Welcome!

Who we are:

The Cornell University Women of Color Colleague Network Group (WCCNG) is a university-sponsored employee resource group. The Cornell University WCCNG creates engaging opportunities for professional and leadership development with a particular focus on empowering women of color in the workforce.

What we do:

The mission of the Cornell University Women of Color Colleague Network Group is to raise the awareness of workplace issues faced by women of color; provide networking opportunities and a forum to discuss topics of mutual interest and innovative solutions with senior leaders; and to support the university’s recruitment and retention of women faculty and staff of color.

Our group meets monthly for lunch and socializing. Our meetings usually feature a presentation or facilitated discussion. We also network with external groups and organize events, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities to support our community.

Sign Up for the Women of Color CNG
Monthly Meetups

We generally get together for lunch meetings once a month. Join our mailing list using the red signup button above to learn what's coming up next!

Meet Our Board

Jada Hamilton, M.D.: Chair (she/her)

Greetings! I am a native of Buffalo, NY (Go Bills!) and have been at Cornell University for over 7 years, following a 20 year career in the United States Navy.

I work at Cornell Health providing primary, acute and preventive medical care, in addition to serving as team physician for multiple NCAA teams.

As a Family Physician, dedicated to providing person-centered care, I am committed to understanding and dismantling the social, structural, institutional and environmental factors which serve as barriers, negatively impact the health and wellness of our community.

The Women of Color Colleague Network Group has provided me an unparalleled opportunity for growth, fellowship, engagement, support and empowerment.

Christina Liang: Vice-Chair (she/her)

My name is Christina Liang (pronouns: she/her/hers) and I currently serve as Interim Judicial Administrator at Cornell. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, by my parents, who are Chinese immigrants. I currently live in Ithaca, NY with my husband (an English as a New Language teacher at Ithaca High School) and our two cats. I joined the Women of Color Colleague Networking Group within the first few weeks of working at Cornell, which is now over five years ago. The professional and personal connections I have since made through this group have helped build a sense of community for me and have been invaluable for my professional and personal development. I feel privileged and honor to serve as the current Vice Chair for this encouraging and empowering group as we continue our efforts to build an even stronger community for WOC at Cornell.
Amanda Williams: Member-at-Large

Hello! My name is Amanda Williams and I am a Financial Aid Counselor here at Cornell. I started my career at Cornell as an Admissions Counselor with the SC Johnson College of Business but have recently moved to the Office of Financial Aid to aid current Cornell students through their financial journeys in college. I am also a Masters student in the Department of Anthropology through the Employee Degree Program. I have been the historian of this amazing group for the past three years, taking pictures, notes, and anything that helps maintain a record of the work and community that we have built. The Women of Color Colleague Network Group has been an invaluable resource for everything from professional development, personal development, and resource finding. This group gives me the space to be my full authentic self at work while also providing that support and confidence to be myself no matter where I am.

Steph-Cowling Rich (she/her): Member-at-Large

My name is Steph Cowling-Rich (she/hers) and I work as an Assistant Director of Student Advising and Engagement in the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives (OADI). In my work, I support and advise a cohort of students in OADI through EOP/HEOP, advise our student leadership group and help to shape the experience of all students that enter the office. I also focus on co-creating a community of advisors who work together to support students and develop best practices across Cornell. The Women of Color Colleague Network Group has been a space for uplift, encouragement, and community for me. I continue my involvement in this group for the opportunities of learning, celebration and connection with other WOC colleagues.

Cynthia Hart Schnedeker: Member-at-Large

I work as a Nurse Practitioner at Cornell Health since January 2010. I graduated in 1981 from Human Ecology majoring in Human Development. I’m a lifelong Ithacan, having been born and raised in Ithaca and with my husband raised three children.

