

21st Annual Women's Leadership Institute



**Wednesday, April 24, 2024
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Social Media Tag: #WLI24
The Sisterhood of Brave Conversations**

Schedule of Events

8:30-9:00	Check- In and Networking Location: Russell House Lob Ballroom
	Donation Drop Off Location: Russell House 2 nd floor lobby
9:00-9:30	Welcome Location: Russell House Ballroom
9:30-10:30	Morning General Session Keynote: Dr. Hope Rivers, President-Piedmont Technical College Location: Russell House Ballroom
10:45-11:45	Concurrent Sessions, Round 1 Location: Various
12:00-12:30	Lunch Location: Russell House Ballroom
12:30-1:30	Afternoon General Session Podcast Recording/Interview: Bourbon in the Back Room Podcast An Interview with State Senator Sandy Senn Location: Russell House Ballroom
1:45-2:45	Concurrent Sessions, Round 2 Location: Various
3:00-4:00	Concurrent Sessions, Round 3 Location: Various
4:10-4:30	Wrap-Up, Door Prizes and Networking Location: Russell House Ballroom

Special thanks to all of our outstanding speakers who have donated their time and expertise to help women across the state fulfill their needs, learn new skills, and obtain professional development. This program would not happen without their contributions.

Women's Leadership Institute

The Sisterhood of Brave Conversations

24-Apr-24

	Room: RH Ballroom	Room: RH 203	Room: RH 205	Room: RH 229-Theater	Room: RH 302	Room: RH 305	Room: RH 315	Room: RH 322
	General Body Meeting	Artificial Intelligence 101	Helpful Tech	Leadership and Professionalism	Leadership and Communication	Supporting Our Community	Equity and Access
9:00-9:30	Welcome Kimberly Dressler and Bridget Leslie							
9:30 -10:30	Keynote Speaker Dr. Hope Rivers							
10:45-11:45		AI for Faculty CANCELED	Multitasking with Microsoft 365 Presenter: Amy Jumper	Ombuds: Interesting Name and Serious Help! Presenters: Robynn Pesse and Robin DiPietro	The Introverted Leader: Navigating Power, Positionality, and Peace Presenter: Mylene Culbreath	Fostering Community through Mutual Aid Presenter: Rachel Brassell	Why Women Aren't Winning at Health (but can) Presenter: Dr. Marjorie Jenkins	37 Words That Changed It All: Title IX & How You Can Contribute Presenter: Molly Petrano
12:00-12:30	Lunch							
12:30-1:30	Podcast Recording with the Bourbon in the Backroom Podcast. Interviewing State Senator Sandy Senn							
1:45-2:45		Empowering Success with AI for Professionals Presenter: Tammy Ward	Work Smarter Not Harder: 10 Tech Tips to Reduce your clicks and keystrokes Presenter: Amanda Atkinson	Leadership and PD opportunities at USC Presenter: Cindy Wentz	Anatomy of a Name Presenter: Brittany Winn	Mental Health - What's All the Fuss? Presenter: Bill Lindsey	Beyond Expectation: Women in Caregiving Roles Presenter: Jennifer Brevton	Free Speech and Academic Freedom Presenter: Eric Robinson
3:00-4:00		Bravely Exploring Artificial Intelligence Presenters: Alisha Liggett and Maureen Derrick	What's App-enning: Helpful Apps for 2024 Presenter: Kimberly Dressler	Leadership and PD opportunities in the Midlands Presenters: Panel of Area Programs	Graduate Student Support at USC Presenters: Panel of USC Experts	Building Resilience: Navigating Grief and Coping with Loss Presenters: Dr. Heather Henley and Sonya Campbell	It Takes A Village Presenters: Megan Colascione, Leena Holt, Sherrigan Feaster-Johnson	Web/Digital and Campus Accessibility Presenters: Panel
4:10-4:30	Wrap Up, Door Prizes, Networking							

Special Notes

Check-In

Please check-in using the QR code on your table. Check-in is required. Please find a committee member if you are having trouble with the QR code!

Breakfast Menu

A selection of muffins, Danishes, and yogurt. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and apple cider are available.

Thank you to Aramark for sponsoring this meal.

Lunch Menu

A selection of boxed lunches. Salads have been provided for those who requested vegan and gluten-free options. If you did not note a food restriction, please leave salads for those who did.

Thank you to Aramark for sponsoring this meal.

Additional Food Notes

There are water fountains located throughout the Russell House, please feel free to bring a refillable water bottle.

There is a Starbucks in the bookstore on the first floor and a Panera on the first floor. There is also a food court with a variety of options if the provided meals do not work for you.

Supporting the Local Community

Each year WLI selects a local organization to support through donations from WLI participants. This year the planning team has selected TWO! One that helps the community here at USC and another that supports women in the Midlands area. Thanks for dropping your donations at the drop-off location in the lobby.

Gamecock School Supplies is a part of the Student Success Center at USC. It was started by a graduate student in 2021 to help support students with basic school supplies. The closet is open to both undergraduate and graduate students and has items ranging from pencils and bluebooks to iClickers and graphing calculators and everything in between. Learn more at www.sc.edu/success

Pathways to Healing, formerly known as Sexual Trauma Service of the Midlands, supports survivors of sexual assault in the Midlands area. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and the last Wednesday in April each year is Denim Day. Today is that day! Denim day encourages individuals to wear denim *to combat the idea* that rape and sexual violence are the fault or responsibility of the survivors. According to the SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 42.3% of SC women and 29.2% of SC men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes. Pathways to Healing offers support for survivors in the Midlands and more can be found on their website <https://pathwaystohealing.com/>

Join the Planning Team!

Do you work at USC? Do you want to help plan WLI in the future? Join the planning team! Check-in for WLI using the QR at your table, check the box on the form indicating that you want to be on the team! We will follow up over the summer!

Planning Team Members:

Kimberly Dressler and Bridget Leslie, co-chairs

Peggy Binette, Melissa Gilbert, Sheila Heatley, Carolina Hulett, Jung-hwan Kim, Melissa Lowe, Megan Plott, Kim Rose, Maria Sophocleous, Kathia Valverde, Donna Watts

Russell House Notes:

- Room 309 is the Prayer and Meditation Room
- Room 312 is the Lactation Room, please stop by the RH info desk on the 2nd floor to have it unlocked.
- Guest wi-fi is available if you aren't connected to the USC network normally.
- A building map is available at the end of the book!

Save the Date!

