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Who are you waiting for?

We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.
– June Jordan

June Jordan is one of my favorite poets. In this simple line, spoken to the UN in 1978, Jordan underscores the importance of mindset.

As we prepare for HerDU 2018 this Friday, I have been asking myself—What expectation, what mindset, can I have to
make the most of my time at this conference?

Three thoughts come to mind.

Choose courage over comfort. While listening is my preferred state, I am challenging myself to show up and speak up at this conference – to give colleagues and new friends a sense of who I am, what I stand for, and what I intend to contribute.

Bravely assume positive intent rather than being skeptical. As a lawyer I am trained to ask questions, to poke at the facts, to argue with positions, to assume I’m not getting the whole story or the real story. This Friday, I am challenging myself to leave that behind because this Friday is about uniting in experience, voice and action. I want to build up rather than tear down because the world needs positive connection and proactive collaboration more than ever.

Be the one I’m waiting for. There is no time like the present to start being who I think I can be. I need to remind myself of that sometimes when I am in planning mode as we are here, at CWC. I can start now to be the colleague, friend, leader, and problem-solver I am looking for. I don’t have to wait to do it perfectly, starting is enough.

How do you intend to show up for yourself and your colleagues on Friday? Email me your thoughts – I’d love to know. Ann.ayers@du.edu

– Ann Ayers, JD
Dean, Colorado Women’s College
University of Denver

Attend HerDU This Friday, April 20th!

If you haven’t already, please click here to register for the 2018 HerDU Conference!

HerDU 2018 will focus on building and strengthening our community here at DU. Male or female, cisgender, trans-gender or gender queer – we are focused on understanding, appreciating, and transcending our differences.
A Family’s Internment Informs an Artist’s Work

Artist Sarah Fukami’s work revolves around the formation of identity and perception of history. The internment of her Japanese-American family during World War II piqued her interest in the topics of ethnicity, nationality and the identity crises that occur when they conflict. Beginning with the use of personal resources such as photographs, objects and documents, Fukami’s work has extended to the larger context of Japanese-American history by delving through government photographic archives and investigating the stories of nameless Japanese-American citizens. This has also led to an interest in the dissemination of history, and how it is manipulated and understood throughout time.

Much of Fukami’s work is done on Plexiglas, which allows her to layer several aspects of a subject while simultaneously delineating them physically between surfaces. This allows the viewer to focus on the individual facets, as well as stepping back and viewing the work as a whole. We are honored that this incredible artist and University of Denver alumna will be featured at the HerDU Conference this year. Fukami created the Robin Morgan Outstanding Woman Awards that will be presented to four DU women at the Closing Forum of the conference. To learn more about Sarah Fukami’s work, click here.

Voices

HerDU 2018 aims to hear all voices from our community to learn how issues are felt, perceived, and addressed by all members of our community. We invite you to share your unique voice and join others as we create a new experience for the women of DU.

Experience

At HerDU 2018, we will use our voices to speak about what makes us who we are, while being aware that our voices have the power to shape the experiences of others. We invite you to be part of an experience where we can gather without titles, rank, or preconceptions and share our stories to grow and lift each other up.

Unity Yoga!

Start HerDU with a centering session of Yoga and Meditation. Free yoga mats and water bottles for the first 100 attendees!

See you on April 20th!