The WCCNG has given me the opportunity to meet and connect with the WOC community on campus. I look forward to the monthly meetings to share concerns and engage in dialogue on topics of shared interest.
Jennifer Majka: Member-at-Large

I've had the pleasure of working in various positions at Cornell since 2007 and currently serve as the founding Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and the SC Johnson College of Business. I've been a member of the WCCNG since its inception and I also served as the first Chair. The WCCNG gives me a sense of community and an opportunity to connect with women who may share similar interests and a common bond where we can offer support to one another. It's also a learning environment where we have the opportunity to learn from our individual narratives about our similarities and differences. While we all may identify as women of color, our lived experiences, cultural backgrounds, and belief systems may be different from one another. Learning about these differences help us grow and become more knowledgeable about one another, and ultimately it helps form more meaningful relationships across difference.

Resources

Business Leaders of Colors: https://www.businessleadersofcolors.com/

- Business Leaders of Colors is a network of business owners, entrepreneurs, consultants, and social justice leaders focused on helping people of color in Tompkins County succeed in business. On their website you can find business resources as well as a compiled list of local Black-owned business.

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services: https://www.ithacanhs.org/

- Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) is dedicated to expanding housing opportunities for low and moderate-income residents of Tompkins County and the surrounding region. It seeks to foster communities that embrace diversity, equity, and sustainability in ways that produce lasting outcomes. They offer homebuyers classes, inspection classes, and resources on buying homes in Tompkins County.

Greater Ithaca Activities Center: https://www.cityofithaca.org/327/Greater-Ithaca-Activities-Center

Southside Community Center: https://sspride.org/

- Since its incorporation in 1934, the Southside Community Center, Inc., continues to affirm, empower, and foster the development of self-pride among the African-American citizens of greater Ithaca. Through forums and activities in education, recreation, political and social awareness, the Southside Community Center is a community resource center. We serve as a vehicle to develop an appreciation for the contributions and presence of those peoples of African descent in the greater Ithaca community and in the larger world community.

Multicultural Resource Center: http://www.multiculturalresourcecenter.org/

Learning Web: https://www.learning-web.org/
• Provides local youth with community-based, mentor-apprentice/hands-on learning experiences and programs.

Catholic Charities: https://www.catholiccharitiesstt.org/
• Provides a variety of support resources and programs for those in need, especially for immigrants and immigrant families.

Hair Salon Recommendations
Compiled 10/13/21 by Adrienne Clay (abc252) with collaboration from Women of Color CNG members

ITHACA
• Amber Boyd, the owner of Ivy beauty lounge theivybeautylounge.com
• Verity at V’s salon https://www.facebook.com/verityrosehair/ 607-342-6059
• Hanunah’s Salon https://www.instagram.com/hanunahs_salon/
• Carolina at H&M Beauty Salon & Barber Shop 105 S. Cayuga St., Ithaca, NY - (607) 280-2062

ELMIRA
• CP Naturals and More

BINGHAMTON
• Joanna Rousseau at Hair by Joanna & Steel and Tress, (917) 960-5336 https://square.site/book/GYK2W9DN1567C/joanna-rousseau-binghamton-ny
• Shuna at Shuna's Hair Studio (607) 237-0206 https://www.instagram.com/shunahairstudio/

SYRACUSE
• Ma'Dears Total Image 1905 South Ave Syracuse NY 13207 315-421-1130
• Right On State Hair Salon 1211 N State St, Syracuse, NY - (607) 216-5445 https://www.facebook.com/Right-Hair-on-State-411997205510
• GeekinBeauty https://www.instagram.com/geekinbeautyny/

ROCHESTER
• Toni Coleman (@tcoleman9587 on Instagram) https://www.sorellasandcosalon.com/toni

FAQs

Who can join?
This group is intended to support Cornell employees who identify as a Woman of Color and/or support the mission of the Women of Color Colleague Network Group.

Are there membership dues?
Membership is free and supported by Cornell University.

Do I have to go to meetings, or any other membership requirements?
We hope you'll join us at our in-person meetings and events, but there are no attendance or membership requirements.

**Can I only join one CNG at a time?**

You're welcome to join multiple CNGs.

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