

PRESS RELEASE

Office of Marketing and Communications



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leadHERship celebrates Women's History Month with a special focus on Women in Leadership

San Luis, AZ (March 18, 2024) – The leadHERship initiative at Arizona Western College continues its commitment to gender equality and empowerment with a special panel discussion in honor of Women's History Month. The workshop will focus on "Women in Leadership," featuring a distinguished panel of accomplished leaders who have shattered barriers and made significant contributions in their respective fields.

Selected as one of the 10 proposals funded by the 2024 AWC Innovation Fund, leadHERship has been at the forefront of fostering women empowerment and gender equality within the community. The initiative, spearheaded by **Dr. Sara Amani**, Professor of Multilingual Composition/Specialist; **Maria Guzman**, Advising and Student Services Coordinator; and **Susie Zambrano**, Associate Dean for South Yuma County Services, received \$20,000 to implement the program.

Following the resounding success of the previous two workshops, leadHERship remains dedicated to cultivating an inclusive campus culture. This forthcoming event aims to celebrate and amplify the voices of women who have made a mark in leadership roles.

Featured Panelists:

- **Charlene Fernandez**, USDA Rural Development State Director for Arizona
- **Maria Chavoya**, AWC District Governing Board Member
- **Diana Gomez**, Yuma County Public Health Services District Chief Health Officer
- **Reetika Dhawan**, AWC Entrepreneurial College Chief Executive Officer and Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare Programs

The panel discussion will provide a platform for each panelist to share their personal journeys, insights, and perspectives on women in leadership. The session will cover the challenges and triumphs in women's empowerment, offering a deep dive into the obstacles these leaders have faced and overcome. The panelists will also share valuable leadership advice and aspirations for women, providing guidance to the next generation of leaders. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions, gaining valuable insights and inspiration from these accomplished leaders.

Dr. Sara Amani reflects, "In the spirit of Women's History Month, leadHERship proudly spotlights the remarkable journeys and leadership prowess of four successful women in our community. This panel discussion serves as a dynamic platform to share inspiring narratives, tackle obstacles head-on, and offer insightful perspectives. Join us in this empowering discourse and be part of the collective journey towards a more empowered community. "

Event Details:

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Location: Room 104, San Luis Learning Center, 1340 N. 8th Avenue

While the primary focus is on addressing issues affecting women, leadHERship encourages everyone, regardless of gender, to join these monthly workshops. The initiative seeks to foster a campus culture that supports the growth and success of every individual.