The 22nd annual WLI is tentatively scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

Registration will open at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Hope Rivers
Location: Russell House Ballroom



Whispers to Warriors: Harnessing the Power of Shared Stories. This transformative session is a call to action for women to embrace the strength found in vulnerability and open communication. Together, we'll explore the importance of having conversations about our personal journeys with wellness, women's health, resilience, and navigating loss. By sharing our stories and lifting each other up, we can:

- Shatter the stigma surrounding women's health issues.
 - Learn and grow from each other's experiences.
 - Build a community of strength and resilience.
 - Discover that we are not alone in our struggles.
- This session offers a safe, nurturing space for women to come together, forge deep connections, and empower one another on the path to holistic well-being.

Dr. Hope Rivers

Dr. Hope E. Rivers, President of Piedmont Technical College (PTC), has been a driving force in the community. Her tenure at the college has been marked by significant progress in advancing its mission to provide accessible, high-quality education and training opportunities. Under her leadership, PTC serves the largest area in South Carolina's technical college system. Additionally, she has shown over two decades of commitment to education in South Carolina.

Dr. Rivers' visionary leadership has propelled PTC to new heights. Under her guidance, the college has seen an impressive 11% increase in enrollment and secured funding commitments for ten renovation and capital improvement projects. These include a new health science facility in Greenwood and advanced manufacturing centers in Saluda and Edgefield counties. Her innovative initiatives, such as establishing The Hope Pantry food bank on campus, reviving the Honors Program, expanding work-based learning opportunities, redesigning math and English curricula, and implementing new technology systems to enhance student services and communications, have not only drawn interest from other technical colleges but also set a new standard for excellence in the field.

Dr. Rivers' influence extends far beyond the walls of PTC. She serves on several high-profile governing boards and committees at the local, state, and national levels, including the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood Together, Laurens County Development Corporation, South Carolina Department of Commerce Upper Savannah Regional Education Center Advisory, Ten at the Top, Upstate Alliance, SC State Chamber of Commerce, SC Arts Foundation Board, and the USC National Center for First-Year Experience Advisory.

Her outstanding leadership and contributions have been recognized with several awards, including the University of South Carolina Distinguished Black Alumni Award, the 2019 SC Woman on the Move Award

from the American Association of Community Colleges, and a feature on the NEWS19 WLTX, Columbia series, "A Seat at the Table." Rivers was also honored with a commemorative brick in the historic University of South Carolina Horseshoe, a testament to her trailblazing contributions in the field of education. Her exemplary work even earned her an invitation to the White House to speak with First Lady Jill Biden about the role of technical colleges in supporting economic development and workforce needs.

As a first-generation college student herself from a small rural town, Dr. Rivers serves as an inspiring and relatable role model. With an inclusive, innovative, and authoritative approach, she tirelessly works to enhance student experiences and success at PTC, driving accessible, impactful technical education that supports economic mobility and workforce development in South Carolina.

Thank you to the College of Information and Communications for sponsoring this session.

Concurrent Sessions: Round One

10:45am-11:45am

Multitasking with Microsoft 365, Room 205



Session: Elevate your productivity with Microsoft 365! Discover essential tips to enhance multitasking skills and maximize efficiency. Learn about licensing nuances, advanced Outlook features, Microsoft To Do capabilities, and powerful Teams tips for seamless task management.

- Outlook: Learn tips on creating rules, flagging, and effective meeting scheduling strategies for busy schedules.
- Microsoft To Do: Explore the features and functionalities of Microsoft To Do for streamlined task management.
- Microsoft Teams: Learn tips for maximizing productivity within Teams

Presenter: Amy Jumper is a seasoned IT professional specializing in Microsoft 365 administration for the University of South Carolina. With a solid background in problem-solving, technical resourcefulness, and a passion for aiding others, Amy brings extensive expertise to her role, drawing from significant experience in the public and higher education sectors.

Conference Track: Helpful Tech

Ombuds: Interesting Name and Serious Help! Room 229 (Theater)



Session: This session will discuss the unique role of the Ombuds as a resource to assist staff and faculty who are dealing with conflict in the workplace. The presenters will explain how the office is structured as an independent, neutral, confidential, and informal resource for conflict management within the organizational setting. Learn how the Ombuds listens to individuals' concerns, helps clarify issues, assists in developing

options towards resolution and is an advocate for fair and equitable processes within the organization. The presenters will discuss how the Ombuds contributes to enhancing inclusive communication, staff and faculty productivity, and healthy workplace environments.

Presenters: Robynn Pease serves as the inaugural USC Staff Ombuds. Before coming to USC in January 2024, Robynn served as the Associate Ombuds at Oregon State University (OSU) where she consulted with staff, faculty, graduate and undergraduate students. At OSU, she also served as the Assistant Director of the Family Resource Center, director of the Academic Affairs Office of Work-Life and the Greater Oregon Higher Education Recruitment Consortium, assisting staff, faculty, and students

with dependent care needs across the lifespan. Robynn holds a doctorate in Sociology with expertise in gerontology and social inequalities. She is a trained mediator, member of the International Ombuds Association and a certified long-care ombudsman in Oregon and Kentucky.

Robin DiPietro is the USC Faculty Ombuds, the Director of the International Institute for Foodservice Research and Education, and a Professor at the University of South Carolina in the Hospitality and Tourism Management program. She received her BS, MBA, and PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. DiPietro has research interests in multi-unit chain restaurant operations and human resources issues inherent to restaurant operations including motivation, leadership, employee retention, and staffing issues of organizations. She has over 150 publications on a range of topics in the foodservice and hospitality industries. She became the faculty ombuds in August 2024 and has helped faculty in a wide range of areas. She is available by phone, online meetings, or face-to-face meetings to help faculty navigate University resources and opportunities.

Conference Track: Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities

The Introverted Leader: Navigating Power, Positionality, and Peace, Room 302



Session: Studies have purported that 50% of the general population identify as introverts. That number decreases to 12% among Americans in supervisory positions, and a striking 4% at the executive level. The disproportionate number of senior leaders identifying as introverts is a phenomenon that has been studied at length. However, less attention has been given to understanding and cultivating the success of the 4%. In this session, participants will engage with literature, best practices, and the collective wisdom in the room to better understand what it means to be an introverted leader. Participants will gain new insight and practical strategies to successfully navigate the nuances of power, positionality, and peace for an introvert in leadership.

Presenter: Dr. Culbreath currently serves as the Vice Dean for Strategy & Engagement at the University of South Carolina, in the College of Arts and Sciences. In her role, she leads collegiate efforts to support faculty and staff development, address workplace climate, and actively engage community stakeholders. As a trained therapist and an experienced engagement strategist, her commitment to those in the workplace grows stronger each year. Her experience with assessment, change management, and strategic planning offers an acute ability to help individuals, teams, and leaders acknowledge their values and move in the direction of their intentions.

