

University of New Haven

CHARGER **LEADERSHIP** **CONFERENCE**



No Blueprint, No Limits:
Leading Through Change

with Keynote Speaker and Presenter
Tai Richardson and University Students,
Faculty & Staff

AUGUST 13, 2025

Bucknall Theatre | 12 p.m.

Session Descriptions

Conflict to Collaboration

Presented by Dora Crespo '26

VP of Community Advocacy & Diversity, USGA

Leadership isn't just about having a vision; it's about uniting people when perspectives clash. This session provides student leaders with practical tools to resolve conflict and negotiate solutions aligned with shared goals. Participants will explore common causes of conflict, discover their personal conflict resolution styles, and practice collaborative negotiation techniques. By the end, students will gain a new perspective on challenges and the confidence to lead through disagreement.

Cultural Compass

Presented by Dorothy Classen

International Student Life Advisor, OGISL

This session draws on the presenters' 12+ years of experience working with international students and a lifelong passion for global connection. Beginning with an interactive activity, participants will explore communication competencies and styles, examine cultural differences that shape communication strategies, and discuss varying attitudes toward conflict. The conversation will also cover practical tips for navigating these differences and review common phrases from multiple cultures—inviting attendees to share their own examples. With insights shaped by travel to 16 countries and a deep commitment to intercultural understanding

Green Zone

Presented by Ryan Noonan '20, Manager of Military & Veteran Affairs

Led by Marine Corps veteran, this entry-level session introduces students to the student veteran experience. Participants will explore key military terms, veteran identity, and common challenges faced during the transition from military to civilian life. The session also highlights campus resources through the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs (OMVA) and provides strategies to become approachable allies. Attendees will be encouraged to continue their learning through Operational and Strategic Ally programs. Completion includes a certificate and an email signature badge.

Kindness is Contagious

Presented by Dr. Jan Jones

Program Coordinator & Senior Lecturer, Hospitality & Tourism

Led by Dr. Jones, a nationally recognized travel and hospitality expert and University of New Haven lecturer, this session shows student leaders how the core principles of hospitality, making others feel seen, heard, and valued, can transform leadership. Learn to lead with empathy, foster inclusive spaces, and build trust through everyday acts of kindness. Whether organizing events, mentoring peers, or leading teams, participants will gain practical tools to inspire and connect authentically. Kindness isn't weakness, it's your greatest strength.

Lead with Impact

Presented by Tai D. Richardson

Keynote Speaker

In this hands-on and interactive workshop, student leaders will dive deeper into the core of effective leadership and communication. Participants will explore the qualities and characteristics of impactful leaders, and the common pitfalls and undesirable traits that hinder leadership effectiveness. Participants will also receive an overview of leadership styles, and experience a brief public speaking skills segment

Leveraging Prior Knowledge

Presented by Jeff Hunt

Academic Operations Officer, Center for Learning Resources

In conversations with colleagues, peers, and friends, we often respond quickly to questions without pausing to assess prior knowledge. Would it be more beneficial to take a moment to evaluate what's already understood, collaboratively brainstorm, or identify patterns in misunderstandings? This presentation explores strategies for effectively building on previous learning—even when that learning may be flawed—to foster deeper understanding and growth.

Money Moves

Presented by Catherin Malan, M.S.

Student Accounts Counselor & Financial Literacy Coordinator

In a world with no set blueprint, financial wellness is your anchor. This session empowers student leaders to embrace uncertainty and lead with confidence by mastering personal finance skills. Through interactive exercises and real-world scenarios, students will learn how to build adaptable financial habits, make values-driven money decisions, and plan for success—no matter how unclear the road ahead.

Pitch Perfect: Networking and Career Coaching

Presented by CLeX Conference Staff and Career Development

Learn the importance of networking both online and in-person, then practice crafting and delivering your elevator pitch in a supportive setting. Engage in interactive networking activities, get feedback on your pitch, and reflect on strategies to build lasting professional connections. Participants can also sign up for quick, personalized career consultations with CDC staff.

