

# SLDC

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND  
DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

# BE WHAT'S NEXT

Feb. 2, 2019

**Student Life**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA





UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Dear SLDC attendees:

Welcome to the 33rd annual Student Leadership and Diversity Conference at the University of South Carolina! The Leadership and Service Center and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs are thrilled to provide an outstanding learning experience that spans topics of both leadership and diversity.

The staff and student members of the planning committee worked diligently with your experience in mind to plan an educational, informative, and fun day of educational sessions and events. In choosing this year's theme "Be What's Next," the committee sought to highlight how we can take messages from our favorite shows and put those lessons into action for enhanced leadership and a more socially just world.

We challenge you to be an active participant so you can discover and further develop your skills and knowledge. Step outside your comfort zone, ask questions, network and engage in order to maximize your experience.

Throughout the day our keynote speaker and educational session facilitators will share insights and best practices on topics such as:

- Developing a leadership identity
- Exploring social justice and inclusion
- Creating initiatives and methods to foster sustainable positive change
- Maximizing your student leadership experience

Leadership is an ongoing process, and SLDC 2019 will prepare you to stop being a viewer and to "Be What's Next."

We wish you a wonderful day of learning, and we thank you for participating in the Student Leadership and Diversity Conference.

Sincerely,

SLDC Planning Committee

# Conference Schedule

February 2, 2019

## Check-In

*Russell House University Union Lobby (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

**8:30 - 9:25 a.m.**

## Continental Breakfast

*Russell House University Union Ballroom*

**8:30 - 9:25 a.m.**

## Opening Session and Keynote

*Russell House University Union Ballroom*

**9:30 - 10:40 a.m.**

## Educational Sessions I

**10:50 - 11:45 a.m.**

## Educational Sessions II

**11:55 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.**

## Lunch & Interactive Sessions Part 1

**12:55 - 1:40 p.m.**

## Lunch & Interactive Sessions Part 2

**1:50 - 2:35 p.m.**

## Educational Sessions III

**2:45 - 3:35 p.m.**

## Closing Session

*Russell House University Union Ballroom*

**3:35 - 4 p.m.**

# Keynote Speaker



**Rania Jamison**

**Rania Jamison** is a dynamic entrepreneur, motivating public relations consultant and powerful change agent. A creative and energetic leader with the ability to communicate vision and inspire action, Rania has gained awards working in the education, government, health, non-profit and political sectors. Her work continues to have a lasting positive impact on transforming communities.

With almost two decades of experience as a skillful organizer of high-profile campaigns, programs and events, Rania has a reputation for getting things done. From engaging and advising elected officials to organizing grassroots leaders, Rania is often behind the scene working to transform the status quo. As president of her own public relations firm, Purpose Promotions, Rania's current clients include the Obama Foundation, Dominion Energy, SC Democratic Party and Columbia, SC Mayor Steve Benjamin.

Her previous work includes serving as a Public Involvement Manager for the Richland Penny Transportation Program and as the voice of the South Carolina Census Campaign gaining the state national accolades for record participation improvement and an additional seat in the U.S. Congress. Rania's work as a key strategist on local and statewide campaigns including the Vote For Our Libraries Campaign; which has revolutionized the libraries across Richland County; leading a communications effort advocating for Riverbanks Zoo, South Carolina's top tourist destination, to adopt a smoke-free policy, which remains in effect today; and, having a direct impact on the college and career plans of over 20,000 high school and college students throughout the Southeast as a top-ranked speaker for Monster.com.

Rania strives to live out the meaning of her name (God's Purpose in Swahili) by remaining active on several nonprofit boards, linking others to their passions and empowering leaders to strengthen their impact within their communities. Rania is a facilitator of the Missouri Community Action Network Poverty Simulation which promotes a greater understanding of poverty through a powerfully engaging live-action role-play for participants.