Mylene earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia's internationally acclaimed Workforce Education program, with an emphasis in Training & Development. Her praxis strives to reconcile workplace satisfaction at the intersection of positionality and organizational climate. She often leverages her training as a Certified CliftonStrengths coach to meet people where they are and chart a path to where they want to be. Dr. Culbreath has presented her work nationally and internationally, authored journal articles and book chapters, and developed countless career and workplace related programs for corporate, non-profit, higher education, and government agencies. She is an advocate, she is a change maker, she is a supporter of those seeking to make the world of work better.

Conference Track: Leadership and Communication

Fostering Community through Mutual Aid, Room 305



Session: The CommUnity Shop is a student-run organization which provides food, professional clothes, school supplies, and hygiene products for free to anyone with a Carolina Card. Since August of last year, we have served 2,116 people and given away over 41,000 items. We could not have done any of it alone and through donation drives and partnerships, we have collected over 47,000 items. Through this project, students learn how to foster community both on and off campus and the value of mutual aid. Students are encouraged to explore horizontal, and collaborative decision making, cultural sensitivity, stigma reduction, class consciousness, and pervasive issues in nonprofit.

Presenter: Rachel Brasell is the Basic Needs Coordinator at the University of South Carolina and oversees the Gamecock

CommUnity Shop. She is committed to mitigating food insecurity and contributing to the creation of a comprehensive system addressing the barriers students face as the costs of attending college and living rise. Building a community of on and off campus support while nurturing the connections among student volunteers and clients is important to understanding how interdependent we all are and instilling a sense of shared responsibility. Rachel is a Licensed Master Social Worker who has spent the last seventeen years as a public servant in the nonprofit sector and is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Conference Track: Supporting Our Community

Why Women Aren't Winning at Health (but can), Room 315



Session: Is achieving optimal health within your grasp? Let's discuss the science and history about why women are more likely to be negatively impacted by the healthcare delivery system. We will wrap up with tangible ways you can get the healthcare you deserve.

Presenter: Marjorie R. Jenkins, MD MEdHP FACP. Dr. Jenkins joined the USC School of Medicine Greenville as Dean

from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas, where she was a Professor of Medicine and the founder of the Laura Bush Institute for Women's Health, a biomedical research and health education institute spanning across five health professionals' schools and six campuses. She also served as the Director of Medical and Scientific Initiatives for the FDA Office of Women's Health, where she provided sex and gender scientific expertise within scientific programs. In addition to her medical degree from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, Dr. Jenkins holds a degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master of Education in the Health Professions (MEdHP).

Dr. Jenkins is a well-recognized expert in women's health and sex and gender based medicine and has served in a variety of national roles such as Program Chair of the 2015 and 2018 National Sex and Gender Health Professional Education Summits and co-Chair of the Reproduction Workgroup of NASA's Decadal Review, and as a member of the USM LE Women's Health National Board of Medical Examiners

Writing Group, HRSA expert panel advisories, and NIH expert panels. She recently co-authored the book *Why Women Aren't Winning at Health (but can)*.

Conference Track: No One Tells You This: Women's Issues to Navigate

37 Words That Changed It All: Title IX & How You Can Contribute, Room 322



Session: Who knew 37 words would have such an impact over the past 50 years? Title IX laid the foundation for more equity in education in 1972. Since then, we have fought sexual harassment, advocated for gender equity in admissions and employment, championed women's athletics, supported pregnant students, and much more. While progress has occurred, there is much to be done. This session will celebrate what has been accomplished, take a critical look at the current state of Title IX, and anticipate what we may see in the next ten years before the 60th anniversary. Participants will determine how they can best use their skills and position to be change agents to further ensure all people, regardless of sex and gender, have access to education.

Presenter: Molly Peirano (she/her) strives to live a life of purpose focused on civil rights, access, and education. As the Associate Vice President for Civil Rights & Title IX at USC, she also serves as the Title IX Coordinator, Americans with Disabilities Act/504 Coordinator, and Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator. She began her service in this area as a volunteer and went on to be named the 2018 Community Partner of the Year by the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio. Molly serves on volunteer boards for Delta Gamma Fraternity and the YWCA, which supports the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. She loves traveling with her 4-pound yorkie, Monty.

Conference Track: Equity and Access

Brave Conversations: An Interview with State Senator Sandy Senn on the Bourbon and the Backroom Podcast

Location: Russell House Ballroom



The Bourbon in the Backroom Podcast is South Carolina's hottest political podcast! Former SC Senators Joel Lourie and Vincent Sheheen give listeners a behind-the-scenes look at the important, fun and sometimes strange world of South Carolina government and politics. BITBR is in its third year, with over one hundred episodes in its library and quickly becoming the go-to for political commentary in the Palmetto State. Notable podcast guests include Governors Riley, Beasley, Hodges, and Sanford, Congressman Jim Clyburn, former Presidential Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Chuck Todd of Meet the Press, Speaker of the House Murrell Smith, Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto, and many other elected officials and intriguing political figures.

Joel Lourie comes from a background of public service, where he served 18 years in the South Carolina House of Representatives and State Senate. He has been recognized by numerous organizations for his work on healthcare, education, and improving the lives of all South Carolinians, particularly seniors and children. In addition, Joel has a 35-year history as a business owner and founded Lourie Life & Health in 2011. Since that time, Lourie Life & Health has grown to be a regional leader in the Health Insurance and Medicare industry.

Joel is a native of Columbia, a graduate of the public school system and the University of South Carolina. The Louries have been in South Carolina since the early 1900s, where the family-owned and operated a department store for 96 years. Also, Joel's father served in the SC Legislature for 28 years.

Sandy Senn



Sandy Senn is a wife and mother of three living in Charleston, South Carolina. She is a 1990 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law.

After graduation, Senn was a law clerk to United States District Judge Henry M. Herlong and to the South Carolina Circuit Judge David F. McInnis. Senn has practiced primarily in the area of civil rights defenses for first responders serving many governmental agencies throughout the state. She is also General Counsel for the South Carolina Sheriff's Association.

Senn's first political run was in November of 2016, where she was elected to serve as the Republican Senator for Senate District 41, which includes Charleston and Dorchester Counties. She currently serves on the South Carolina Senate Judiciary, Transportation, Corrections and Penology, Medical Affairs, and Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committees. Chair of the Charleston County Senate Legislative Delegation 2021- present, Conservation Voters of SC Green Tie Award 2021, Charleston Chamber's Champions of Business Award 2022, SC Sheriff's Association Legislative Champion 2023, Women in Leadership Leading Legacy Award 2023, and the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2023.

