

Educational Leaders Inspired by President Maimon's Keynote at NCCI Conference on Innovation

Prominent leaders and change agents from colleges and universities across the nation gathered in Nashville last week at the annual conference of The Network for Change and Continuous Innovation (NCCI). GSU President Elaine P. Maimon delivered the keynote address entitled, "Sustained Excellence + Innovation = Trans4mation," which focused on the challenges GSU faced and the strategic vision and initiatives that guided the transition to a full-service university.

Maury Cotter, Director of the Office of Quality Improvement at UW-Madison and NCCI Past President, said "Elaine Maimon's presentation was received with an enthusiastic and sustained applause by the NCCI audience. The GSU story that she shared provided the perfect combination of an inspiring cause and vision, together with a course of committed action and impressive, measurable outcomes. Often, we see visions with no action, or actions that go in circles. With GSU's story, we saw those parts come together to create outcomes that matter."

Dr. Lesley Di Mare, President of Colorado State University – Pueblo, noted that the presentation gave an important insight to the challenges leaders face in guiding their universities through substantive changes. "President Maimon is a powerful speaker and her speech was very well written and drilled down to give us important facts and strategies that those of us who are in these situations can use as takeaways," she said.

President Di Mare went on to describe how the speech was received:

"The more questions you have after a presentation ends is a good indication of how interested people are in what you had to say. President Maimon went over on time because of the number of people who wanted to ask her questions. And almost every question was prefaced with 'First, let me thank you for an outstanding presentation.' It took her a long time to get out of the venue because people wanted to talk to her,"

The NCCI is a non-profit organization that provides change leaders in higher education with a collaborative professional network to engage in sharing best practices. Its members are the leading innovators in both the academic and administrative areas at colleges and universities and are at the forefront of strategic planning and organizational development in higher education. This year's conference was attended by 200 influential leaders from across the U.S. and abroad.