# Educational Sessions

## Session 1 10:50 – 11:45 a.m.

### **Friends don't lie: Lessons from Stranger Things**

Russell House Theater

**David Rosenbaum, Piedmont Technical College**  
**Cameron Bearden, GEL Laboratories**

This presentation will use Netflix's "Stranger Things" to examine themes in leadership, activism, diversity and teamwork. These and other topics will be presented and discussed in terms of how they relate to students in school and also post-grad, having entered the professional world. The co-presenters bring extensive experience from both academic and business backgrounds, giving the session a unique and powerful perspective.

### **Self-advocacy and mental health**

Room 203

**Marissa Russo, University of South Carolina**  
**Emilia DeMarco, University of South Carolina**

With mental health issues at the forefront of discussions on college campuses and nationwide, this presentation is aimed at equipping you with the tools you need to self-assess, self-evaluate, and self-advocate. Stop pressing pause on taking initiative and come learn the importance of pressing play on taking charge of working on your own self-care. We will utilize current TV shows to complete case studies in which your favorite characters are facing difficulties in seeking resources for themselves.

### **Insecure: Surviving the professional world as a person of color**

Room 205

**Dr. Shay Malone, University of South Carolina**  
**Shawna Edmond, University of South Carolina**  
**Nelda Bailey, University of South Carolina**

To be a black professional is often to be alone and comes with its own set of challenges. Beyond outright stereotyping to discrimination, which many still face, there are psychological costs to being one of just a few black faces in a predominantly white environment. From the lens of the HBO series "Insecure",

USC black professionals will discuss how to navigate different work environments including imposter syndrome, racial generalization (speaking for the group), managing emotions, and professional relationships within the office. They will also share advice and answer questions.

### **Culture-ish: The real-life sitcom**

Leadership and Service Center

**Aleksandra Ninova-Parris, Kennesaw State University**  
**Brandon Jackson, Kennesaw State University**

Who doesn't love a good sitcom? As much as "Black-ish," "Friends," "The Office," and others are entertaining, they all share a common theme. They are based on the mundane mishaps of misunderstanding. Using the models of cultural theorists Milton Bennett and Darla K. Deardorff, our presenters will help you discover a pathway to cross-cultural understanding. Grab your popcorn, because Culture-ish is on next!

### **Beyond the VOICE: Understanding your own advising and support skills (Advisor track)**

Witten Room (301)

**QuiAnne' Holmes, Clemson University**  
**Kim Carter, Clemson University**

Have you ever seen "The Voice?" Did you know students are often auditioning for our services, time or attention? It is important that as student affairs professionals, we continue to refocus our advising and supporting skills to the needs of the individual student. Join this discussion-based workshop as we use "The Voice" as an interactive tool to reflect on best practices and personalized advising and supporting skills.

### **This is (authentically) Us**

Room 302

**Courtney Sanford, Duke University**

Vulnerability is a word that makes people squirm. To be vulnerable is to be countercultural. Our culture teaches that we must be effortlessly perfect. The delusion of perfection creates leaders who are critical of others and unwilling to reflect on themselves. This creates a work environment where staff cannot offer constructive feedback, and where leaders cannot admit mistakes. The practice of vulnerability offers a path toward authenticity and trust in leadership. How can vulnerability help all to grow and flourish?

### **The best vs. the beast: The boss**

Room 303

**Rafiya Pope, Aramark**

In order to “Be What’s Next”, you must first master “Be-ing What’s Now”. This must be done to accurately assess where you are so you can determine if the momentum needs to accelerate or the trajectory needs to change based on where you are looking to land. My Success Model- Cart<sup>2</sup>Wheel of Success will help you better navigate your way to being the best version of you. It is my firm belief that this success model is a great tool because it brings tangibles to something that is inherently an abstract concept- one’s personality. Communication, Collaboration, Action, Accountability, Results, Respectful Recognition, Teaching and Timeliness are all measurable processes that can secure your place as The Best Boss or assist you in your endeavor to be great wherever you may land.