Stories that Shift the World: Using Narrative to Lead with Purpose

Presented by Janiya Burton '28

FIRST Mentor

This is an interactive workshop exploring storytelling as a tool for social change. Inspired by *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas, participants will examine how personal narratives challenge injustice, build empathy, and inspire action. Students will reflect on their leadership journey and craft an “origin story” to share in a supportive space. By the end, they'll gain a deeper understanding of how their voice and experiences can shape the world.

True Colors

Presented by Ally Kocivar

Associate Director for Engagement, CSELO

Explore your unique communication preferences, values, and strengths through the interactive True Colors activity. Using four colors—blue, green, gold, and orange—you'll identify your dominant style and learn strategies to connect, collaborate, and lead effectively across all personality types.

Wellness in the Aftermath

Presented by Arthur Nieves

Lecturer, Criminal Justice

Led by a retired FBI Special Agent and certified Crisis Negotiator, this session covers the impact of PTSD, coping strategies, active listening, suicide intervention, and alternative therapy options. Drawing on experiences from events like the Boston Marathon bombing and Sandy Hook, participants will gain practical tools to support mental wellness and resilience after critical incidents.



2025 Charger Leadership Conference

No Blueprint, No Limits: Leading Through Change

SCHEDULE

11:45AM - 12:15PM

Student Check-In

Bucknall Lobby

12:15PM - 12:50PM

Welcome & Keynote

The Power of Your Purpose: Navigating the Road to Success Through T.I.M.E.

(Bucknall Theatre)

Tai Richardson, Richardson Training & Consulting, LLC

1:00PM - 1:50PM

Rotating Session 1

Conflict to Collaboration (BCST 201) Dora Crespo

Wellness in the Aftermath (BCST 203) Arthur Nieves

Cultural Compass (BCST 302) Dorothy Classen

Green Zone (Buckman 120) Ryan Noonan

Stories that Shift (BCST 202) Janiya Burton

Lead with Impact (BCST 301) Tai Richardson

Money Moves (Buckman 219) Catherine Malan

Networking (BCST Atrium) Conference Staff

2:00PM - 2:50PM

Rotating Session 2

Kindness is Contagious (BCST 201) Jan Jones

Wellness in the Aftermath (BCST 203) Arthur Nieves

Leverage Prior Knowledge (BCST 302) Jeff Hunt

Green Zone (Buckman 120) Ryan Noonan

Stories that Shift (BCST 202) Janiya Burton

Lead with Impact (BCST 301) Tai Richardson

Money Moves (Buckman 219) Catherine Malan

Networking (BCST Atrium) Conference Staff

3:00PM - 3:50PM

Rotating Session 3

Conflict to Collaboration (BCST 201) Dora Crespo
Wellness in the Aftermath (BCST 203) Arthur Nieves
Cultural Compass (BCST 302) Dorothy Classen
Green Zone (Buckman 120) Ryan Noonan

Stories that Shift (BCST 202) Janiya Burton
True Colors (BCST 301) Ally Kocivar
Money Moves (Buckman 219) Catherine Malan
Networking (BCST Atrium) Conference Staff

4:00PM - 4:50PM

Rotating Session 4

Conflict to Collaboration (BCST 201) Dora Crespo
Wellness in the Aftermath (BCST 203) Arthur Nieves
Leverage Prior Knowledge (BCST 302) Jeff Hunt
Green Zone (Buckman 120) Ryan Noonan

Stories that Shift (BCST 202) Janiya Burton
True Colors (BCST 301) Ally Kocivar
Money Moves (Buckman 219) Catherine Malan
Networking (BCST Atrium) Conference Staff

5:00PM - 7:00PM

Dinner

Hoffman Street (Dean Rowe-Allen’s House)
32 Hoffman Road, West Haven, CT

About Our Theme:

No Blueprint, No Limits: Leading Through Change.

Embrace the unknown and lead with creativity, adaptability, and purpose. Change is constant and pathways aren't always clear, great leadership is about staying grounded in values, being open to new possibilities, and guiding others with confidence and care.

About Our Keynote:

This year’s keynote will be delivered by **Tai Richardson**—New Haven native, leadership consultant, and founder of Richardson Training and Consulting LLC. With over 25 years of experience in social justice, mental health, and college and career development, Tai brings an authentic and engaging approach to student leadership.



Want to tell us about your experience?

Scan the QR code to tell us about it!

For More Information Contact: CLEX@newhaven.edu