CONFERENCE PROGRAM

March 18, 2022
Conference History

In 2013, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program at SIU began an annual campus-wide interdisciplinary conference devoted to focused discussion on and engagement with issues that impact those with marginalized gender identities and sexual orientations. Additionally, the conferences throughout the years asked participants to examine and reflect on the role of gender and sexuality throughout history and in a contemporary local and global context. This conference became an important development and research opportunity for students and faculty alike. The WGSS conference took a pause in 2020 (as much of the world did), and returned in a different form in 2021. With the support of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and with the incredible planning talents of people in many offices and units across the SIU campus, Education and Empowerment: The SIU 2021 Conference on Women sought to broaden the WGSS conference to engage research, service, self-care, leadership and professional development, and more in a virtual format. We are delighted to continue the tradition of this important event, and are excited that this year’s Advocates and Allies conference has an even broader scope by welcoming presenters and registrants not just from the campus community, but also from the surrounding southern Illinois community and beyond. Thank you for being here!

Conference Planning Team

Gena Albert  
Events Administrator Associate, University Events and Protocol
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Program Director, Conference Scheduling & Services
Cristina Castillo  
Coordinator, Hispanic/Latino Resource Center
Tarnisha Green  
Director, Success in Engineering through Excellence & Diversity
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Sandy Pensoneau-Conway  
Interim Director, School of Communication Studies & Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
Bethany Peppers  
Coordinator, Women’s Resource Center
Sydney Pogue  
Campus Outdoor Program Coordinator, Touch of Nature
Tina Sickinger  
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Special Thanks To...

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Our Keynote Speakers... 
We are incredibly excited to introduce you to our two keynote speakers, Dr. Robin Boylorn and Eesha Pandit, who will bring us, “Why You Should(n’t) Be an Ally.”

Dr. Robin M. Boylorn is the inaugural Holle Endowed Chair of Communication Arts and the founding director of the forthcoming Holle Center for Communication Arts in the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama. She is also a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies where her work is centered on issues of social identity and diversity, primarily the lived experiences of Black women in the U.S. American South.

She is an award-winning author, autoethnographer, teacher, scholar and commentator who blends critical and creative qualitative work with public intellectual commentary to make claims and arguments toward a more socially just and socially conscious society. She is the author of Sweetwater: Black Women and Narratives of Resilience, co-editor of Critical Autoethnography: Intersecting Cultural Identities in Everyday Life and co-editor and co-writer of The Crunk Feminist Collection.

Eesha Pandit is co-founder of the Center for Advancing Innovative Policy (CAIP), where she works on transformative policy strategies to change the dominant narrative on policy from one where only some get to decide the laws that govern our lives to one that encourages everyone to participate in determining how we’re governed. She has led policy, program, and communications work to help shape movements for human rights, racial justice, reproductive justice, and ending gender-based violence. Eesha holds expertise and experience in hard policy analysis and the organizing and coalition-building required to effect policy change. She is a member of the Crunk Feminist Collective and co-founder of South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU).

Eesha has a long history of non-profit leadership, having worked as Executive Director of Men Stopping Violence, a social change organization dedicated to ending men’s violence against women. She’s also served as Women’s Rights Manager at Breakthrough, a global human rights organization. At Breakthrough, Eesha worked on the Bell Bajao! (Ring the Bell!) Campaign that asks men and boys to take action, get involved, and help end violence against women. Previously, Eesha served as Director of Advocacy at Raising Women’s Voices (RWV). RWV is a national initiative working to make sure women's voices are heard and women’s concerns are addressed as policymakers put the new health reform law into action. At RWV, Eesha coordinated a national field network of 22 state-based regional coordinators working to include women’s health access in local, state and national policy efforts.

Eesha has also served as Associate Director of Programs at the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College, where she coordinated the organization’s New Leadership Networking Initiative and the Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps. She’s worked with the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University, and Amnesty International USA’s Women’s Rights Program. Eesha recently completed 6 years of service on the Board of the National Network of Abortion Funds. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and the University of Chicago.

