

Date: April 1st 1:00pm - 7:00pm

Venue: Alfred Lerner Hall, Broadway Room

Theme: Transcending Limits

OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S

1st Annual Lean In Conference



The board of Lean In at Columbia
invites you to our first annual conference...


Why we're holding this conference

The woman in college has multiple paths before her, some harder to achieve than others. She may face stereotyping head-on, or experience unspoken prejudice in both the classroom and in the

workplace. She may experience inequality not only based unconsciously on gender, but also due to intersections from race or class. As a student-run chapter of the international Lean In movement launched by Sheryl Sandberg, we, the board of Lean In at Columbia, strive to empower women and allies of all identities and disciplines to lean in, in their own unique way. Through weekly meetings, professional events, and community building sessions both on and off campus, we aim to give our members the tools they need to lean into the workplace, the classroom, and life.

To further our mission, we are hosting our first annual conference on April 1st, 2018. The event will have two focuses: first, we want to create a platform for bringing noteworthy insights about female leadership into new light, by highlighting powerful stories from inspiring women professionals across many disciplines for our members the campus community. Second, the event will serve as a celebration of women and ally communities: the day will both strengthen connections between members and facilitate new connections. We hope all attendees emerge from the conference more inspired, more educated, and more capable of transcending our society's divisions of race, class, and gender.

We would like to extend an invitation to you to take part of this special occasion on April 1st, 1:00pm to 7:00pm in Alfred Lerner Hall, Broadway Room. During the day, you'll be able to meet members of the board of Lean In at Columbia, learn from inspiring speakers such as the CEO of an angel investment firm, and have plenty of chances to connect with professionals in a unique 1:1 ratio. The conference will be filled with interactive activities such as Connect Cards, the Business Exhibitions (engaging activities with female-run companies in NYC), and a dinner where you can create lasting connections with those you met.



About Our Organization

Lean In is an international organization, founded by Sheryl Sandberg, the COO of Facebook, which promotes the success of women in the workplace. All over the globe, chapters of Lean In organize events, programming, and circles, groups of 10-12 individuals who meet weekly to discuss both personal and professional goals.

Lean In @ Columbia, the official chapter of Lean In at Columbia University, is a community like no other on campus. Our trained circle moderators impart valuable practical skills and foster discussion and debate. Our diverse and passionate members, spanning all disciplines, encourage one another to make the most of their college experience and to pursue fulfilling careers. Every one of our circles is built on the foundation of three aims: to teach skills, spark dialogue, and build community.

Since the beginning of the Fall 2017 academic year, we have doubled our newsletter mailing list to over 500 signups. We've grown to serve many students at Columbia, both through our circle meetings and programming: we've grown to a committed, active membership of 40 students, who participate in weekly Lean In circle meetings, and many more attending our events and programming. We have built a diverse membership and strong board whose fields of study span across a wide range of disciplines: business, literature, computer science, psychology, political science and human rights, architecture, art history, sociology, environmental engineering, and electrical engineering (just to name a few). We strive to empower our members and promote diversity in the classroom, our own circles, and the workplace.

Conference Date and Venue

- The conference will take place on April 1st 2018 from 1:00pm to 7:00pm
- The venue is Alfred Lerner Hall Broadway Room, the student center of Columbia



Our Conference aims to...

- Provide an **invigorating environment** for active members in Lean In at Columbia and professional women in diverse industries to connect and create meaningful experiences, as well as socialize and share ideas about **female leadership**
- Engagement on a **personal level**: Create a **warm, welcoming space** for people of all backgrounds and professional levels to share their **stories** and **learn** from one another
- Engagement on a **professional level**: Expose our members to various opportunities through vendor booth showcases, professional **attendance** at the conference (by employees to various companies), and sessions on professional **growth**

Format and Atmosphere

The conference offers 1 track from start to finish, with the exception of lightning talks and [Lean In Connection Card](#) circle meetings, which will be conducted in break-out sessions. This conference is designed to foster an intimate atmosphere where each attendee has plenty of opportunities to engage one-on-one with professionals in the field. Lightning talk themes are: Feminism and legacy, what perseverance means to you, and defying stereotypes.



Conference Schedule: April 1 from 1:00pm to 7:00pm

1:00 Registration + Business Exhibition

We'll encourage attendees to go to as many business booths as possible, and encourage the businesses to prepare something interactive beyond brochures/information that shares something about their company.

2:15 Keynotes

Plenty of Q&A time for attendees.

3:30 Identity Awareness Activity

Reflection upon our own identities and how they intersect with one another and intersect with the workplace.

4:30 Lightning Talks

Here we will split into three breakout sessions, each with a theme (perseverance, stereotypes, and legacies), and each session will have 3 lightning talk speakers + Q&A.

5:30 Connection Cards Activity

Ending the events on a more personal note, through Lean In Connection Cards.

6:30 Dinner

Dinner is provided for all attendees. There will also be time during dinner for attendees to mingle and network with one another.

