



WOMEN'S NETWORK INDIANA

FALL 2024

A community, inclusive of all women, that inspires, develops, and supports women leaders to transform higher education.

EVENTS

Annual Leadership Conference

Rooted and Rising: Leading From the Ground Up

Friday, February 28, 2025

**NCAA Hall of Champions and Conference Center
Indianapolis, IN**

Registration info will be forthcoming.

Fall Virtual Townhall Conversations

ACE Women's Network is hosting a virtual townhall conversation soon.

The session will be held on Monday, November 11th featuring Sara Kinder, MSW, LCSW, Work + Life Coordinator, Healthy IU.

Kinder's presentation is titled Defining Boundaries and Sorting Priorities.

[Register here.](#)



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The American Council on Education Women's Network of Indiana is pleased to announce the call for nominations of two awards:
Distinguished Woman Leader and Rising Woman Leader.

Criteria for these prestigious awards can be found at the below and nominations are open until November 15, 2024.

Please consider submitting a nomination for a deserving woman you know.
Winners will be announced at the 2025 annual conference

The Distinguished Woman Leader Award is intended to honor someone who:

Advocates for women and has either pioneered or been a catalyst for change.
Champions the advancement of women in leadership roles and is a voice for all women in Higher Education.

Is celebrated as providing outstanding leadership to women in their institutions, field of expertise, and/or in society at large.

Is well-known for inspirational, inclusive, innovative work on behalf of women that is outside the scope of the nominee's formal regular job description.

The Rising Woman Leader Award is intended to honor someone who:

Has shown upward trajectory through advancement in leadership roles.
Demonstrates commitment to advocating for other women's professional development, advancement or inclusion within their own sphere of influence.

Is seen as a leader with great promise.
Is an active contributor within the ACE-WNI organization.

Nominees for both awards should be seasoned leaders in advanced stages of their careers and must be from an ACE WNI Member Institution.

More information can be found by clicking [here](#).

MEET A MEMBER

Institutional Representatives (IRs) serve as advocates for the interests of women's leadership and development in higher education at their institutions.
Meet one of our newest IRs!



Michelle Jones Ball State University

Q. What is your role at your institution?

Coordinator of Facilities and Aquatics & Part-Time Title IX Investigator.

Q. What brought you to higher education?

Having grown up in an academic household, higher education became a natural direction for me. The vibrant environment of a campus offers so much to explore, and I was eager to be part of that energy and growth.

Q. What are some exciting things you are working on right now?

I'm in the process of completing my dissertation, which explores the experiences of women who have faced discrimination and harassment while working in campus recreation within higher education. I'm excited about the potential impact this research could have on shaping more inclusive and supportive environments in campus recreation, and contributing valuable insights to the field.

Q. What is the most fulfilling part of your work?

The most fulfilling aspect of my work is supporting student development. Watching students grow, build confidence, and develop key life skills through their experiences in campus recreation is incredibly rewarding. Being part of their personal and professional growth makes this work truly meaningful.

Q. What's the best leadership lesson you have learned?

From the incredible mentors I've had throughout my career, I've learned that the most valuable leadership lesson is the importance of servant leadership. Embracing this approach has taught me to prioritize the needs of others, actively listen, empower my team, and trust in their abilities. It has deeply influenced my leadership style by emphasizing empathy, collaboration, and the belief that serving others ultimately leads to greater collective success.

Q. What do you do for enjoyment?

For fun, I'm all about traveling and hiking—I love discovering new places and spending time outdoors. I also enjoy running, diving into a good book, and hanging out with friends and family. These activities keep me feeling energized and balanced. I'll also never turn down a root beer float or a Chipotle rice bowl, though I haven't yet combined the two.

THE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IS TO:

- Keep women and administrators in their institution informed of activities of the Network and to encourage their involvement
- Engage in awareness, and the development of local campus activities
- Act as advocates for women on their campuses
- Encourage the advancement of women in higher education locally and throughout the state.

[A complete list of ACE WIN IRs can be found here.](#)

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**ACE Women's
Indiana Network**

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Email: inacenetwork@gmail.com