Tune in to the keynote speech tonight at 6:30. See p. 19 for details.
Info to Know... 

Virtual conference etiquette
- Please mute your microphone until and unless you are speaking.
- You are welcome to have your camera either on or off; however, in the interest of decreasing distraction for the presenters, please strive to not switch your camera on and off during the presentations.
- Some presenters may share their screen in order to share media, audio, slide presentations, etc.
- You are welcome to use the chat feature if you would like to make a comment or ask a question. Session moderators will be monitoring the chat.

How do I enter the zoom room?
Find the session you want to attend here in the conference program. A few minutes before the session is to begin, locate the "live" zoom link in the upper right corner of the conference session entry. Simply click that live link, and you should be taken to the zoom room in your computer browser. See example below:

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18. How to be Effectively Heard through Political Activity
Moderator:

Presenter: Suzanne Schmitz, Professor Emerita, School of Law—SIUC

Wish to have your voice heard effectively at the local, state or national level? This interactive session with Q&A will address why one should vote, as well as how to volunteer locally, run for office, lobby, and influence others.
Welcome and Opening Address

1. Better Together
Kathy Renfro, former Executive Director, Carbondale Park District

Moderators: Rita Medina, conference planning committee co-chair
Sandy Pensoneau-Conway, conference planning committee co-chair

Cooperation versus competition is what moves the needle in today's world. In this opening address, Kathy Renfro shares with us her experience in prioritizing a spirit of cooperation.

Better Together is sponsored by:

![Cristina Pisoni, Agent](https://example.com)

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2. Carbondale Crisis Center

Moderator: Tarnisha Green, College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, & Mathematics
Success in Engineering through Excellence and Diversity

Panelists: Jennifer Lampkins, Co-founder, Carbondale Crisis Center
Justin Schneider, Co-founder, Carbondale Crisis Center

This community conversation will demonstrate the need for a crisis center in Carbondale. Panelists will explain the purpose of the Carbondale Crisis Center, as well as the goals and aspirations of such a Center.
3. Rise to Leadership: Women of Color in Higher Education

Moderator: Bethany Peppers, Women's Resource Center
Presenter: Nilanjana Bardhan, Professor, Communication Studies—SIUC
Cristina Castillo, Coordinator, Hispanic/Latino Resource Center—SIUC
Renada Greer, Director, Student Support Services—SIUC
Rosalind Joseph, Women’s Track Coach—SIUC
Rhetta Seymour, Program Director, McNair Scholars—SIUC
Amber Suggs, Director, Student Support Services—Shawnee Community College

The purpose of this discussion panel is to acknowledge the accomplishments of women of color and to affirm their identities as leaders. We explore the challenges and successes of women in leadership roles in higher education. Hopefully this session will inspire other women, strengthen advocacy for women as leaders, and create more allies for women in leadership roles.

4. Gender in a Global Context: Panel #1

Moderator: Michael Coleman, Rainbow Café LGBTQ Center

“Why Do They Cover Their Hair?” Understanding Muslim Hijabi Women, Jelena Nikolic, Graduate Student, School of Sociology—SIUC

Muslim veil (hijab) has been stereotypically viewed from the lens of gender oppression and Islamic terrorism while perspectives of veiled Muslim women and their reasons for wearing hijab are absent from public debates and media. To become informed allies of veiled American Muslim women we must move beyond mainstream Western interpretation and learn about their reasons of wearing hijab.

Gender Inequality in Political Representation in Africa, Jeremiah Egbetayo, Graduate Student, School of Sociology—SIUC

Gender inequality in African countries like other continents starts within the family through gender socialization. This impacts women’s opportunities in education and leadership skills. The implication of which results in men making laws for women despite their little understanding about women’s struggles and incapacitation.
SIUC Career Services, one-on-one appointments

If you pre-registered for a one-on-one appointment with SIUC's career services for resume critique, job search assistance, interviewing tips, etc., please join this zoom room during your scheduled 15-minute block of time. Please do not enter the room prior to your scheduled time, as the Career Services Representative is likely with another client.