### **Inclusion equation**

Room 304

**Franklin Ellis Jr., Coastal Carolina University**

This presentation will explore an operational framework to creating a culture of inclusion on university campuses as well as within clubs and organizations. The inclusion equation uses concepts of diversity and inclusion to demonstrate how Yosso’s cultural wealth model can be used to empower persons of systemically non-dominant identities as well as be catalysts for change. You don’t have to be good at math to learn how to implement this equation!

### **No one belongs here more than you: On women of color and imposter syndrome**

Room 305

**Maria Martinez, Wake Forest University**

Research shows that women of color consistently downplay their leadership potential, and deem successes as luck or situational effort (Clance, & Imes, 1978). In this interactive dialogue and workshop, we will learn what imposter syndrome is, its causes, and what we can do to challenge and overcome those feelings of “not being enough.”

### **A seat at the table: Empowering for positive impact**

ODK Room (315)

**Dr. Anna Edwards, University of South Carolina**

**Taylor Wright, University of South Carolina**

The Netflix series “Dear White People,” follows several black college students as they encounter issues around modern American race relations on campus and within communities. They take action, confront issues and use humor as a way to encourage difficult conversations that are needed among students today. Join Taylor and Anna as they explore the conversation about working together around all tables to make a difference for positive change and impact.

### **Emotional intelligence, “The Office,” and you**

Senate Chambers (322)

**Tabitha Epperson, University of South Carolina**

You may know your IQ score or a rough estimate, but do you know your EQi score (emotional intelligence)? Sometimes called “street smarts,” the skills measured in this assessment have important ramifications for your leadership style and how you live your life. Through examples from “The Office,” we will explore what makes up an EQi score, take a short assessment, and discuss how you can actually change your EQi score over time.

# Educational Sessions

## Session 2 11:55 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

### **Pro-black doesn't mean anti-white: Why all lives cannot matter right now**

Russell House Theater

**T-keyah Cunningham, Columbia College**

This is an interactive presentation that utilizes topics and clips from popular shows to promote conversation around the idea of "pro-black means anti-white." It will also promote understanding, encourage unity, and prompt pushes for communication and equity among all.

### **Not just a social issue**

Room 203

**Lacie Rhoden, University of South Carolina**

**Carly Zerr, University of South Carolina**

A social issue is not just a social issue ... it's people. Session participants will identify examples of dominant narrative, gain tools to cross-analyze intent vs. the impact of words and actions, learn how to use person-first language, and explore how identities and privileges are perceived in a service setting through dialogue and activities.

### **"You miss 100% of the experiences you don't articulate. - Wayne Gretzky" - Michael Scott - this presentation**

Room 205

**Billy Quinlan, University of South Carolina**

**Haven Spanyer, University of South Carolina**

Sometimes it is a challenge to explain what skills and abilities you have developed throughout your college experience. By attending this session, students will reflect on experiences to identify the transferable skills they acquired, receive tips on how to articulate them in a marketable fashion, and craft their own samples explaining the value of their experiences beyond the classroom. This process will give you the tools to use those skills to meet your organization's and your own goals.

### **Advisor campus trends discussion (Advisor track)**

Leadership and Service Center

**Dr. Anna Edwards, University of South Carolina**

**Dr. Ambra Hiott, University of South Carolina**

Join other advisors at this session to network and discuss campus trends and how to best advise student leaders through challenging times. Topics will include risk management, creativity and innovation, and critical questions to spur dialogue across differences. Session participants are encouraged to bring their own "lessons learned" to contribute to the conversation. This session will be facilitated by Anna Edwards, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Ambra Hiott, Director of the Leadership and Service Center.