Thank you to the College of Arts and Sciences and the South Carolina Honors College for sponsoring this session.

Concurrent Sessions: Round Two

1:45pm-2:45pm

Empowering Success with AI for Professionals, Room 203



Session: In this session we explore how AI-powered assistants, can enhance productivity and assist users with a range of activities. Discover practical examples of how Microsoft Copilot assists professionals in quickly finding relevant information, generating ideas, summarizing information, and improving content, empowering them to excel in their daily work.

Presenter: **Tammy Wiard** is a Director, Account Technology Strategist at Microsoft. She has a rich history in IT, spanning over three decades, with significant contributions to various companies in IT leadership, support, and administration. Tammy is dedicated to

supporting educational institutions through their digital transformation, aiming to enhance operational efficiency and teaching & learning delivery. She has led numerous projects that improved customer experience and operational cost savings and has championed migrations to Microsoft Office 365, streamlined systems, and played a pivotal role in infrastructure management during major acquisitions, system implementations and cloud migrations.

Conference Track: Artificial Intelligence 101

Work Smarter Not Harder: 10 Tech Tips to Reduce your clicks and Keystrokes, Room 205



Session: This topic highlights 10 technology tips University of South Carolina faculty, staff and students can use to improve productivity. It is not intended to teach participants step-by-step how to use these technologies involved, but to make them aware of built in tools in software they are already using, that can support them in their role and free up their bandwidth by removing unnecessary clicks and keystrokes.

Participants will be able to use the knowledge of the existence of these tools to refresh and streamline their work or study processes.

Presenter: **Amanda Atkinson** has over 15 years of service to the University of South Carolina. Amanda has served in roles in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management for the University of South Carolina Aiken Campus. Since joining the College

of Arts and Sciences in 2019, Amanda has served in multiple roles as an Administrative Coordinator. She is currently the Curriculum and Courses Coordinator.

Amanda believes in supporting the University, our students, faculty, and staff, and the continued pursuit of education. Amanda regularly enrolls in courses to expand her knowledge base and is happy to share with others so they may, "Reduce clicks and keystrokes."

Conference Track: Helpful Tech

Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities at USC, Room 229 (Theater)



Session: This session, which includes interactive activities, provides information on opportunities and methods employees can develop at the University. Some are more standard while others are non-traditional, yet still highly effective. We look forward to you joining us to discuss the many and various ways you can learn and develop at USC!

Presenter: **Cindy Wentz** is a training and development professional who helps organizations in both the public and private sectors reach their business and strategic goals by providing engaging and innovative learning opportunities that allow both leaders and individual contributors to meet and exceed their potential. Her work history includes government agencies, family-owned businesses and large national and international

companies.

She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of South Carolina and a master's in organizational Change and Leadership from Columbia College.

When not working, Cindy practices her faith, spends time with family and friends, participates in fitness activities and enjoys reading, movies and series.

Conference Track: Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities

Anatomy of a Name, Room 302



Session: Anatomy of a Name is a self-exploration of the labels we carry knowingly and unknowingly. Our names address us, define us, and sometimes limit us by creating lines we halt ourselves from crossing. Our names and the stories they carry don't grow on us, but on the contrary, we grow into them. Our names are bestowed upon us, whether a burden or gift, and we, as the heir must receive it.

Presenter: **Britney Winn** received her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education and her Master of Fine Arts in Applied Drama and Theatre for the Young. She has taught Drama, Theatre, and College and Career Readiness courses in high school and on a collegiate level for almost a decade. She is currently teaching Intro to Theatre at Horry George Town

Community College. She has used drama and theatre as a medium to Reveal, Release and Restructure the community by giving people the space to start from within. Britney is all about serving her community and continues to do that with her theatre company Words WINn Theatre Experience, LLC as she engages the status quo with innovative and engaging ways to move education forward from within.

Conference Track: Leadership and Communication

Mental Health- What's All the Fuss?, Room 305



Session: Advocacy, support, and education for individuals and families impacted by mental health.

Presenter: **Bill Lindsey** brings a passion for reforming mental health care in South Carolina. He has forged relationships with the media, the legislature, advocacy groups, state agencies, health organizations, and most importantly, the families, care givers, and receivers of services of those with mental illness. His sense of humor is an asset unless you are the brunt of it. He is the current Board Chair of Columbia Area Mental Health, was NAMI National Executive Director of the Year in 2013, is the parent of a son with mental illness, past President of NAMI Mid Carolina, member of the State Mental Health Planning Council, charter member of the Returning Veterans Policy Academy, member of the Joint Council on Children and Adolescents, member of the SC Institute of Health Behavioral Health Committee, Suicide Prevention Coalition, senate appointee of the IMD Study Committee, SCORxE committee member, State Provider Education Trainer, Family-to-Family Teacher, NAMI Family Support Group Facilitator. However, it does not list the legislative campaigns, bills, and laws too numerous to mention, that he has championed. Bill is the Executive Director National Alliance on Mental Illness South Carolina (NAMI SC).

Conference Track: Supporting Our Community

Beyond Expectations: Women in Caregiving Roles, Room 315



Session: Women disproportionately find themselves in the role of being a family caregiver for a large range of both family and friends. This session will help learners identify what aspects make someone a family caregiver; examine gender disparities in caregiving; provide insight into preparing for the caregiver role; discuss ways employers can support caregiving employees; and finally, share national and statewide resources to support family caregivers. The purpose of this session is to empower participants to navigate the challenges of caregiving while raising awareness among employers about the importance of supporting family caregivers in the workplace.

Presenter: **Jennifer Brewton** is the Divisional Manager of the Caregiver and Alzheimer's Resource Division at the South Carolina Department on Aging. With over twelve years of experience in the aging field, Jennifer serves as the Family Caregiver Support Program Manager for the state. Alongside her team, she oversees the administration of critical initiatives including the Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center, our state's first Dementia Care Specialist role, and the state's Lifespan Respite Grant. Jennifer's career journey encompasses various roles within the aging field. For over 12 years she dedicated her expertise to Prisma Health's PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) program. Her professional repertoire extends to long-term care, in-patient hospital care, and leadership as the Area Agency on Aging Director for the Central Midlands region which serves the state's capital city and surrounding counties. Recognized for her proficiency in the field, Jennifer has been invited to speak at prestigious national-level conferences, including the Home and Community Based Service Conference and the American

Society on Aging Conference.

Jennifer holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of South Carolina, where she cultivated her passion for serving the aging population. Outside of her professional endeavors, she cherishes time with her family, including her two children, two dogs, two cats, and supportive husband. In her leisure moments, she embraces the outdoors through activities like camping, gardening, and spending time with friends.

