SECOND ANNUAL
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

This event is free and open to the public. Preregister online at sfasu.edu/oma by Feb. 28 to receive lunch.

For more information, contact the OMA at (936) 468-1073 or oma@sfasu.edu.

OPENING SPEAKER
SPONSORED BY
SFA LUMBERJACKS CARE
JESSICA SOUKUP

LUNCH SPEAKER
MIARA SHAW

9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
MARCH 2

BAKER PATILLO STUDENT CENTER
TWILIGHT BALLROOM
CHECK-IN // 8:30 A.M.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS
The Office of Multicultural Affairs welcomes you to its Second Annual Women’s Empowerment Summit

During the Women’s Empowerment Summit we invite you to develop relationships with other women who strive to make an impact, learn professional development skills, discuss current issues for women today, learn how to improve personal wellness, and much more. This is a full-day experience in which you will attend multiple workshops led by SFA faculty and staff members. Keynote speakers include Jessica Soukup and Miara Shaw.

Mission of the Office of Multicultural Affairs

The mission of the SFA Office of Multicultural Affairs (O.M.A.) is to create a campus environment where all students, staff, and faculty feel welcome and included. We create networks of support for students, staff, and faculty that provide opportunities for meaningful cross cultural interactions and learning experiences that promote respect for diversity. In addition, we work with student organizations to host cultural celebrations and activities that are educational and that work to enhance our students' abilities to succeed in a global community.

Summit Organizers

- Veronica Beavers — Director, O.M.A.
- Dr. Griselda Flores — Assistant Director, O.M.A.
- Alicia De La Rosa-Millard — Secretary, O.M.A.
- Jazzlyn Layton — O.M.A. Graduate Assistant, College of Business
- Kristine Cross — O.M.A. Student Ambassador
- Allyn Shaffer — O.M.A. Student Ambassador
- David Ajiga — O.M.A. Student Assistant
- Vanessa Huynh — O.M.A. Student Assistant

#SFAWESummit2018
Jessica Soukup
(Sponsored by Lumberjacks Care)

Jessica Soukup is an activist, writer and passionate advocate for intersectional feminism and equal rights for transgender and gender diverse people. For 9 years at Texas State University, she has worked as a system’s analyst for the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Campus Recreation. She is currently President of Alliance, the LGBTQIA faculty and staff organization and she is co-advisor for Transcend, the student organization for Transgender and Non-binary students. She co-facilitates workshops for Professional Development including “Supporting Transgender people in higher education” and “LGBTQIA Allies Training.” She frequently speaks individually or as part of a panel for classes on campus. In her private life, she is on the board of Campus Pride, a national organization devoted to empowering LGBTQ youth and the board of Pantsuit Republic, a statewide organization of intersectional feminists. She also serves on the Admin team for Pantsuit Austin, a group of 20,000 feminists in the Austin Area where in addition to her regular admin duties, she works to educate and advocate on behalf of LGBTQIA People.
Motherscholarhood --- an Interactive Discussion of the Identity and Benefits of Mothers who also Scholar

Room: BPSC Regents Suite B
Presenter: Lauren Burrow, SFA Assistant Professor, Elementary Education; Heather Olson Beal SFA Associate Professor, Secondary Education; Chrissy Cross, SFA Assistant Professor, Secondary Education

Abstract: If you’re a mother and if you’re a scholar then maybe you are a motherscholar. In this interactive session, presenters will share results from a recent collaborative research study they undertook in order to understand, celebrate, and capitalize on the concept of motherscholarhood here at SFA. Attendees will be empowered to consider the potential benefits of owning their motherscholar identities through an arts-based, creative writing prompt and group discussion. Time will be reserved for questions and ideas related to helping scholars who are also mothers to recognize, embrace, and benefit from their motherscholar identity.

Categories: Gender Identity
Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff and Community

Empowerment at Any Size

Room: BPSC Tiered Classroom
Presenter: Alicia De La Rosa-Millard, Secretary of the Office of Multicultural Affairs

Abstract: Through personal narrative and the use of a PowerPoint, the presenter will discuss her journey to understand the Beauty Myth, its effects on women’s perception of beauty, and how she changed her own perception of what is considered beautiful. The presenter will guide participants through the process of examining their own beauty standards and how these standards have affected them and others. Participants will then develop and implement new habits and strategies to empower themselves and each other.

