

# RAISING OUR VOICES, STRENGTHENING THE ACADEMY

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Hosted By

**Northeastern University**



# welcome

Dear Sisters,

As women of color in higher education, too much of our lives are focused outward, towards our students, administrators, and colleagues. Today, we encourage turning inward to consider and nurture practices and beliefs that can deepen our connection to ourselves. We designed this year's conference to honor our thoughts that give voice to our words. With intentionality, we strategize around our most important assets: ourselves and one another. We contribute to and benefit from our collective strengths. We affirm that the academy, our students, and our communities are better because we are present, thriving, and inspiring each other to reach new heights and say what needs to be said.

In this Fourth Annual Women of Color in the Academy Conference, we have selected activities, experiences, and panels intended to facilitate and encourage support for your career and community. We hope this day will be an opportunity to reconnect with friends and create new contacts to build conversations around strategies for self- and community-care. As a collective of women of color in the academy, we wish to be mindful of ways we might support and elevate each other and our allies during this time of social, political, and global upheaval.

We are the beloved community. We need each of us to be whole, nurtured, and healthy in order to continue moving forward. Thank you for making your way here today. Thank you for engaging. May we add to our existing tools for naming our truths and raising our voices from this deep well of collective wisdom.

Sincerely,

**Nicole N. Aljoe and Tracy Robinson-Wood**  
**Women of Color in the Academy, Conference Co-Chairs**



Photo by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, courtesy of WBUR

## *The Women of Color in the Academy Conference Planning Committee dedicate this event to the life and work of Toni Morrison.*

Professor Toni Morrison (February 18, 1931 – August 5, 2019) is one of the most recognized and influential writers of our time. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Howard University and a Master's degree in American Literature from Cornell University and spent her life enriching the world of literature by bringing Black literature into the mainstream. As an editor, she sought out Black authors “who [in Morrison's words] were vocal, either politically, or just writing wonderful fiction”. She published eleven novels and numerous other works of fiction and non-fiction that focus on the Black experience, spanning genres and lengths, including *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved*. The social commentary inherent in her work garnered Morrison numerous awards over her lifetime, including a Nobel Prize, a Pulitzer Prize, and seven honorary doctorates.

As a faculty member, she taught at Texas Southern University, the State University of New York, Rutgers University, Harvard University, and Princeton University. While at Princeton, she helped elevate the voices of her students through her teaching as well as through the creation of the Princeton Atelier, which brings together writers, performing artists, and students in a semester of creative collaboration.

Toni Morrison's commitment to sharing her voice and highlighting the voices of others made an indelible mark on our society. Her work to strengthen the academy through fostering young writers will provide us with inspiration for years to come. We hope that she may serve as an example, for the members of this conference, of the vital importance of our own voices within our work and how those voices can help prepare the next generation.

“

I tell my students, ‘when you get these jobs that you have been so brilliantly trained for, just remember that your real job is to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else.’”

# Connect



## Follow today's events via the WOC 2020 Twitter moment.

Snap a picture of the QR code, and you will see highlights from the conference as the day goes on!

Unsure about the QR code? Try opening your camera app and see if it prompts you with a link (most iPhones and newer Androids do this). If not, you can download a barcode scanner from the app store; there are many available. Once downloaded, it will lead you to the correct page.

[twitter.com/i/events/1229811245479415809?s=13](https://twitter.com/i/events/1229811245479415809?s=13)

## Engage with us on Social Media.

Twitter @NU\_Advance  
@NortheasternDI  
#WOCInAcademy  
View Moments

# Share Your Voice

## VIDEOS

Between 12 pm and 4 pm, there will be a video booth in Curry 318 (follow the signs) where you can record a short message (one minute or less) based on the following prompts:

- What inspires you to raise your voice?
- What was your favorite part of today's conference?
- How can we work to strengthen the academy as a community?

Please read our consent statement included below before recording.

## PHOTOS

We have a photo banner in the Curry Ballroom where you can take your own photos throughout the day with our Women of Color logo. Make sure to tweet your pictures to #WOCInAcademy and you may get a shout-out!

The video/photo booth also has props for you to take photos so that you can bring physical copies home!

## CONSENT

All videos and photos are the property of the Women of Color in the Academy Conference and Northeastern University and may be used in future promotional materials.

The conference photographer will be taking photos to capture the day. These are also the property of the Women of Color in the Academy Conference and Northeastern University and may be used in future promotional materials.



Conference Wifi Access

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Network : NUWave - guest

Select One Day Conference Login