Conference Track: No One Tells You This: Women's Issues to Navigate

Free Speech and Academic Freedom, Room 322



Session: Does "academic freedom" actually exist? Does it protect "free speech" for university faculty? This session will look at the law and dispel the rumors about this vexing topic.

Presenter: **Eric P. Robinson** is an attorney and scholar focused on legal issues involving the media, including the freedom of speech and the First Amendment. He teaches media and internet law as an Associate Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina and an Academic Affiliate of the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law. He is also "of counsel" to Fenno Law in Mt. Pleasant, South

Carolina. Eric is co-author of *Cyber Law and Ethics: Regulation of the Connected World* and a contributor to recent editions of the widely used textbook *Media Law and Ethics*. He was the sole author of *Reckless Disregard: St. Amant v. Thompson and the Transformation of Libel Law*, as well as lead contributor and editorial reviewer for *Internet Law: The Complete Guide*.

Conference Track: Equity and Access

Concurrent Sessions: Round Three

3:00pm-4:00pm

Bravely Exploring Artificial Intelligence, Room 203



Session: Artificial Intelligence can feel intimidating due to its vastness and the worry that many of our students know so much more about it than we do. It does not have to be scary.

This session will begin with the basics of defining and identifying different types of artificial intelligence. We will cover and ask for audience input on ways to use AI in your personal and professional life, and how to become a user. If you are a user, the coverage of how to detect artificial intelligence in the classroom and a discussion about why students cheat may appeal to you. Having a working knowledge of the topic in the context of higher education is our goal. No experience required.

Presenters: **Alisa Liggett** works proactively and reactively to address behaviors that may interrupt students' personal and academic well-being. She is the Executive Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and Chairperson of the Student Care and Outreach Team at USC within the Office of the Dean of Students. She has enjoyed her tenure with the USC community for over 20 years and has been part of the Care Team's expansion in scope and response since its inception. She has been active in creating campus networks that support students of concern and in providing training for faculty on managing the use of distractive technology in the classroom and the cheating economy. She is delighted to be involved in the Gamecock CommUnity Shop which provides free food, clothing, and supplies to the USC community as part of the Care Team.

Alisa is a U101 instructor, the staff advisor for USC's chapter of Best Buddies Int'l, on the board for the Methodist Student Network, and is a yoga teacher. Alisa is an alumna of the University of South Florida and Florida State University.

Maureen Derrick currently serves as the Director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity with the Dean of Students Office at the University of South Carolina. Maureen also teaches University 101 and University 401. She holds a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of South Carolina and an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Human Services from Elon University.

Conference Track: Artificial Intelligence 101

What's App-ening- Helpful Tech Apps, Room 205



Session: What tech is out there that can make your life easier and save you time? We'll talk about apps that are available on both Android and Apple phones and how they can help you in your personal life and work. And because the presenter loves a good planner, we will also have a quick side chat on the multi-million dollar planner industry (paper and digital).

Presenter: Kimberly Dressler is a seasoned professional with nearly 20 years of experience and 10+ years at USC. She has two degrees from USC and currently works with the Carolina Experience program. She oversees sophomore, junior, and transfer for success initiatives for the university and has given more than 50 conference presentations and written several book chapters. She is the state director of a professional association in her field and serves as the co-chair for the Women's Leadership Institute. She lives by her Outlook calendar and her EC Life planner and loves to talk about organization products. She is the person who is always happy when the new school supplies show up in the stores in July.

Conference Track: Helpful Tech

Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities in the Midlands, Room 229 (Theater)



Session: Want to grow your leadership skills, network outside of your campus, and help engage with the community? Come learn about opportunities in the Midlands and the State! This facilitated panel will include representatives from South Carolina Women in Higher Education (SCWHE), Leadership South Carolina, Columbia Opportunity Resource (COR), Women's Rights & Empowerment Network (WREN), Leadership Columbia. Representatives will give an overview of their organization, talk about how to engage, the benefits, and more!

Presenters:

Facilitator: Sheryl Mitchell

Sheryl Mitchell, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACNP-BC, FAANP, is a Professor and Chair of the Advanced Professional Nursing & Leadership Department at the University of South Carolina College of Nursing. She previously served as the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and the Family Nurse Practitioner program director. She has been a faculty member at the College of Nursing for nine years and a nurse practitioner for fifteen years. She serves on the University's Committee on Professional Track Faculty and previously chaired the Faculty Welfare Committee.

She is currently the Chair of the American Association of Nurse Practitioner's Nomination Council and a member of the South Carolina Board of Nursing's Advanced Practice Committee. She has served on the Coalition for Access to Health Care for eleven years. She previously served as the South Carolina Nurses Association's president and the Commission Chair on Public Policy and Legislation. She began her term on the Free Medical Clinic's Board of Directors in January 2024. She is a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Panelists:

Susan Pope, Representative of South Carolina Women in Higher Education (SCWHE). SCWHE, pronounced schway, is an organization for women who work in higher education in South Carolina. The mission of South Carolina Women in Higher Education (SCWHE) is to provide support that includes encouragement, empowerment, and professional development to all faculty, staff, and students who identify as women and work or take classes in higher education entities within South Carolina.

<https://scwhe.org/>

Helen Munnerlyn, Executive Director, Leadership South Carolina. Leadership South Carolina is dedicated to educating and enlightening highly motivated people who have demonstrated commitment and service to their community and are striving to reach a higher level of service to the benefit of the Palmetto State. <https://www.leadershpsc.com/>

Kelsey Bickley, Immediate Past Chair, Columbia Opportunity Resource. Columbia Opportunity Resource, more commonly known as COR, is a volunteer-driven organization that fosters local pride and aims to attract and retain talent by connecting professionals to insider experiences and engaging opportunities across the greater Columbia region. <https://ourcor.org/>

Kelli Parker, Director of Communications & Marketing, Women's Rights & Empowerment Network (WREN). WREN seeks to build a movement to advance the health, economic well-being, and rights of South Carolina's women, girls, and their families. <https://www.scwren.org/>

Maggie Dittmar, Leadership Columbia Advisory Board. Leadership Columbia is a skills-building program that aims to develop emerging community leaders while providing an educational experience with a strong emphasis on social and community awareness. Upon completion of the program, Leadership Columbia participants will walk away with the knowledge and skills to focus their talents in best service to the greater Midlands region. <https://www.columbiachamber.com/leadership-development>

Conference Track: Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities

Graduate Student Support, Room 302



Session: Graduate students at USC have many support options to help them through their degree programs. Join in for this session to hear from experts in the Student Success Center, Center for Teaching Excellence, and National Fellowships & Scholar Programs to learn about all the support offered!

