11th Women's Conference brings together high-achieving female community, education leaders

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Women from around the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the parish discussed the importance of empowering other women at the 11th annual Women's Leadership Conference.

Under the theme “Nevertheless, She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,” the conference featured Katrice Albert, Ph.D., executive vice president of inclusion and human resources for the NCAA, as keynote speaker. The conference also offered breakout sessions and the Sarah Brabant Trailblazer award.

“I hope that women find today to be a very empowering day, a day that challenges them to think beyond their comfort zone, to strive for greater equity in work places, to network with women, and to really build community,” Taniceea Mallery, Ph.D., director of equity, diversity and community engagement, said.

Mallery works in the Office for Campus Diversity, from which she also assisted as chair of the planning committee for this year’s conference. Mallery has planned previous Women’s Leadership Conferences; this year’s conference marked the program’s return to campus.

“It’s come a long way in those three years,” Mallery said about the development since she joined the planning effort.

She added that, in her first year as chair of the planning committee, there were only two guest speakers while she learned the ropes.

This year, Mallery said, the planning committee wanted a more inclusive approach and invited people to attend with open calls for “a more broader network.” With roughly 150 at previous conferences, over 250 people attended this year’s.

Mallery said Albert is prominent

The 11th annual Women’s Leadership Conference by The Office of Campus Diversity was held Thursday in the Student Union in celebration of National Women’s History Month. New Roads native Katrice Albert, Ph.D., the Executive Vice President for Inclusion and Human Resources at the National Collegiate Athletic Association was the keynote speaker at the event.