The Women’s Leadership Institute (WLI) is a collaborative effort between Michigan State University, alumni, professional women, and current students.

WLI has been designed to support and empower women students with leadership aspirations. We ignite women leaders with a vision of advancing leadership equity for women globally through thought leadership, creating a sustainable community, and providing high quality programming for our students, faculty and MSU community.

Gloria Santona
WLI Executive Board Member

"The opportunity to talk to young women and tell them about the things I wish somebody had told me when I was 19 and 20 years old; is just phenomenal. The most important thing to understand is who you are and stay true to yourself."
SCHOLARSHIPS

Through spring 2022 over $25,000 has been awarded in annual student scholarships thanks to our alumni supporters.

- Emerging Leaders Scholarship (2 years)
- Equity Scholarship
- Photo Essay Scholarship
- Pay Equity Scholarship
- Empowering Stories Scholarship
- Future of Work and Leadership Scholarship
- Loaiza/Souza Leadership Award (designated for student cohort participants)

TOMLANOVICH RESEARCH EQUITY FUND

The Tomlanovich Equity Research Fund provides two faculty and undergraduate student research teams $5,000 for the faculty member and $5,000 for the student for the academic year to support a research project that builds upon the vision of the Women’s Leadership Institute to advance leadership equity for women globally.

The funded proposal may be awarded for a research project that focuses on topics, including but not limited to, gender equity and intersectionality with race, ethnicity, social class, and/or other social identity points.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about these scholarship recipients and opportunities, visit our website:

socialscience.msu.edu/wli

“I really love that there are women from all walks of life. I love the diversity and winning the Emerging Leaders Scholarship really showed me that there is a group of Spartan women that really care about my passions even though they did something completely different.”

Jessica Altenberger
2019 MSU graduate, WLI student participant
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Women’s Leadership Institute hosts a public free event every fall for our alumni and friend’s community, featuring topics relevant to the WLI vision: Advancing leadership equity for women globally. These program themes are designed to ignite women leaders and equip them with tools and resources to use in their daily lives. Previous programs include:

• Women on Leadership, Health, & Wellness
• Leadership, Equity, & Social Justice
• Women on Leadership & Financial Equity
• Empowering Stories: Women in Leadership, Business, and Finance
• The Future of Work and Leadership

WLI STUDENT COHORT: RESILIENT LEADERS

Do you know a Spartan student who would enjoy participating in meaningful conversations with experienced and successful women leaders from diverse backgrounds? Encourage them to apply to the Women’s Leadership Student Cohort! Accepted students will also be able to build personal portfolios and resumes, with real time feedback from experienced professionals. The group will have several networking and mentoring opportunities, along with exclusive scholarship opportunities.

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This cohort fosters connections between a diverse set of female leaders. Whether you’re looking for mentorship, networking, empowerment, new friends, or all of the above, this is the place where you’ll find it.

Megan Smejkal
WLI student cohort member
Those interested in getting involved with the program are encouraged to learn more by visiting socialscience.msu.edu/wli or contact:

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