Presenters:

Josh Dunn Josh Dunn is the Assistant Director for Graduate Student Support for the Student Success Center. Prior to stepping into this role in January 2024, Josh served as the Coordinator of Peer Writing and Communications in the Student Success Center. Josh received his Master's in English from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Michelle Hardee is the Program Manager for all Graduate student Teaching Assistant training and professional development in the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of South Carolina. She is responsible for developing and facilitating the CTE's graduate TA/IA orientations, training seminars, and the GRAD 701 Teaching Assistant Development course required of all new TA/IAs, as well as helping students progress through the Preparing Future Faculty Program. She regularly coordinates with the Graduate School and other university academic partners on graduate student professional development workshops and events. Michelle received her B.S. in Zoology at Texas A&M, an M.S. in Marine Biology at the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Laboratory, and her Ph.D. in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina in 2009.

Dr. Matt Klopfenstein is the Assistant Director of National Fellowships and in this role works with graduate students to identify and apply for funding from outside of the university and promotes graduate student professional development through the Graduate Students Resources Hub. Prior to coming to South Carolina in 2021 he earned a PhD in History from the University of Illinois, where he was involved in a number of graduate student leadership initiatives.

Conference Track: Graduate Student Sponsored Session

Building Resilience: Navigating Grief and Coping with Loss, Room 305



Session: Grief is a natural response to loss, yet navigating its complex emotions and challenges can be overwhelming. This session delves into strategies for building resilience in the face of loss, whether it's the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or other significant life changes. Through exploring various coping mechanisms, participants will learn practical techniques to honor their grief while also fostering resilience and healing. From self-care practices to seeking support, this session provides a compassionate space for individuals

to gain insight, share experiences, and develop personalized strategies for navigating their unique grief journey.

Presenters: **Sonya Campbell**, LISW- CP, is a highly experienced clinical social worker with a passion for serving veterans and military service members. With over 24 years of dedicated service in the field, Sonya has honed a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by those who have served our country. Throughout Sonya's career, she has demonstrated a commitment to providing compassionate and effective mental health support to veterans, helping them navigate issues such as PTSD, transition challenges, and family dynamics.

Currently, she serves as the Director of the Columbia Vet Center with the Department of Veterans Affairs and has a proven track record of working with combat veterans, survivors of military sexual trauma, and bereavement services with tailored therapeutic interventions to address trauma and enhance mental well-being.

Dr. Heather Henley is the Master of Crisis Therapy™ - shaking up the broken to swiftly bring their junk to the surface to enable them to deal with it now. She promotes mass healing quickly (versus individual healing slowly) and has a proven track record in getting amazing results in the most hopeless situations - even where others have failed.

Dr. Heather Henley is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), with credentials as a Certified Sexually Abusive Youth Clinician (CSAYC), a Registered Behavior Consultant (RBC), a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP), Trauma Focus-Cognitive Behavior Therapist (TF-CBT), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), National Certified Counselor (NCC), Multi-Systemic Therapist (MST) and a PhD in Psychology with a concentration in Christian Counseling.

Conference Track: Supporting Our Community

It Takes a Village, Room 315



Session: They say it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a village to raise a mother. Join this session to dive into the experiences of working moms/aunties on how they navigate institutional policies, resources, and team dynamics all while attempting to balance the growth and development of their littles. All are welcome to join this session as we hope to share insight, guidance, and provide resources for current and future families.

Presenters: **Megan Colascione** serves as the Assessment Director for the Department of Student Life within the Division of Student Affairs at the University of South Carolina. Her daily work focuses on assessment, strategic planning, spiritual and religious life, and professional development. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a gender studies minor from Florida Gulf Coast University and master's in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina. Throughout her professional experience, Megan found a calling within advocacy work specifically focused on matrescence, institutional parental support, radical candor, and mental health/psychological safety in the workplace. She loves spending time with her family, reading #BookTok recommendations, and listening to podcasts and music.

Sherrigan Feaster-Johnson serves as the Director of Residential Life and Health Services at Allen University. She has a wealth of housing and residential life experience serving in various capacities having worked at both large public institutions to small, private, institutions, in both, South Carolina and Virginia. Sherrigan holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina and a master's in college counseling and human development from Radford University. She loves love! Sherrigan loves her family, nieces, nephews, and spending all her time with her husband.

Leena Holt serves as the Director of Parent and Family Programs at the University of South Carolina. Her expertise spans housing and residence life, project management, and professional development. Prior to her current position, she excelled as the Assistant Director of Residence Life at South Carolina and as a Living Center Director at Grand Valley State University. Leena holds a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in psychology from Eastern Michigan University and a master's in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina. Beyond her professional commitments, Leena treasures quality time spent with her family, indulging in her passions for baking and crocheting, and enjoying leisurely walks with their dog.

Conference Track: No One Tells You This: Women's Issues to Navigate

What you need to know about digital and campus accessibility?, Room 322



Session: A panel of accessibility professionals will share information about web/digital and campus accessibility including strategy, challenges, initiatives, and resources so that everyone can help remove barriers for all.

Presenters:

Tammy Wallace is a Program Coordinator for the SC Assistive Technology Program, Center for Disability Resources, at the USC School of Medicine. She received her B.A. from the University of South Carolina. She has worked with individuals with disabilities for over 14 years. She currently provides assistive technology consultation and support to SC school districts and higher education institutions.

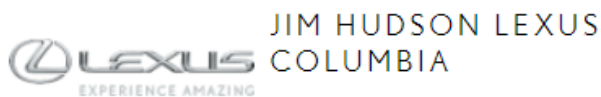
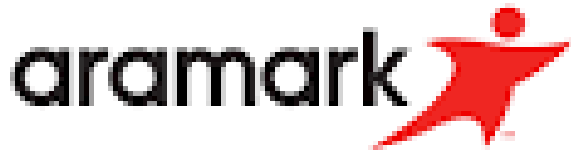
Valarie Byrd has worked in SC State Government over 20-years. She serves on several local/national K-12 education and technology focused advisory boards and committees. Valarie is currently employed by the SC State Department of Education (SCDE), as a Senior District Technology Consultant in the Office of Educational Technology and Accessibility (OETA). As well as serving as an adjunct instructor at Midlands Technical College. She is past chair of Access SC Information Technology (ASCIT). Her current liaison duties include working directly with schools/districts regarding technology planning, state and federal compliance, and implementation of statewide K-12 projects.