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5. SIU Women’s Club—Past, Present, and Future

Moderator: Tina Sickinger, Center for International Education

Panelists: Marcia Anderson, SIU Women’s Club Former President
Julie Bohnsack, SIU Women’s Club Interest Group Director
Susan Graham, SIU Women’s Club Program Director
Amelia Ketzle, SIU Women’s Club President-Elect

This discussion panel will speak to the origin and history of the SIU Women’s Club, its role on campus, and how it has evolved over time as women's roles in society have changed. Panelists will also discuss its present significance and our vision for its future. We would like to hear from audience during Q&A about what THEY see for the future of the SIU Women's Club. How can we better serve SIU?
6. Creative Care for Activists: A Reflective and Rejuvenating Journaling Workshop

Moderator: Bethany Peppers, Women’s Resource Center

Presenter: Lavinia Roberts, Graduate Student, School of Theater and Dance—SIUC

Participants will do a variety of creative writing and visual art activities to rejuvenate and reflect on their activism experiences.

8. Using Female Portraiture to Explore Our Shared Humanity

Moderator: Patrick Dilley, School of Education and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Presenter: McKenzie Graham, Graduate Student, School of Art and Design—SIUC

In this media session, artist McKenzie Graham will give a presentation on her own artwork, including insights into the representation of women in artwork and the art world. Changes in the representation of women throughout art history will be brought into context with contemporary art-making as she discusses her use of classical techniques to explore current issues.

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9. Coercive Control in Cultic Groups and Family Relationships

Moderator: Craig Engstrom, Saluki Success Program

Presenters: T Brown, graduate student, School of Communication Studies—SIUC
Carlee Coplea, Survivor Empowerment Center

In this discussion panel, we will describe "coercive control" through Robert Jay Lifton’s 8 social-psychological categories. We will briefly introduce each with anecdotes from our own personal and professional experiences. We will then open it up for audience discussion.

10. Women in the Outdoors: Exploring to Empower

Moderator: Rachel Whaley, School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology

Panelists: Quianya Enge, Community Navigator, Research Assistant, Chancellor’s Scholars Program—SIUC
Anne Krippenstapel, Keep Carbondale Beautiful
Katrina Medernach, Graduate Student, Recreation Professions—SIUC
Syndey Pogue, Campus Outdoor Program Coordinator, Touch of Nature
Jennifer Randolph-Bollinger, Natural Resources Coordinator, Giant City State Park

The outdoor industry comprises 2% of our national GDP, however the scene is often times dominated by White men. This discussion panel will be identifying different perspectives on what it means to be a woman in the outdoors, defining what it means to be “outdoorsy” and exploring how the intersection of identities plays into individuals’ experiences. We will also be discussing recent efforts by the industry to promote diversity and become more inclusive as well as how these efforts have succeeded and where they’ve fallen short.

Women in the Outdoors: Exploring to Empower is sponsored by:
11. Building Community through Media and Pop Culture

**Moderator:** Randy Auxier, School of Communication Studies

**Disability Community-Building through Podcasting**, Erica Stearns, *Atypical Truth* podcast and Arc of Illinois

The community of people with disabilities represents a large and diverse group, roughly fifteen percent of the world's population. Yet, finding and maintaining physical friendships with one another is challenging in a world that is largely inaccessible for many people within our society. As a disabled adult and caregiver who was motivated by extreme isolation, I sought out new ways to connect with my peers. Creating a podcast presented a unique and accessible option for the community of people with disabilities to connect, community-build, and share our stories. Podcasts offer listeners an intimate invitation to step inside the lives of others. Without ever leaving the comfort of our home, we are instantly placed within the story or conversation of our peers. Focusing on the powerful connection that comes when sharing our stories, I will share about the transformative impact of hearing our stories represented in a podcast.

**Support through Comedy Improv**, Nitisha Bhatt, Ohio State University

I help people become their free and authentic selves by speaking about mindfulness in comedy and storytelling and how a safe diverse space fulfills human's need for connection. Women especially gain confidence and the ability to speak free of their mind without any filters (with respect) whether it's in the professional setting or personal. With being more mindful and through comedy, the future is female, diverse, and led by authentic, funny, and powerful women.

