Lessons Learned From Women University Presidents (Moderator: Three Presidents)

Susan R. Madsen
ILA WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP AFFINITY GROUP PANEL

Leadership Lessons from Women University Presidents
November 1, 2014 (Saturday)
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

There is no question that more women are needed as leaders in all sectors worldwide. Yet, women are often faced with unique challenges and opportunities that drive the need for continued conversations. This engaging session will move forward a dialogue started at the June 2013 conference at Asilomar; it will bring together three distinguished panelists—present female university presidents—who will discuss intriguing issues around their experiences in leading and the continued work needed to build, bridge, and blaze pathways for women and leadership.

Session Chair: Karen A. Longman, Professor and Program Director of Higher Education at Azusa Pacific University, Conference Chair, ILA Women and Leadership Affinity Group, Editor of “Thriving in Leadership” and Co-Editor of “Women and Leadership in Higher Education.”

Session Moderator: Susan R. Madsen, Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership and Ethics at Utah Valley University, Founder of the ILA Women and Leadership Affinity Group, Author of “On Becoming a Woman Leader” and “Developing Leadership”

Session Panelists:
1. Dr. Mary E. Lyons: Current President of the University of San Diego
2. Dr. Constance M. Carroll: Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District
3. Dr. Carolyn J. Stefanco: Current President of The College of Saint Rose

Detailed Bios:

Mary E. Lyons, Ph.D. became the president of the University of San Diego in July 2003. During her extensive career in education, Dr. Lyons has enjoyed rich and varied experiences as a teacher, professor, and administrator. Before her present appointment, Dr. Lyons served as the president of the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. Previously, she served as the president of the California Maritime Academy, a campus of the California State University in Vallejo, California. With this appointment, she was commissioned as a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Maritime Service. She had earlier served as the Academic Dean and Professor of Rhetoric and Homiletics at the Franciscan School of Theology, Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, California. A fifth generation Californian, Dr. Lyons spent her childhood traveling with her military family, living throughout the United States and in Eritrea, Africa. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Sonoma State University, her Master of Arts degree in English from San Jose State University and her Ph.D. in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley. During her twenty-five year career as a U.S. Naval Reserve Officer, she held a variety of assignments, including an active duty position teaching at the Naval Training Center in San Diego and two appointments as Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve units. She retired in 1996 as a Captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Dr. Lyons has been recognized for leadership
and service by numerous associations, including the Educator Distinguished Service Award from the National Defense Transportation Association, the University of San Francisco Medallion for scholarly achievement and community service, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Sonoma State University, and the recipient of a Doctorate of Humane Letters from The College of New Rochelle. Her publications and presentations touch on a variety of topics, drawing upon her expertise as a Rhetorician, an educator, and a community leader. Among her current Board appointments are: American Council on Education, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, Council of Presidents for the Association of Governing Boards, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, St. Joseph Health System, the San Diego Opera, University Club, Board of Governors, The Washington Center Presidents’ Council, West Coast Conference Presidents’ Council, and Governor’s Council on California’s Military Future.

Dr. Constance M. Carroll has served as chancellor of the San Diego Community College District since 2004. The total enrollment at the SDCCD’s City, Mesa, and Miramar Colleges, and Continuing Education division is 130,000 students. An additional 42,000 service personnel are enrolled in educational programs provided by the district at military bases in 16 states. Prior to becoming chancellor, Dr. Carroll served as president of three community colleges in California: San Diego Mesa College, Saddleback College, and Indian Valley Colleges. She also served as Director of Freshman Academic Advising at the University of Pittsburgh and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern Maine. Constance Carroll earned a B.A. (Humanities) from Duquesne University; an M.A. and Ph.D. (Classics) from the University of Pittsburgh; and a Certificate in Hellenic Studies from Knubly University in Greece. She also attended the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management. In 2011, she was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate to serve a six-year term on the National Council on the Humanities. Dr. Carroll’s current board service also includes the University of San Diego, the San Diego Foundation, and the San Diego Museum of Man, as well as the League for Innovation, and the Community College Humanities Association. She has also served on the boards of the American Council on Education, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the California Council for the Humanities (as Chair), the WASC Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (as Chair), San Diego Youth Services, and the San Diego Opera. She has numerous publications and presentations to her credit. Among many honors, Dr. Carroll received the national Association of Community College Trustees’ “Marie Y. Martin CEO Award,” the Harry Buttmer Award, which is the top honor for a California Community College CEO, a “Remarkable Leader in Education Award” from the University of San Diego, and the “Individual Leadership Award” from the Union of Pan Asian Communities, San Diego. In 2013, Dr. Carroll received the “Leadership in Action Award” from Mental Health America of San Diego County, and was inducted into the San Diego Women’s Hall of Fame as recipient of the Trailblazer Award. The U-T San Diego selected her as one of the 16 “People to Watch in 2014.”

On July 1, 2014, Dr. Carolyn J. Stefanco became the 11th president of The College of Saint Rose, an independent, private college founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1920. A dynamic, progressive college of 3,700 students in the heart of New York’s capital city, Saint
Rose focuses on student engagement in small classes combined with internship, undergraduate research, and other real life experiences. With four schools offering liberal arts and pre-professional programs, the College has 71 undergraduate majors, 53 master’s degrees, and 25 graduate certificates, all rooted in the mission of service to the urban community. As a former department chair, dean, and vice president for academic affairs, President Stefanco has a strong record of advocacy for faculty and for relentlessly pursuing the improvement of the student-learning experience. She previously served as chief academic officer and the first of the college’s five vice presidents at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga. with responsibilities including staff and faculty recruitment and review, budget planning and management, assessment, student success, international education, sponsored programs, and information technology. While there she led initiatives that achieved master planning goals, increased academic quality and student retention, raised funds from foundations and individuals, and fostered the college’s global efforts. Prior to her service at Agnes Scott, Dr. Stefanco held leadership and teaching positions at California State University, Stanislaus (CSU); California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), and Wheaton College in Massachusetts. At CSU Stanislaus, Stefanco was the founding dean of the new College of Humanities and Social Sciences, overseeing 77 undergraduate and graduate programs. Her tenure at Cal Poly included chair of the institution’s Department of History, and director of the Women’s Studies Program. At Wheaton, she was an assistant professor of history and served as co-coordinator of the Women’s Studies Program.

Stefanco was a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Zagreb in Croatia, served as resident director of a study abroad program at The University of London, and has created programs for student exchange and faculty research in Honduras, Brazil, Portugal, and Croatia. She received the 1989 Faculty Appreciation Award for Teaching at Wheaton College and the Richard K. Simon Outstanding Service Award from the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly in 2007. Dr. Stefanco earned her doctorate in history from Duke University, a master’s degree in history from Binghamton University, and a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She completed the Harvard Management Development Program, the American Council on Education’s Institute for New Chief Academic Officers, the Council for Independent Colleges’ program on Presidential Vocation and Institutional Mission, Leadership Atlanta, and the Harvard Seminar for New Presidents. Her research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies, and she has published in the areas of Southern and Western women’s history, and higher education leadership. She is a member of the advisory committee for The Council of Independent Colleges’ Campaign for the Liberal Arts and Liberal Arts Colleges and was a past board member on the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, and the Association of Chief Academic Officers. Most recently, she was named to the board of Youth Villages, the Association of Colleges of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and to the Stakeholder Council of Albany Promise.