenter(s):

Dr. Christina Pantoja Williams

Director of Pre-College Programs, Millersville University

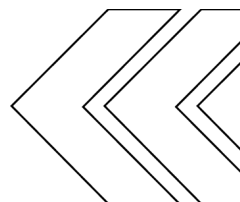
Presenter(s):

Patience O Kaphalanya

*School of Social Work
MSW Student*

Wanja Ogongi, PhD LSW

Associate Professor at the Millersville University School of Social Work



Concurrent Sessions

Friday, March 21st

11:30 am - 12:30 pm



Generative Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights

Stayer Hall Room 106

[Meeting ID: 936 1541 4004](#)

After covering the basics of generative artificial intelligence, we will raise awareness of the human rights risks stemming from the development and use of generative artificial intelligence. We will provide guidelines and advice that empower our community to advocate for their rights and influence local AI discussions and policies.

Presenter(s):

Gregory Szczyrbak, MS

Associate Professor, McNairy Library, Millersville University

Dr. Jess Hughes

Associate Professor, Department of Communications and Theatre, Millersville University

Dr. Rob Spicer, Associate Professor

Department of Communication and Theatre, Millersville University

Utilizing Bibliotherapy to Foster Humankind

Stayer Hall Room 110

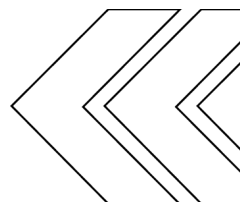
[Meeting ID: 948 8723 3194](#)

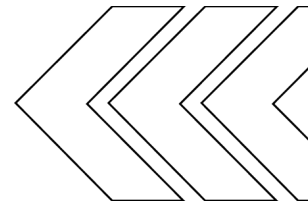
Presenter will provide an overview of bibliotherapy, the theories that inform it and when and why it is used as a therapeutic tool. Then, an overview of its use to foster advocacy will be provided along with an opportunity for attendees to practice its use.

Presenter(s):

Dr. Karen Rice, LSW, ACSW

Professor/Department Chair, School of Social Work, Millersville University





THANK YOU!



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