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12. L.E.A.D. SIU

**Moderator:** Dianah McGreehan, Graduate and Professional Student Council

**Panelists:** Austin A. Lane, Chancellor—SIUC
L.E.A.D. members

This *discussion panel* focuses on the importance of development opportunities in growing a leadership team.

*L.E.A.D. SIU is sponsored by:*

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13. #GoodForHer(ror): Interpreting the Feminine/Feminist Horror Film

**Moderator:** Shelley Rawlins, School of Communication Studies

**Panelists:** Zoë Freedkin, Graduate Student, School of Communication Studies—SIUC
Ryan Freels, Graduate Student, School of Communication Studies—SIUC
Alex Lockwood, Graduate Student, School of Communication Studies—SIUC
Caleb McKinley-Portee, Graduate Student, School of Communication Studies—SIUC

This *research panel* seeks to present research interested in media analysis of recent horror and psychological thriller films that engage with or re-interpret the feminine horror archetype. Recently, the horror genre has undergone something of a "renaissance" (Khomani, 2021), typified by a rise in independent horror films focused on women protagonists that balance their decisions between rejecting the monstrous, and embracing the power that it affords. These movies may contribute to wider ongoing projects for feminist representation in cultural spaces, even as they grapple with the history of a genre that has often delved into oppressive or regressive tropes regarding gender and sexuality.
SIU 2022 Conference on Women

1:00 PM-2:00 PM (CST)

**Zoom Room D**
Meeting ID: 82618120758
Passcode: 511234

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1:00-2:00 PM (CST)

**Zoom Room E**
Meeting ID: 92012271741
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2:00-2:45 PM (CST)

**Zoom Room A**
Meeting ID: 94878191287
Passcode: 521051


Moderator: Diana Tigerlily, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Presenter: Chastity Mays, Certified Doula—Doulas of North America (DONA)

This *presentation followed by Q&A* aims to address the national maternal and morbidity health crisis sweeping America and killing BIPOC individuals. Black women are 2-to-3 times more likely to die from maternal health complications and have birth related complications than their non-Hispanic, White counterparts (CDC, 2020). This number increases to 6 times more likely to die than their White counterparts in Illinois. Everyone must take action in order for this crisis to stop.
15. She Got Game: Leveling Up Inclusivity in Video Games

Moderator: Julie Hartung, School of Communication Studies

Panelists: Cassandra Bausman, Lecturer, Department of Rhetoric—University of Iowa
          Jodie Salazar, Graduate Student, School of History and Philosophy—SIUC
          Alicia Utecht, Graduate Student, School of Communication Studies—SIUC
          Justin Young, Assistant Lecturer, School of Communication Studies—SIUC

While women make up a significant portion of the video game audience, it has traditionally been a hostile environment for many both to play games and work within the industry. This discussion panel talks with women about both about how other players can be more welcoming, but the games and industry itself, as well.

16. 144: WNBA 2020 Bubble Season #SayHerName (ESPN Documentary)

Moderator: Kevin McCarty, School of Communication Studies

Presenter: Lisa Clanton, Graduate Student, School of Education—SIUC; Academic Advisor, College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, and Mathematics; SIU Alumna

This media session focuses on the ESPN documentary, 144. 144 offers a masterclass in not only how to cover topics that are considered polarizing, but to show how strength and vulnerability are not diametrically opposed. The 144 players of the WNBA were deliberate and steadfast in how they carried themselves in the season, and the film mirrors that intention in how these players’ lives are shared with integrity and with purpose.