### **Leaving "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood:" Navigating conflict on campus and in society**

Witten Room (301)

**Mike Dial, University of South Carolina**

**Lauren Epps, University of South Carolina**

To paraphrase, conflict happens! As leaders on campus and in the community we must all learn to effectively manage conflict. This session will utilize a series of interactive activities and discussion to help participants identify and explore the predominant ways in which they respond to conflict and learn healthy ways to engage in difficult conversations with peers, followers, faculty, significant others and family.



### **Solve the mystery and be what's next!**

Room 302

**Justin Rose, Winthrop University**

**Patricia Riley, Winthrop University**

Looking for a mystery? In this interactive breakout session, we will look back at some of our childhood heroes: "Scooby Doo and the Mystery Gang." They didn't have any superpowers, but what they did have was a desire to help others and be resilient in the face of obstacles, overcoming their fear. Join us in this session as we debunk the mystery and work to understand that ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

### **Discovering your leadership origin story**

Room 303

**Tyrome Philson, Clemson University**

Participants will have the opportunity to create their very own superhero origin story using Chickering's Student Development Theory. This exercise will challenge participants to examine ideas about who they are, who has helped guide their way, how they feel called to serve, what roadblocks are in their way, and how their leadership fits within a team.

### **Appreciation 101: A crash course in making your group dynamics work!**

Room 304

**Franklin Ellis Jr., Coastal Carolina University**

If communication is an issue in your group, club or organization then this is the presentation for you. You will learn about the five languages of appreciation and how to speak fluently to all of them to aid in improving communication in your group. You will also explore the four horsemen of miscommunication and how to avoid them to strengthen group cohesion.

### **Diverse-ish: Beyond the buzz words**

Room 305

**Lyric Swinton, University of South Carolina**

**Megan Colascione, University of South Carolina**

This session is a workshop geared toward defining diversity, inclusion, and equity and understanding the difference between the terms. We will examine the portrayal of women and minorities in the media and popular culture as well as unpack our own personal stereotypes and learn to live beyond them.

### **Stand up: Exploring humor and comedy's role in social justice**

ODK Room (315)

**Blake Weiss, University of South Carolina**

Comedy and humor are major components to the fabric of society. Like many aspects of society, comedy adapts to meet the needs of people. However, comedy also has a way of critiquing social issues before it is socially acceptable to do so. Because of this, it is worth examining the role comedy can play in advancing social justice. Attendees of this presentation will better understand the usefulness of comedy in bringing people together for change and a good laugh.

### **The Yes-And: How Sabrina teaches us to embrace our intersectionality**

Senate Chambers (322)

**Jacqueline Chiari, Presbyterian College**

**Zoe Montague, Presbyterian College**

We live in ~chilling~ times where we often feel pressured to choose one identity over others, especially when some of those identities seem to be at odds with one another. Come on an adventure with two intersectional ladies, hear their stories and learn how to create your own and embrace all the special powers that come with it. SPOILER ALERT: While we will do our best not to give away big surprises, some smaller plot points may inevitably be revealed.

# Lunch and Interactive Sessions

**Part 1** 12:55 - 1:40 p.m.  
**Part 2** 1:50 - 2:35 p.m.

Please look on your conference nametag for your group number. From 12:55 to 1:40 p.m., Group 1 will attend lunch in the Russell House University Union Ballroom, Group 2 will choose from the interactive sessions listed here. From 1:50 to 2:35 p.m., the groups will switch places and Group 1 will attend the interactive sessions, Group 2 will attend lunch in the Russell House University Union Ballroom.

## **The good place**

Russell House Theatre

**April Scott, University of South Carolina**

This session will help participants learn mindfulness and stress management strategies to help them lead a more fulfilling life and improve overall well-being.

## **Are you a leadership warrior ninja?**

Leadership and Service Center

**Patricia Riley, Winthrop University**

Are you a leadership ninja? Can you adapt to an unknown challenge? Are you cheering on and building up the next generation of leaders? Join this session as we work through the leadership obstacle course to find out what it means to be adaptable and truly encourage others. Come learn how to be a leadership ninja warrior and beat the wall.

