



WOMEN AND GIRLS  
FOUNDATION

WILL WORK FOR EQUALITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Minority Women Professionals Conference Tour Continues to the “Steel City”

**Pittsburgh, PA (August 30, 2017)** - Continuing with champion spirit, the 5th in the national [Minority Women Professionals \(MWP\) are MVPs conference](#) tour will take place on October 7, 2017 at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine in Pittsburgh, PA. This conference will feature a series of guest speakers, workshops, networking and mentorship opportunities aimed to inspire and empower Minority Women Professionals (MWPs) from diverse backgrounds and professions, while also equipping them with essential tools and skills to “survive and thrive” in their professions.

The event, which will be the 5th of a multi-city national conference series targeting [Minority Women Professionals \(MWPs\)](#), will feature a number of prominent women leaders and speakers, including the Conference Keynote and glass ceiling breaker, Marita Garrett, Wilksburg City Councilwoman and candidate for Mayor of Wilksburg, University of Pittsburgh professionals, Greater Pittsburgh movers and shakers, members and friends of the Women and Girls Foundation, and other Pittsburgh notables who are excited to come together and build communities focused on career advancement and lifting each other up.

With knowledge of intersectional discrimination that exists, the conference creator, [Dr. J. Nwando Olayiwola](#), published the book *Minority Women Professionals (MWPs) are MVPs!* where she highlights the “Ten secret ingredients in the secret sauce of MWPs”. Each ingredient offers professional insight on the actions necessary for thriving as an MWP and is the foundation of topics at the conferences.

“The time is now,” **said Dr. Olayiwola**. “Minority women professionals are so essential to communities across the nation, especially in Pittsburgh, a city full of promise and opportunity.”

Hosted by Dr. Olayiwola through her company, Inspire Health Solutions, LLC, and in partnership with the Women and Girls Foundation, African-American Leadership Association and the University of Pittsburgh Office of Health Sciences Diversity, the Pittsburgh conference, expected to host over 100 women, will not only discuss strategies and tools for succeeding in the workplace but also celebrate the achievements of career-oriented women of diverse backgrounds, including women of color, of non-dominant faiths, with disabilities, of diverse sexual orientations and ages, and of various national origins. Additional speakers and workshop leaders include Co-host Amirah Hunt, Co-host Paula K. Davis MA, Councilman Daniel Lavelle, Kyshira M. Moffett, MBA, Samantha Hartzman, Sandra A. Murray PhD, Ora Anna Weisz, PhD, Darcel Madkins, Ashli Molinero, DSc, Rachel Kallem-Whitman, EdD, Jesabel Rivera-Guerra, MPH, CHES, Jamie DeMarco, DPT, Kenya Matthews, Nicole Webster, Esa Matius Davis,

MD, MPH, FAAFP. The conference will also feature local women entrepreneurs and innovators and special performances.

“This is an important time to unify and elevate women of diverse backgrounds in Pittsburgh, harnessing our strengths and commonalities,” said **Heather Arnet, Chief Executive Officer of the Women and Girls Foundation**. “This conference is an opportunity to build off of our previous successes with the Crossroads conferences, at a time when our nation is truly at a crossroads.”

For registration information and to learn more about the MWPs conference series, please visit the [Inspire Health Solutions website](#).

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**About the Women and Girls Foundation:**

The Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) is a non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The mission of WGF is to achieve equality for women and girls, now and for generations to come. In pursuit of this mission, WGF breaks down barriers so that every girl can rise and every woman can soar. Our vision is for women and girls in Pennsylvania to have equal access, opportunity, and influence in all aspects of their public and private lives. Since 2002, WGF has successfully advocated for noteworthy policies including equal pay for equal work; the banning of inmate shackling during childbirth; increased access to paid sick days and paid family leave; protections for victims of stalking, sexual harassment and assault; expanded opportunities for female athletes; and increased representation for women in the boardroom. For more information about WGF, visit [www.wgfpa.org](http://www.wgfpa.org).

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