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2:00-3:00 PM (CST)  
Zoom Room E  
Meeting ID: 92012271741  
Passcode: (none needed)

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3:00-3:45 PM (CST)  
Zoom Room A  
Meeting ID: 94878191287  
Passcode: 521051

17. Your Only Competition is YOU!

Moderator: Charah McKenzie, Coordinator, Black Resource Center

Panelists: Yemisi Marie Anderson, Founder and CEO, Cherished Gifts and The JAY Effect; Published Author  
Deb Barnett, Director, SIU Business Incubator Programs; Associate Director, SIU Research Park; Writer and Entrepreneur  
Debbie Fleming Powell, Founder, Building Our Strongest Selves  
Imani McHenry, Cyber Security Consultant; Founder, Infinite Cyber Tech Solutions; Community Educator and Speaker

This diverse discussion panel of SIU alumnae and passionate entrepreneurs share their commitment to the message of women supporting women through the practice of prosocial behaviors. These women will share the contagious effect of placing value on uplifting others instead of entertaining a crabs-in-a-bucket mentality. Panelists will engage participants in conversation about how practicing these behaviors moves us from a scarcity mindset to one of inclusion and diversity.

3:00-3:45 PM (CST)  
Zoom Room B  
Meeting ID: 87318715268  
Passcode: 024694

18. How to be Effectively Heard through Political Activity

Moderator: Randy Auxier, School of Communication Studies

Presenter: Suzanne Schmitz, Professor Emerita, School of Law—SIUC; member, League of Women Voters

Wish to have your voice heard effectively at the local, state, or national level? This interactive session with Q&A will address why one should vote, as well as how to volunteer locally, run for office, lobby, and influence others.
19. Let’s Talk about the Clitoris, part 1: The Sexual Body as a Social Construct

Moderator:  Tarnisha Green, College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, & Mathematics Success in Engineering through Excellence and Diversity

Presenter:  Angela Towne, Coordinator, LGBTQ Resource Center—SIUC

What do we mean when we say “clitoris”? Part one of this presentation including Q&A aims to show how the organ we call the “clitoris” is a contested anatomical site currently in a state of active social construction. We will explore how the gendered lens through which we view the body impacts how this clitoris is viewed and defined.

(Participants are invited to remain in the zoom room for Part 2.)

20. All About Black Women’s Business

Moderator:  Yolanda Dean, Head Start—SIUC; Black Chamber of Commerce of Southern Illinois (BCCSI)

Panelists:  Marquita Bailey—Associate Agent, Country Financial; BCCSI
        Elva Liddell
        Patrice Mannie—Law Enforcement; Sky618; NAACP; BCCSI; Connect 360; Carbondale United; SO ILL Unity Coalition; Survivor Empowerment Center
        Nancy Maxwell—Carbondale United; NAACP; BCCSI; CAB; Connect 360; AAMSI Board Member; SO ILL Unity Coalition; Prints R Us; SEC; MOPWOS
        Tamiko Mueller—Vice Chair, Jackson County Board; Owner and Operator, Exit Reality; Carbondale United; BCCSI; Man-Tra-Con Board Member; Connect 360 Executive Board; NAACP; Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve
        Kindra Speech—Owner and Operator, Locked by Diva, LLC; BCCSI
        Barbara Timmons—Owner and Operator, Miz BJ’z Hair Haven; BCCSI
A discussion panel that focuses on the growing number of Black women in the business arena, how they started a business, how Black women learn to work together and not against, the obstacles one might face as a double minority starting a business from scratch, and the benefits of working for oneself.

**21. Gender in a Global Context: Panel #2**

Moderator: T Brown, School of Communication Studies

**Women in Patriarchy: A Bidirectional Relationship**, Aradhna Mohan, Graduate Student, School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences—SIUC

The aim of this study was to identify the overt and subtle ways in which Indian women contribute to the maintenance of patriarchy in their heterosexual romantic relationships. The findings of the study indicate that women contribute to patriarchy through their thoughts, actions, and attitudes by adhering to gender roles, internalizing discriminatory behaviours, silently accepting the system and denying its oppressive nature, complying to sexist expectations in order to avoid conflict, and due to the perceived sense of pride, privilege and power they believe to be receiving by maintaining the system. This study may provide an initial first step in acknowledging a woman’s contribution in maintaining patriarchy.