## **The wall**

Room 302

**Laura Arriaza, University of Lynchburg**

**Laura Comino, University of Lynchburg**

**Jade Jefferson, University of Lynchburg**

“The Wall” is an interactive and educational experience that examines negative stereotypes about various groups of people. Participants will work in groups to identify the negative stereotypes associated with certain groups and then individually to dispel them. Participants will learn how to be advocates for themselves as well as those who are different by using their leadership positions to eradicate stereotyping and thus discrimination from their campuses and communities.

## **Jump! Working through fear to reach your full potential!**

Room 303

**Tadean Page, Winthrop University**

Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” We all have fears, but there is a key to conquering those fears. That key is jumping! This hands-on, interactive workshop will equip you with the tools and motivation needed to work through fears and challenges individually and within your organization(s) to reach success and truly become #fearless. Ready. Set. Jump!

## **Icebreakers 101**

Room 304

**Stephanie Suarez, University of South Carolina**

Don't understand why you should do an icebreaker? This session will teach participants a series of 5-10 minute icebreakers designed to give attendees a set of options to use with groups they are a part of to foster greater connections among.

## **Diversity bingo**

Room 305

**Amelia Wilks, University of South Carolina**

A great activity for any audience, Diversity Bingo will help participants understand how much (or how little) diversity they are working with in a given group. This session will outline how to create a bingo board and best practices for how to facilitate the activity in your community.

### **Circles of my multicultural self**

ODK Room (315)

**Office of Multicultural Student Affairs Peer Educators,  
University of South Carolina**

When teaching about diversity and inclusion, the first step is always to have participants examine their own identities. Enter Circles of My Multicultural Self, an internal and external approach to exploring identity. During this session, participants will learn the strategies for how to facilitate this activity and tie it to larger presentations and themes.

### **Brain boost**

Meet in the lobby by the Leadership and Service Center

**Justina Siuba, University of South Carolina**

Incorporating mindfulness into your day-to-day practices can leave you feeling recharged and ready to tackle the semester ahead. Come learn about mindfulness and how it can enhance your well-being through a walk around campus.

# Educational Sessions

## Session 3 2:45 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.

### **Survey says... Common pitfalls of student leaders and how to address them**

Russell House Theatre

**Lauren Olson, University of South Carolina**

**Lucy Caples, University of South Carolina**

Lauren & Lucy have both been and oversee student employees and student leaders. They have worked with students in a variety of capacities and at various points on their leadership journeys. Through their experiences, they have seen a multitude of student leaders succeed and struggle, and have asked their colleagues where our student leaders are falling short. Through discussion and example sharing, let them teach you how not to be “THAT leader.”

### **Getting in our own way: The degradation of student organizations**

Room 203

**Johnny Brownlee II, Author & Speaker:**

**One Man Many Talents**

Across the nation, our student organizations are struggling and student governments are struggling. Many seem to be on their last leg, past their prime, etc. Organizations don't have the activism and sacrifice of students from the 60's and 70's, drive of the 80's, urgency of the 90's or money and participation of organizations from the early 2000's. We seek to see if it's a generational issue, leadership issue or are other factors the problem. We examine six sinister problems that are costing student organizations funding, stability, sustainability, etc. We're often taught how to be good leaders, but never how to run good organizations, revive them or save them from peril.

### **Living and leading from the heart**

Room 205

**Megan Colascione, University of South Carolina**

**Caleb Morris, University of South Carolina**

Did you know there are 18 inches between your head and your heart? In a world that constantly tells you to “lead with your head, not your heart,” we are here to take a stand! Come join us as we navigate inch by inch the importance of heart-led leadership and the traits that produce extraordinary leadership and results.