Categories: Social Issues
Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff and Community
A Woman’s Worth

Room: BPSC Regents Suite A

Presenter: Kourtney Carmouche, Social Committee Chair of Women of Virtue Organization; Alayna Walker, President of Women of Virtue Organization

Abstract: Some believe that self-worth is a lost cause amongst women currently. We want to show ladies that through God we can find our voice, our power and our self-worth. From controversial issues such as sexual assault, and the preconceived notions of feminism, it is inevitable in today’s society that women could be confused of their worth, furthermore, believe their worth. Through this lecture we will discuss society, women in general, and God’s viewpoint to compare, contrast, and draw a positive conclusion.

Categories: Gender Identity, Ethnicity/Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Social Issues, Social Justice

Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff and Community

Words of Empowerment from Women of Empowerment

“To me, power is making things happen without asking permission.” — Beyoncé

“If you’ve always made sure that your work comes from your values then you don’t have that emptiness, because your choices are dedicated by a deep sense of who you are.” — Constance Wu

“There is no greater pillar of stability than a strong, free, educated woman.” — Angelina Jolie

“Don’t try to squeeze into a glass slipper. Instead, shatter the glass ceiling.” — Priyanka Chopra

“You are enough today, and the second you accept yourself is the second everybody else around you does as well.” — Gina Rodriguez

“We are not what other people say we are. We are who we know ourselves to be, and we are what we love. That’s OK.” — Laverne Cox

“I raise up my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard...we cannot succeed when half of us are held back.” — Malala Yousafzai

It was no easy task to climb the ranks of corporate America as one of the nation’s few minority female natural gas traders, while balancing the duties of being a wife, mother and entrepreneur; yet for Miara Shaw, known as Maven Miara, she knew it could be done. “Capable, Prepared and Ready” became her mantra as she worked toward a formula that led to success. At the crux of Miara’s balancing approach remains her very simple philosophy – “Don’t just be busy, be intentional!”

Miara’s corporate career spans more than 25 years, with 15 of them being spent as a natural gas trader at some of the nation’s largest oil companies. Miara took her extensive corporate experience and transitioned to a sought after professional speaker, coach and consultant. She has made it her business to not only help women discover their truth, but to also breathe life into it with a balanced rhythm.

A “maven” is a trust professional who seeks to pass her knowledge on to others, and Maven Miara does this through her witty, yet direct style of speaking and coaching. She provides heartfelt motivation and solutions to barriers hindering clients from achieving their best professional and personal performance. Miara also works with groups to facilitate leadership development, positive thinking and motivational messages via workshops and conferences.

Her Accomplishments Include:
• Launched business incubator to help women create profitable, scalable and sustainable businesses
• Author of two books, The Maven’s Journal for Motivating Yourself, Making It Happen and Moving Forward and, #MAVEN: Living Savvy, Sassy, and Successful — The Maven Way
• Board Member for When and Where I Enter nonprofit group
• Women’s Ministry Leader at St. John’s United Methodist Church
• Featured in Who’s Whom In Black Houston
• Programming Committee Co-Chair for National Black MBA Association
The Power of Properly Saying My Name

Room: BPSC Regents Suite B  
Presenter: Dr. Griselda Flores, Assistant Director of SFA Office of Multicultural Affairs; Dr. Yuleinys Castillo, SFA Assistant Professor

Abstract: This session will shed light on how women of color are constantly navigating multiple worlds and constantly compromising their culture and identity when interacting with the dominate race. In particular, the constant mispronunciation of ethnic women’s full names are too often shorten or dismissed as being too complicated to even attempted to properly pronounce. As a result, many women of color have had to modify or adopt westernized names in order to fit into a culture that regularly rejects the very essences of their identity and existence. Through thought provoking conversations, we will provide tips on how women of color can reclaim their identity while teaching others about the importance of respecting the culture and identity of other women.