**We Should All Be Feminists: Equal Treatment Theory or Cultural Feminism?**, Christivel Zulu, Graduate Student, School of English—SIUC

I believe Chimamanda Adichie cuts across different types of feminism to drive her points about oppression and exploitation of women. She stands as a women’s rights activist by sharing her own experiences in the 21st century. The same struggles that the First-Wave feminists faced are like the same struggles contemporary feminists are trying to address.

**Gender in a Global Context: Panel #2 is sponsored by:**

**22. Let’s Talk about the Clitoris, part 2: How Gender Hid the Clitoris’s Many Functions**

Moderator: Lavinia Roberts, Graduate Student, School of Theatre and Dance

Presenter: Angela Towne, Coordinator, LGBTQ Resource Center—SIUC

Part Two of this presentation including Q&A continues a discussion about how the gendered lens has hidden sexual knowledge. We will explore the clitoris’s multiple functions including bodily protection and safety along with its significant role in pleasure. The clitoris has
reproductive functions as well. The clitoris supports reproduction while simultaneously fully functioning outside of reproductive sexuality. Patriarchal cultures have not been able to image sexual pleasure, safety, and reproductive freedom as characteristics that might co-occur for women, be they cisgender, transgender, or intersex women. As a result, we have not been able to see these important functions in a body part we have gendered. Part 2 will build upon Part 1.

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23. Social Hour
Sponsored by Graduate and Professional Student Council

If you are comfortable doing so, please stop by our open-house style social hour in Corker Lounge, on the second floor of the SIU Student Center. Enjoy refreshments (vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options included) while socializing with other conference-goers. (Masks are required unless actively eating/drinking.)

Thanks to the Graduate and Professional Student Council for sponsoring our social hour refreshments!
24. Information Session, Women’s Leadership Retreat
(session specifically for SIU students)

Prenters: Gena Albert, Events Administrator Associate, University Events and Protocol
Tarnisha Green, College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, & Mathematics
Success in Engineering through Excellence and Diversity
Rita Medina, Academic Advisor, College of Engineering, Computing,
Technology, and Mathematics—SIUC

A hallmark campus event uplifting women and offering leadership development for SIU women-
identified students is the Women’s Leadership Retreat (WLR). Each year, the WLR team plans
an overnight event at Touch of Nature, where women-identified students experience
community-building activities, hear from inspirational women campus leaders, and participate in
leadership development sessions. This information session will answer all your questions and
let you know how you can participate.

25. Why You Should(n’t) Be an Ally

In this conversational keynote, Eesha Pandit and Robin Boylorn discuss the complications and
nuances of allyship. They argue that allyship itself is insufficient and problematic before offering
crunk feminist alternatives for solidarity.

Tune in on your own via YouTube https://youtu.be/2lGwB_czIWA or join the watch party
(details below.)

These two remarkable speakers are members of the Crunk Feminist Collective, “where crunk
meets conscious and feminism meets cool.”

“The CFC aims to articulate a crunk feminist consciousness for women and men of color, who
came of age in the Hip Hop Generation, by creating a community of scholars-activists from
varied professions, who share our intellectual work in online blog communities, at conferences,
through activist organizations, and in print publications and who share our commitment to
nurturing and sustaining one another through progressive feminist visions. This collective is a
forum where we seek to speak our own truths, and to both magnify and encourage the feminist
credos that shape and inform our lives and that we use to engage and transform our world.
Crunk Feminism is the animating principle of our collective work together and derives from our
commitment to feminist principles and politics, and also from our unapologetic embrace of those
new cultural resources, which provide or offer the potential for resistance. Crunk(ness) is
our mode of resistance that finds its particular expression in the rhetorical, cultural, and intellectual practices of a contemporary generation."

Learn more at https://www.crunkfeministcollective.com/

Keynote Speakers Watch Party

The SIU 2022 Conference on Women: Advocates and Allies is excited to welcome two incredible women as our keynote speakers this year. This event will be live streamed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/2IGwB_zIWA. In addition to making the keynote event available to view at home, we also invite anyone interested and comfortable to join together in the SIU Student Center, Ballroom B, refreshments in hand, to watch as a community of people.

Our keynote address is sponsored by

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