Mary Prouty is the Digital Accessibility Developer on USC's Digital Accessibility Team. She enjoys using her technical skills to help faculty and staff make accessible digital content. She provides remediation assistance for web accessibility at the university, develops software projects to streamline accessibility testing processes, and creates guides for sc.edu/accessibility on how to make digital content accessible.

Mary Reaves is the Director of Community Access for Able South Carolina. Mary ensures that buildings, programs, organizations, community spaces, and more are ready and willing to provide access to all members of their community, including those with disabilities. Mary has worked in the accessibility space for more than 10 years, but her focus was more narrowly focused on language accessibility. She is passionate about accessibility as it is the pathway to belonging.

Conference Track: Equity and Access

Thank You to Our Sponsors



GRAND MARKET PLACE

- Chick-fil-a
- Restaurant
- Restaurant
- Restaurant
- Restaurant

CENTRAL MARKET

- Panera Bread
- Horseshoe Deli
- Restaurant
- Restaurant

Grand Market Place

Russell House Patio

Central Market

West Wing 112

Student Life 115

BARNES & NOBLE University of South Carolina Bookstore

Literary Café

Up to
2nd Floor

- Elevator
- Emergency Exit
- Vending
- ATM
- Administrative Offices
- Retail / Services
- Campus Dining
- Reservable Space
- Restrooms
- Handicap Accessible Route
- You Are Here

WEST WING

- Office
- Office
- Office
- Office

STUDENT LIFE

- Office
- Office
- Office
- Office

FIRST FLOOR

GAMECOCK PARK












- Restaurant
- Restaurant
- Restaurant
- Restaurant
- Restaurant

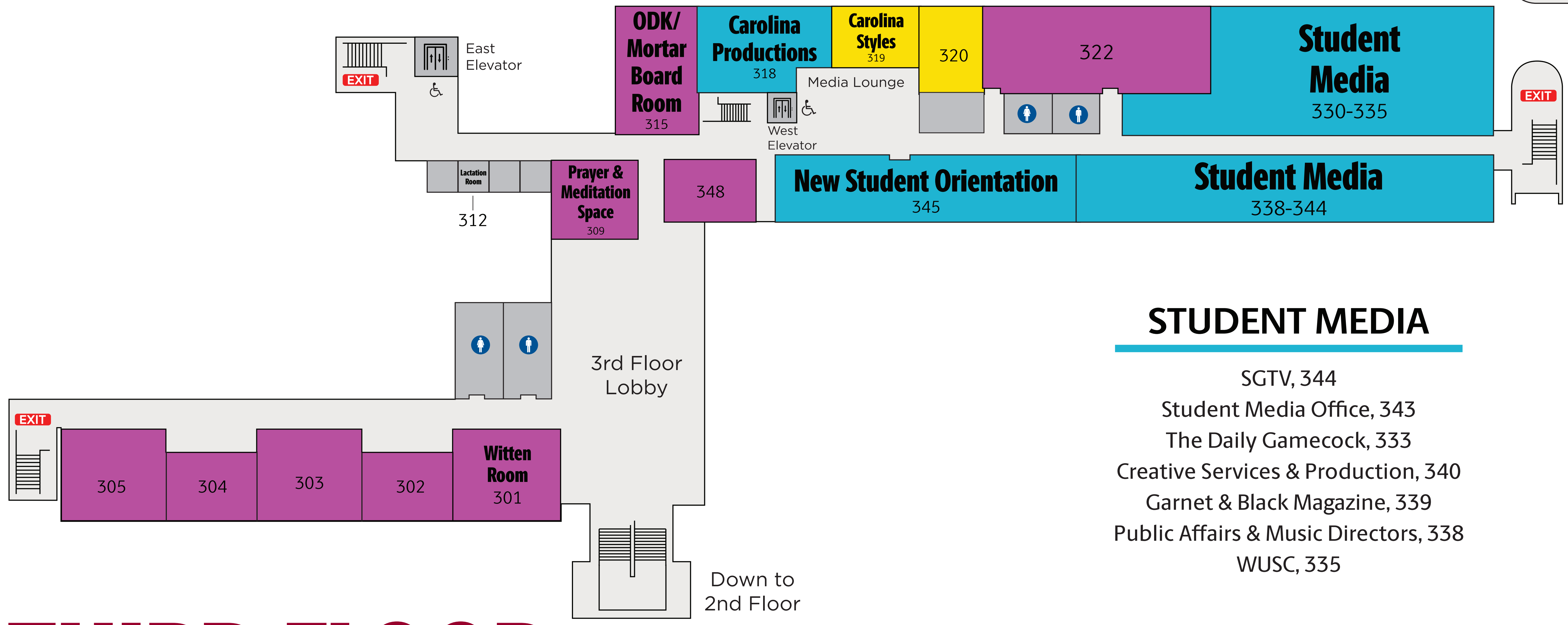


LEADERSHIP & SERVICE CENTER

- Office
- Office
- Office
- Office
- Office

SECOND FLOOR

-  Elevator
-  Emergency Exit
-  Vending
-  ATM
-  Administrative Offices
-  Retail / Services
-  Campus Dining
-  Reservable Space
-  Restrooms
-  Handicap Accessible Route
-  You Are Here