### **Fostering healthy female relationships**

Leadership and Service Center

**Alyssa Rollins, University of South Carolina**

**Dayna Wolfe, University of South Carolina**

What does “empowered women empower women” actually mean, and how does it look in practice? Using movies such as “Bridesmaids” and “Mean Girls,” as well as examples from participants' own lives, we will explore the contrasting characteristics of healthy, positive relationships between women versus unhealthy ones. Participants will leave with tangible ways to foster balanced and supportive friendships and combat unhealthy tendencies.

### **“Dear White People:” Creating transformative change through dialogue at a predominantly white institution (Advisor track)**

Witten Room (301)

**Deborah Allen, Furman University**

**Emilee O'Brien, Furman University**

This session will highlight pedagogical and institutional framework of the Dins Dialogue model. A diverse group of students at Furman University have begun to facilitate a series of workshops on identity and privilege, implicit bias, microaggressions and triggers and community engagement. Reaching over one tenth of the student body, Dins Dialogues facilitators have created spaces for reflection, learning across differences, and exposure to social justice themes.

### **Black Panther through the lens of black and Latinx Greek life – our Wakanda**

Room 302

**Nashia Whittenburg, North Carolina State University**  
**Crystal Cruz, North Carolina State University**

Wakanda fought to maintain an identity and it's leaders protected that identity through seclusion. Wakandans realized they could keep the essence of who they were and share their advancements globally. How can we, as members of our organizations, actualize and live "Being What's Next" and share our talents with those around us? We can remain vigilant to self-care, advocacy and live as positive change agents.

### **Community uplift and escapism in contemporary society**

Room 303

**She-Nice Hicks, University of South Carolina**  
**Dr. Jabari Bodrick, University of South Carolina**

Students from low-income backgrounds are at a point in their lives where they have gained the resources to succeed. Most will transition away from their communities. Helping said communities take a step forward does not mean stepping back. Through analysis of the Netflix original "Roxanne Roxanne," we will open a conversation identifying institutional inequalities, the concept of escapism, the ethics of giving back, and each student's role in sustaining generational wealth, health and safety.

### **"The Office" - season 2, episode 21: Conflict Resolution**

Room 304

**Madison Stephens, University of South Carolina**

In an effort to de-stigmatize conflict, participants will understand the purpose of conflict, identify the intrinsic and external causes of conflict avoidance, and gain skills and confidence to facilitate difficult conversations within various contexts. Through facilitated dialogue, participants will analyze the conflicts that arise at Dunder Mifflin Paper Company and how they relate to emergent leadership in a diverse society.

### **Establishing your personal and professional brand through blogging**

Room 305

**Skylar Pritchard, University of South Carolina**

The blogging community has the world abuzz and it's time for you to join in the excitement! Through this session, you can take your college experiences and passions to the next level by establishing your own personal and professional brand through the creation of a blog. We will discuss various personal and professional niches in the blogging world, how you can add to them, and the methods for marketing your blog on your professional resume for future employment and engagement opportunities.

### **From "Scandal" to "Grey's Anatomy:" Be more than a genre**

ODK Room (315)

**Ross Lordo, USC School of Medicine - Greenville**

As a medical student who spent more time during undergrad in student government meetings than a research lab, finding a connection between everything was difficult. Understanding the importance of diverse leadership experiences can be challenging, but you might find you have gained more skills than you initially thought! Leave knowing how you are more than a genre and how your unique leadership journey can better prepare you for any graduate school or job interview.

