

**HER** Blueprint:  
Designing the  
Future with Intention  
& Impact

**ADIL**  
April 09  
Women's Lead**HER**ship Institute



*A Day In Lead**HER**ship - 2026 Agenda*

**Mistress of Ceremony:** Dr. Lakeisha Cook, Executive Director of The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

8:00am – 9:00am	<b>Breakfast &amp; Registration</b>
9:00am – 9:15am	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Tia A. Minnis, WLI Founder and Board Chair, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affair, VSU Dr. Gabrielle D. Pina, WLI Executive Director and Director of Academic Communications, Office of The Provost
9:15am – 9:30am	<b>Opening Reflection/Creative Invocation</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Ayo M. Morton, Assistant Professor of Languages & Literature, VSU
9:30am – 10:25am	<b>Session 1: Future In Formation</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Alesia Johnson, Associate Pastor, St. Paul's Church   Dr. Carmen Foster, Public Historian <b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Ayo M. Morton, Assistant Professor of Languages & Literature, VSU
10:25am – 10:35am	<b>Break</b>
10:35am – 11:30am	<b>Session 2: The Inner Circle: Power, Choice, and Becoming HER (EmpowerHER Panel)</b>  <b>Panelists:</b> Ms. Callie Burdette   Ms. Kristine Piercy   Ms. Mykah Waddles   Ms. Millaska Gomez   Naysia Ford <b>Moderator:</b> Cassandra Price, Assistant Professor/Sports Communication Concentration Coordinator, VSU
11:30am – 11:45am	<b>Special Presentation   VSU Gospel Choir (Under the Direction Sir Perry Evans)</b>
11:45am – 12:35pm	<b>Session 3: Say Less, Show More: The Art of Unapologetic Presence</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Javaune Adams Gaston, President, Norfolk State University   <b>Jacqueline McWilliams</b> , Commissioner for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)   <b>Dr. Paulette R. Dillard</b> , President, Shaw University <b>Dr. Teresa Hardee</b> , President, Bennett College <b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Gwen Williams Dandridge, Assistant Vice President for Communications, VSU
12:35pm – 12:45pm	<b>Partner/Community Presentation</b>
12:45pm – 2:00pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Keynote Session</b>  <b>Keynote Topic:</b> Boss Lady Moves: Designing a Career with Intention – The WLI Blueprint <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Holly Byrd Miller, Founder and CEO of Makeup by Holly Beauty Partners
2:00pm-2:10pm	<b>Special Presentation   Trojan Alliance Performing Arts (TAPA)</b>
2:10pm – 3:00pm	<b>Session 4: The Thrive Tribe: Building the Network That Moves You Forward</b>  <b>Panelists:</b> Dr. Sonya Stephens, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Virginia Union University Regina Robinson, International speaker and author Kendra D. A. White, J.D., CCEP, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Integrity & Compliance, VSU <b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Sade Younger, Assistant Professor/Director MSW Program, VSU
3:00pm – 3:20pm	<b>Inspiring Leaders Recognition   LeadHERship Impact Award Presentation</b>
3:20pm – 3:30pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30pm – 4:00pm	<b>HER Blueprint: Reflecting Forward: Masterplan Magic: Turning Your Blueprint into Bold Action</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Dr. Lakeisha Cook, Executive Director of The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
4:00pm – 4:15pm	<b>Special Presentation</b>  <b>Poetry Reading:</b> Dr. Latorial Faison, Chair and Assistant Professor/Department of Languages and Literature <b>HER Blueprint Networking:</b> Dr. Alishea S. Rowley, Interim Chair, Department of Counselor Education
4:15pm – 4:30pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Tia A. Minnis, WLI Founder and Board Chair, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, VSU Dr. Gabrielle D. Pina, WLI Executive Director and Director of Academic Communications, Office of The Provost, VSU
4:30pm – 6:00pm	<b>Networking Reception</b>