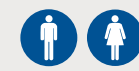




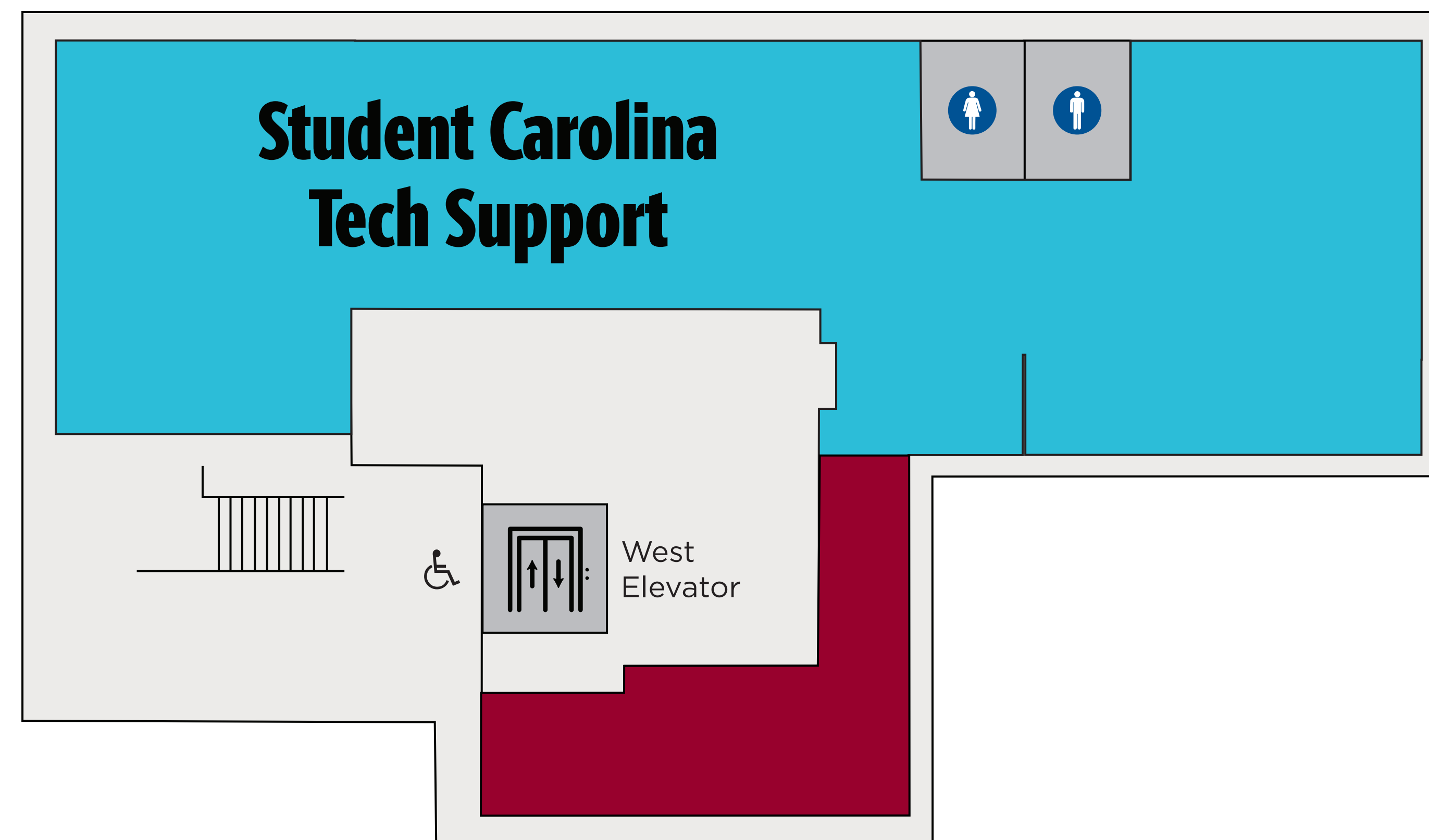
STUDENT MEDIA

- SGTV, 344
- Student Media Office, 343
- The Daily Gamecock, 333
- Creative Services & Production, 340
- Garnet & Black Magazine, 339
- Public Affairs & Music Directors, 338
- WUSC, 335

THIRD FLOOR














-  Elevator
-  Emergency Exit
-  Vending
-  ATM
-  Administrative Offices
-  Retail / Services
-  Campus Dining
-  Reservable Space
-  Restrooms
-  Handicap Accessible Route
-  You Are Here

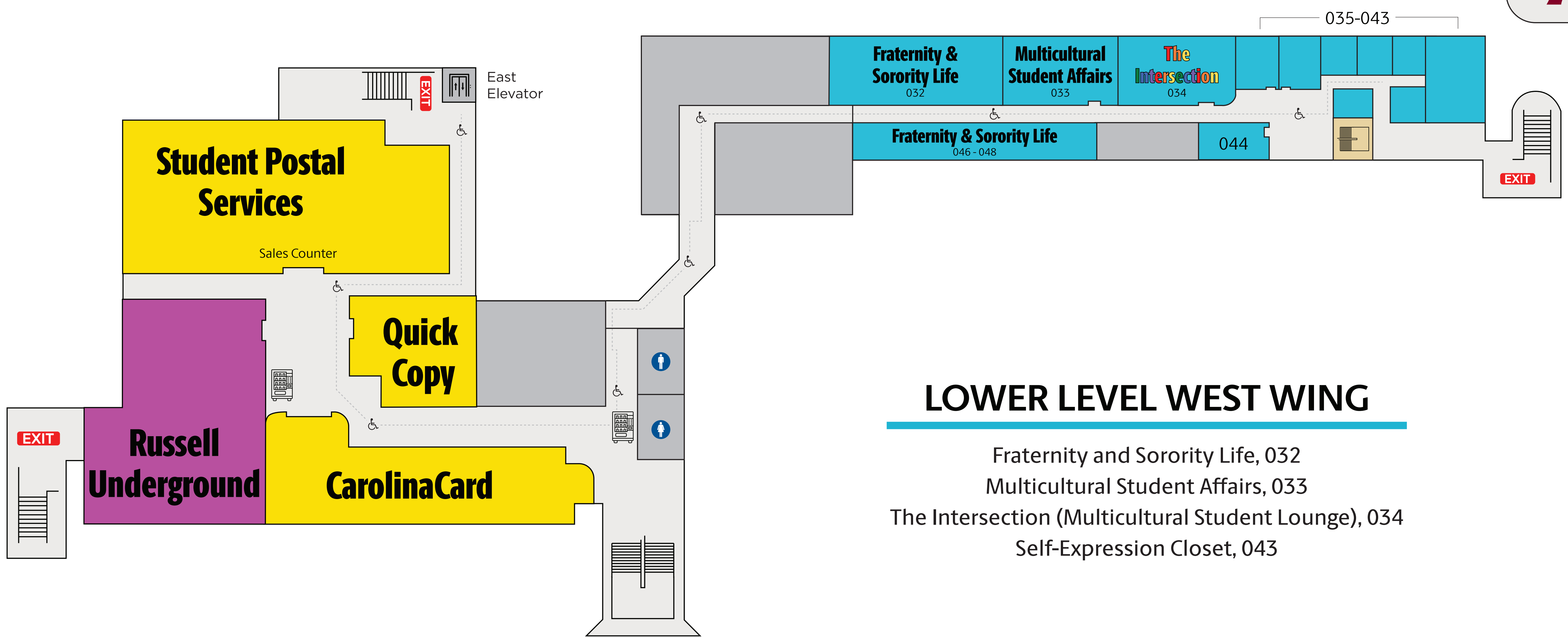


FOURTH FLOOR

Take West Elevator to Fourth Floor



-  Elevator
-  Emergency Exit
-  Vending
-  ATM
-  Administrative Offices
-  Retail / Services
-  Campus Dining
-  Reservable Space
-  Restrooms
-  Handicap Accessible Route
-  You Are Here



LOWER LEVEL WEST WING

- Fraternity and Sorority Life, 032
- Multicultural Student Affairs, 033
- The Intersection (Multicultural Student Lounge), 034
- Self-Expression Closet, 043

BASEMENT