### **Strength's based leadership: Leaning into your authentic self**

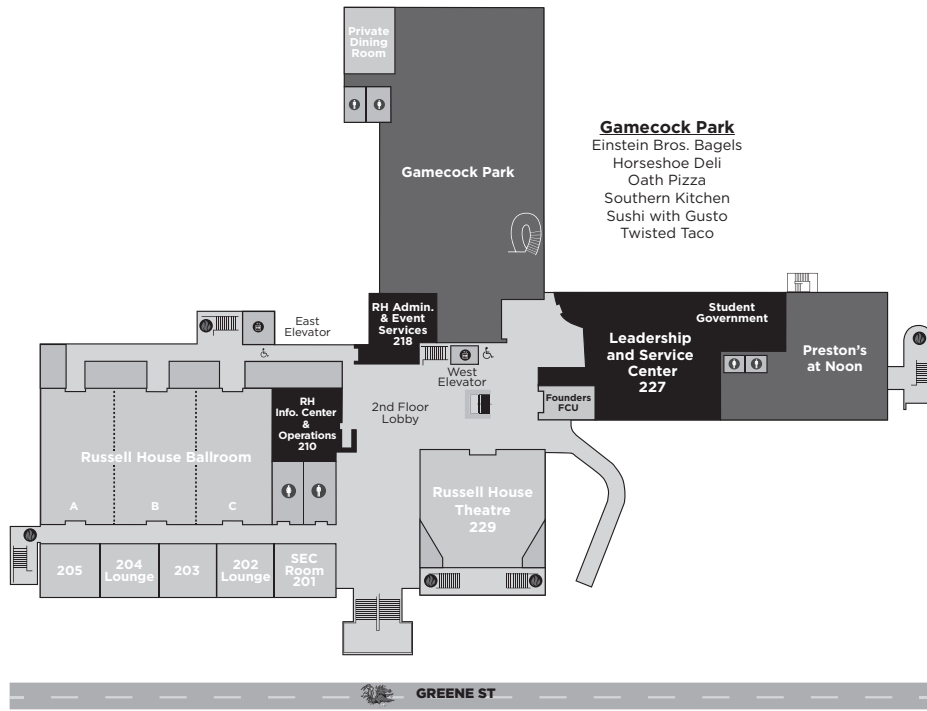
Senate Chambers (322)

**Sandy Greene, University of South Carolina**  
**Anna Fontaine, University of South Carolina**

Students often view leadership as a big, scary, unattainable thing. But every student has a unique set of strengths, skills, characteristics, and perspectives, that can help them to be successful and empowering leaders. This session will help participants identify their strengths and by doing so gain a better understanding of the immense impact they can have on others.

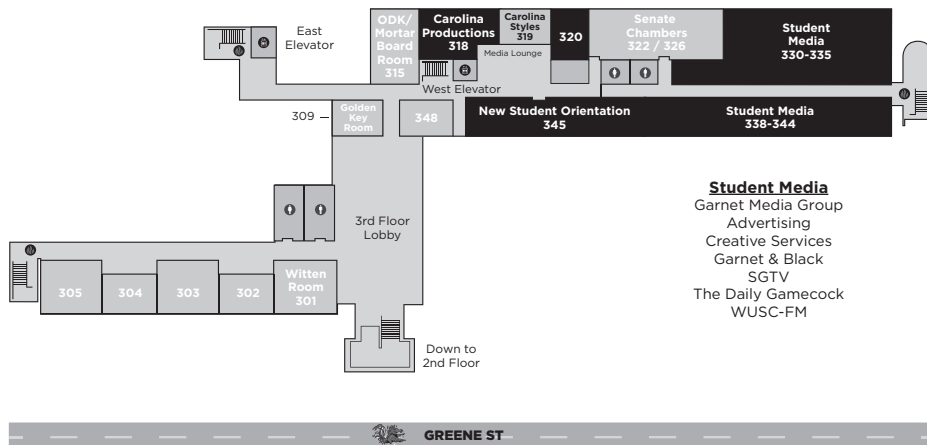
# Maps

## RUSSELL HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR



- Elevator
- Emergency Exit
- Vending
- ATM
- Administrative Offices
- Retail / Services
- Campus Dining
- Reservable Space
- Restrooms
- Handicap Accessible Route

## RUSSELL HOUSE - THIRD FLOOR



- Elevator
- Emergency Exit
- Vending
- ATM
- Administrative Offices
- Retail / Services
- Campus Dining
- Reservable Space
- Restrooms
- Handicap Accessible Route



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