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Women in Leadership Panel Discussion

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Women in Leadership Panel Discussion

A Women in Leadership Week event that was also part of the 150th Birthday Celebration for the University of Maine. Highlights from the discussion based on “Centered Leadership” by Joanna Barsh with panelists Emily Cain, Elizabeth Sutherland and Meredith Jones. The panel was moderated by Carol Kim, UMaine vice president for research and dean of the graduate school.

March 24, 2015

Run Time : 00:03:35

<https://youtu.be/QrGWEP3FTt4>

Transcript is machine generated, unedited, in English.

TRANSCRIPT:

00:06

it's very interesting that just last

00:08

week March 16th The Chronicle of Higher

00:11

Education reported that one in four

00:14

college presidents is a woman now that's

00:17

not a very high number it's an

00:19

improvement over the 1986 number which

00:23

was one in ten but but the one in four

00:25

number hadn't changed for ten years

00:27

progress apparently is very slow the

00:31

challenges

00:31

apparently remain their cultural some of

00:35

them are self-imposed some of them we

00:38

were talking earlier I was talking to

00:39

Meredith earlier something so simple as

00:41

some women decide to go into

00:43

administration too late too late in

00:46

their careers because to be honest if

00:48

you're going to be a college president

00:49

you're probably not going to go from a

00:51

faculty job to college president in one

00:53

step

00:54

it'd be that be sort of superhuman so

00:57

there's got to be enough time to work

00:59

through a number of other positions but

01:02

we need to talk about women in

01:04

leadership both are current female

01:06

leaders and leaders to come all of you

01:09

are probably leaders in your own right

01:11

in some aspect of your work so never

01:15

forget that number one and for women

01:18

especially risk-taking is so so so

01:22

important as dr. hunter said you you

01:25

rarely go from being a faculty member to

01:27

a college president but if you don't

01:29

take risks and put yourself out there

01:32

and do that public speaking even when

01:34

you're not really confident about doing

01:36

it once you do it the first time it

01:39

comes a lot easier the second time so

01:41

keep doing it I think you have to

01:42

envision where you want to go that

01:44

actually doesn't mean that's where

01:45

you'll end up and I think that's the

01:47

difference between people who are

01:48

focused on the steps to a plan versus on

01:51

having an outcome that is the right one

01:54

and a positive one and to me the the

01:57

optimist in me says you know we've we've

01:59

we've got to build on this good thing or

02:02

make this thing that's challenging

02:03

better and we can do that but along the

02:07

way we can't be so focused on steps ABCD

02:10

in order we

02:10

be willing to say you know what this

02:12

isn't working that's let's it's taking

02:14

us off our path let's get back and I

02:15

think from a woman's leadership

02:17

perspective we in my experience women

02:21

leaders are able to understand and do

02:24

the linear side of leadership but are

02:26

able to also pull together and frame up

02:28

the nonlinear side that the side that

02:31

says this is what it should feel like at

02:33

the end

02:34

I have sought out counsel from someone

02:37

who I felt would be an expert in what I

02:40

wanted to either learn know or do every

02:44

step of the way sometimes that was a

02:46

boss sometimes that was a peer sometimes

02:48

that was somebody in the community often

02:52

it was my mother

02:54

but regardless I would sort of pluck

02:57

knowledge by asking some very specific

02:58

questions or saying you know I need help

03:01

and what I found most surprising as I

03:05

was going through that process is that

03:07

without question they always were

03:10

willing to help

03:10

I mean sometimes they would start by

03:12

saying I don't have a whole lot of time

03:14

but if we define it I'd be happy to help

03:16

and through that process what I've

03:18

learned is that the best way to engage

03:22

it with a mentor is to is to ask and to

03:26

and consequently if someone asked me of

03:29

something I try to return the favor

The University of Maine in Orono is the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, where efforts toward racial equity are ongoing, as is the commitment to facing a complicated and not always just institutional history. The University recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot nation, where issues of water and its territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.