



Women's History Month

Lead Presenter Bio

Dr. Tanya L. Shields

Dr. Shields is an Associate Professor for the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also the Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, a Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Awardee, and Director of Undergraduate Studies. She also serves as Director of Carolina Seminars and is a past fellow of the Carolina Women's Center Faculty Fellowship program, the Institute of Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship seminar and a fellow of their Academic Leadership program. Dr. Shields is currently the Faculty Liaison for TEAM ADVANCE.

Her research focuses on Caribbean studies and plantation logics. Her book, *Bodies and Bones: Feminist Rehearsal and Imagining Caribbean Belonging* (2014), examines the ways in which rehearsing historical events and archetypal characters shapes belonging to the region using feminist rehearsal as a methodology. She is currently working on her next piece. Dr. Shields teaches classes on Caribbean women, the arts of activism, growing up girl globally, and the continuing influence of plantation economics and politics. Her work extends past the world of academia, reaching into primary education, theatrical arts, and other areas.

[Learn more about Dr. Shields](#)

Panelists Bios

Beth Bordeaux

Beth Bordeaux (she/her), is a white, cis-gender, straight woman. She is a mother of two adult children, a new grandmother, a wife, small business owner, consultant, social worker, and an advocate. Her 30+ year career has focused on human services from direct supports for individuals to working to change the systems that create vulnerabilities.

Beth and her family have lived in Apex for 24 years. She has lived between the Triangle and the coast of North Carolina all her life, growing up in Snow Hill, a small town about 85 miles east of Apex. As a woman in a male-centric family of origin, she both accepted and rejected traditional female roles. She has always juggled her career with caring for her family, including her children, aging parents and grandparents, and now her new grandson, while finding ways to make an impact in her community. In Apex, Beth served as the Executive Director of Western Wake Crisis Ministry for three years and has been a strong advocate for affordable housing, serving as co-chair of the Affordable Housing Action Group for Western Wake County.

Keisha Bryan

Keisha H. Bryan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS) and a Certified Daring Way Facilitator. Keisha is the founder of Wake Renewal Counseling, PLLC where she and her staff provide mental health counseling services to adolescents, adults, and couples in the Triangle area. Keisha has over 15 years of experience working in various inpatient and outpatient settings with individuals that suffer from addiction and mental health issues.

Keisha has extensive training in trauma-focused therapy, Internal Family Systems, process addictions, and couples counseling. She has experience leading groups and seminars on a variety of topics including the impact of addictions on family members, stress management, divorce recovery, pregnancy/postpartum care, and overcoming shame and vulnerability.

In 2020, Keisha launched her latest company, Insights for Singles, LLC. She provides relationship coaching for women. She is passionate about helping women create happy and healthy relationships so that they can show up authentically and confidently to manifest their happily ever after!

Tayon Dancy

Tayon Nicole Dancy was born in Edgecombe County, NC, and raised by her mom. She is married with a son (18), daughter (16), and spunky Cockapoo dog. Tayon's favorite pastimes include reading, teaching, mentoring, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. In 1998, she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Upon graduation, she relocated to Apex, NC, and has been residing here ever since. After working for about 2 years in a corporate role she pursued and received a Master of Business Administration Degree in 2003 from NC State University while working fulltime. Tayon works as a Software Program Manager in the information technology industry. Her heart's desire is to obtain her Master and Doctor of Divinity & Counseling.

Tayon's sheer passion for people and advocacy is rooted in her upbringing and shines through in everything that she does. She desires to create the world in which she wants to live. Tayon is a consultant to the Black, Latino, African, African American, and Caribbean (BLAAC) Diversity group where she is employed, the South Atlantic Regional Chaplain of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and a leader of the Missions Ministry at Mt. Zion Church of Cary, NC. She is a community organizer, most recently organizing the first ever Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative march and prayer rally in Apex, NC. Tayon is also an ordained minister at Mt. Zion Church and loves to teach and preach the gospel as she shows others how to apply the Bible to their lives. She has served as a board member of WakeUp Wake County, the NC Social Action Chair, Regional Technology Chair, a NC State Secretary for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, and the local Social Action Chair coining "Delta Days at the School Board", which still exists today. Tayon continues to seek ways to serve and to impact the communities in which she lives and the world.

LaFayette Trawick

LaFayette Trawick, a proud Apex resident, is a research scientist, motivational speaker, mentor, social advocate, blogger, activist, freelance writer, aspiring life coach, and CEO of Claiming Ignorance (Youth Elevation Network).

LaFayette is happily married to Ms. Lizette (Jerry) Trawick for 15 years, and has three beautiful girls - Lauren (13), and twins Lindsay & Laila (11). LaFayette is a passionate activist and spokesman for issues and challenges that surround family, parenting, civic, and social issues, and its effects on our youth. He has dedicated his time to opening and continuing dialogue with our youth, shaping fatherhood policy programs in Washington, DC, and advocating for the recently incarcerated to be trained and repatriated to their families.

Most recently, LaFayette returned from Nairobi, Kenya and Tanzania where he was a speaker and helped to build a dormitory to help young girls recently rescued from female genital mutilation. He is currently active on the STEM Education speaking circuit, coaching two robotics teams, and producing his first documentary, "Boys 2 Men," a 3-part PSA targeting African-America boys. He has also been featured in the documentary "TRUE MEN: Being a Black Man in America".

Ruth “Millie” M. Martinez

Millie is an educator, mentor, and speaker that is Latina and bilingual from Venezuela. 25 years ago she left her hometown to start a Hispanic ministry with Grace Community Church in Indianapolis, IN, alongside her husband, a young pastor. Later, they did the same in Puerto Rico.

After all these years being an immigrant she can say it has been a growing journey for her, so she can easily relate to the people she serves now. Her Bachelor in Theology creates the opportunity to serve by training and empowering individuals and groups for personal and spiritual growth.

Millie serves in the UNC School of Nursing Health Clinic as an Interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients. Also, she's been a volunteer Leader for Hope Community Church Food Pantry for some years. In this ministry the 80% of the families they serve are Latinos. She is a Board member of Western Wake Crisis Ministry.

She is currently working as a Spanish & Music Teacher for K-1 and high school students at SGCA, a Classical Education Christian School. Millie also works as an Assistant Director of Children Ministry at Open Table Methodist Church in Raleigh.

Her greatest passion is to be part of the group that is building up the bridge that removes the separation between the needs of and all the resources available in the community. Her main goal as a mom is to give a good legacy to her bi-lingual teenage daughter so she can enjoy a better society - even with her dark hair and brown eyes.

Representative Julie von Haefen

Representative Julie von Haefen has represented the 36th District in the North Carolina House of Representatives since January 1, 2019. Representative von Haefen received her bachelor's degree from Ohio University and her law degree from Case Western Reserve University. She is licensed to practice law in Ohio, Arizona, and California. After practicing law, Rep. von Haefen became a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) leader at the school, county and state level and a fierce advocate for North Carolina's public schools. She served as the Wake County PTA Council President from 2017-2018.

Currently, Rep. von Haefen serves on the House Local Government, State Government, Military Affairs, and General Government Appropriations Committees. She is the co-chair of the Wake County Legislative Delegation and the co-chair of the House Democrat Women's Caucus. Rep. von Haefen has lived in Apex since 2005 with her husband and three children.