Categories: Ethnicity/Race, Social Issues  
Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff and Community

Better Together: The Importance of United Women

Room: BPSC Tiered Classroom  
Presenter: Shamia Gipson, SFA Pinky Promise Organization President; Dekendria Samuel, SFA Pinky Promise Organization Vice President; Brittany Dunbar, SFA Pinky Promise Organization Secretary

Abstract: With all the obstacles that women face in today's society, the last thing they need is to have division among themselves. On the contrary, they should unite to combat and overcome these obstacles. In attending this session, participants should learn to identify the aspects of unity among women: being empathetic accountable, supportive, and understanding, examine each aspect through examples from the Bible, and how to apply each aspect to everyday life.

Categories: Leadership, Religion  
Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff and Community

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2 | 12:30 TO 1:20 P.M.
The Experiences of an Afro-Latina

Room: BPSC Tiered Classroom
Presenter: D’Andrea Jones, SFA Hall Director

Abstract: What does it mean to be an Afro-Latino(a)? We will begin by discovering the many characteristics of Latin America that unravel their African roots. As result, reminders of Africa can be found in their culture, music, food, and in their appearances. People who identify as Afro-Latino(a) have very unique experiences, in which we will discover their advantages and challenges in today’s society.

Categories: Multicultural Education, Ethnicity/Race
Audience: Students

Changing Lives with CASA

Room: BPSC Regents Suite A
Presenter: Tonya Harry, Executive Director of CASA of Deep East Texas

Abstract: More than 700,000 children are in foster care. Throughout their journey they see many faces, change placements, schools, counselors, and sometimes caseworkers. A CASA is court appointed to the case to be the eyes and ears for the court. They develop a relationship with the children and advocate on their best interest, working with a team made up of Child Protective Services, Legal Services, Caregivers, Therapists, and Teachers. A CASA should be a constant for the child during this journey. This session will provide information of the benefits of participating in CASA.

Categories: Social Issues
Audience: Community
It's Not Just What You Say, but ...

**Room:** BPSC Regents Suite B  
**Presenter:** Linda Levitt SFA Associate Professor; Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication

**Abstract:** This session focuses on the power of language--what we say, what others say, and how language is used in conversation and in media--to shape our sense of self. We will examine the taken-for-granted nature of language and consider its impact on gender, race and ethnicity, and social justice. We will consider how language gets detached and can be reclaimed. We will also look at the spiral of silence and how it affects identity and community.

**Categories:** Gender Identity, Social Justice  
**Audience:** Students, Faculty, Staff and Community

Black Girls Break The Glass Ceiling at a PWI

**Room:** Regents Suite A  
**Presenter:** Michaela Booker, Vice President of SFA Unblemished Organization; Destini Douglas, Publicity Coordinator of SFA Unblemished Organization; Mia Jonae, Event Coordinator of SFA Unblemished Organization

**Abstract:** The point of this session is to engage and educate the audience on the struggles that women of color face at Predominantly White Institutions. Unblemished is an organization that works to encourage women of color on this campus and engages in activities that will propel and allow them to go further they dreamt possible. Unblemished was founded as an outlet for women of color as well as a way to encourage leadership and growth.

**Categories:** Leadership, Social Issues  
**Audience:** Students, Faculty, Staff and Community

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**SUMMIT SURVEYS | 2:30 TO 3:15 P.M.**

Please submit your surveys to the BPSC Twilight Ballroom
Upcoming Featured Events

MARCH
March 27 (Tues.): VAGINA MONOLOGUES
**Donations of $2.00 at the door
Location & Time: BPSC Twilight Ballroom, 6pm

APRIL
April 2 (Mon.): DIVERSITY WEEK KICKOFF
Location & Time: BPSC Plaza, 11am-2pm
April 3 (Tues.): OMA PEACE MEAL
Location & Time: The Yellow House, 6pm
April 4 (Wed.): Pieces of SFA
Location & Time: BPSC Plaza; Rain site: BPSC Spirit Lounge, 11am - 2pm
April 4 (Wed.): Diversity Poetry Slam
Location & Time: BPSC Movie Theater, 6pm
April 5 (Thurs.): OMA Cultural Scavenger Hunt
Location & Time: BPSC Plaza, 4pm

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