

# LEADERSHIP & MENTORING

# Community Banquet

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6 DECEMBER 2024

## Program

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| 11:15am | <b>Welcome Remarks</b><br>Sang Eun Woo, <i>Butler Center Director</i><br>Lisa Mauer, <i>Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs</i>  |
| 11:30am | <b>Lunch and Table Conversations</b>  |
| 12:00pm | <b>Musical Performance</b> by Kelsey Patton,<br><i>Butler Center Communication Specialist</i><br><br>“Count on Me” by Bruno Mars        |
| 12:10pm | <b>Leadership in Action Award Presentations</b><br>Sunil Prabhakar, <i>Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs</i>                             |
| 12:45pm | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>Kelly Hiller, <i>Vice President of Marketing</i><br>Karen Plaut, <i>Executive Vice President for Research</i> |

# Awardees



**DR. VALERIE KNOPIK** is the Ben and Maxine Miller Professor and Department Head of Human Development and Family Science in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Dr. Knopik's primary research program focuses on the joint effects of genetic, epigenetic, and environmental (specifically prenatal and early postnatal) risk factors on birth outcomes, externalizing behavior (e.g., ADHD), associated learning and cognitive deficits, and subsequent substance use. She also collaborates with local, national, and international scientists on projects including, but not limited to: cannabis-related outcomes, sleep, adolescent alcohol use disorder, family interventions for adolescent substance use, depression-related outcomes, epigenetics, and child maltreatment.

**DR. JENNIFER SIMPSON** is a Clinical Professor and currently serves as the Interim Head of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS). She recently completed a four-year term as Provost Fellow for Clinical/Professional faculty and a five-year term as Associate Head in SLHS. Outside of Purdue, she has held impactful leadership positions including President of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, an organization of over 340 member programs across the nation and was selected to serve as the 2023 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention Co-Chair in Audiology which hosted 15,000 attendees in Boston last year.



**DR. KRIS ACHESON-CLAIR** earned an interdisciplinary PhD in Intercultural Communication at Arizona State University in 2008. She is former faculty at Georgia State University and Fulbright Scholar to Honduras. At Purdue University, she directs CILMAR, the Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentorship, Assessment and Research, where she leads a team in supporting intercultural development for the entire campus community (and beyond) by training mentors, creating scalable learning resources, and driving innovative research. Much of Dr. Acheson's published research focuses on the development of and assessment of intercultural competence, especially with emerging learning technologies such as virtual reality and AI. One of her current projects is a culturally-responsive mentorship training program in partnership with Chicago State University, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan foundation.



**PRUDENCE MBAH** is a Ph.D./MPH candidate in public health communication who is passionate about promoting health behaviors and community engagement. She has over 10 years of experience in health program interventions and specializes in using communication strategies to address infectious diseases, peacebuilding, and health policy. Her research focuses on understanding health behaviors during disease outbreaks and developing culturally appropriate health campaigns. She has proven experience as a reviewer for prestigious organizations like the National Communication Association and the American Public Health Association and skilled in fostering inclusive environments and providing support to graduate students. Enthusiastic about mentorship and mental health advocacy, particularly within marginalized communities.

