

# PROFESSIONAL DIMENSIONS IDEATION SUMMIT

Rethinking Everything: The Power of Advocacy

The following guide was designed to support individuals looking to make the most of their Ideation Summit experience. We invite you to use this information to guide your reflection before, during, and after this Summit. If effective, the relationships and knowledge gained at this Summit will inspire ongoing action in the advancement of *inclusion* and *advocacy* across the Milwaukee Region. We will collectively understand what “better” looks like, and how our individual choices can impede or expedite that vision.

## BEFORE

In preparation for the Summit, consider the following:

1. **BE INTENTIONAL:** Set a few intentions for yourself. What do I hope to gain from this experience? What areas of my own leadership have I been looking to improve? How do the goals of this summit align to areas of improvement identified through my employer? What questions can I ask panelists and presenters that will shift the conversation? Who do I need to meet or collaborate with to grow as an individual?
2. **OWN YOUR EXPERIENCE:** Assess the space and take responsibility for the experience you will have. Take care of your mental and physical well-being, adopt a curious mindset, and minimize distractions.

## DURING

Suggestions for action during the summit:

1. **CONNECT:** Leverage this networking opportunity to share your work and beliefs with new people. Networking is simple - it's an opportunity to learn someone's story and expertise while sharing your own. Here are some questions to ask to drive networking: *How are you today? What brought you here? What are you most looking forward to and why? How do you spend your time/ what do you do? What was the role of advocacy in your personal advancement? What does a “better” Milwaukee region look like to you, and why? What are you reading?*
2. **REFLECT:** While listening to panelists and presenters, take a moment to reflect on your role as an advocate and ally. Ask yourself the following: How am I leveraging my power and position to advance others? What can I learn from how I've benefited from advocacy? Remember to jot down ideas and cool concepts that arise as you're listening to panelists. If at anypoint the discussion doesn't resonate, reflect on *why-* and how you can shift the conversation by asking the right question.

## AFTER

Connect the dots! Too frequently we attend workshops and professional development without creating a plan for how to move the ideas to action. Consider the following:

1. **BE ACCOUNTABLE:** Transfer key notes and ideas to a document or organizational system that you use daily. Determine which ideas can be translated to action most immediately, and identify an individual that will listen to your ideas around execution. Schedule time to connect with this individual within the next 2 weeks to continue discussion.
2. **TAKE ACTION:** Remember to email the individuals you met at this conference, and add them on LinkedIn. Consider the institutional habits and practices that exist within your ecosystem that advance or limit inclusivity. Take a moment to follow @pdwomen and take the survey!