Influential Women Showcases Laneika K. Musalini, Ed.D.: Executive Director At MSU Denver & Founder Of WE Inc.

DENVER, CO, UNITED STATES, September 4, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Higher Education Executive Leader Brings More Than 24 Years of Experience in Research Administration, Sponsored Programs, Institutional Leadership, and Women's Empowerment



Denver, Colorado — Laneika K. Musalini, Ed.D., MHRD, is a higher education executive leader with more than 24 years of experience in research administration, sponsored programs, and institutional leadership. She currently serves as Executive Director for the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she oversees pre-award administration, research strategy, and Institutional Review Board (IRB) operations.

Throughout her career, Dr. Musalini has progressed through increasingly senior roles in higher education, including departmental research administration, college-level grant oversight across multiple academic units, and directorships of sponsored programs offices focused on both pre-award and post-award management. Her professional expertise includes grant writing and management, federal compliance, including 2 CFR 200 regulations, strategic planning, financial stewardship of sponsored funds, and research infrastructure development.

Dr. Musalini has led multi-million-dollar portfolios, strengthened institutional grant capacity, and contributed to significant increases in sponsored funding at the institutions she has served. Her work reflects a focus on building effective research infrastructure while supporting institutions in managing sponsored programs and maintaining compliance with federal requirements.

She is also actively engaged in professional service through the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA), where she contributes as a faculty member and editorial contributor. Through her professional involvement, she has been recognized for her leadership and service within the research administration field.

Beyond her institutional responsibilities, Dr. Musalini is the Founder and President of Women's Empowerment Incorporated, a nonprofit established in 2010 dedicated to strengthening and uplifting women through conferences, mentorship, and community-based empowerment initiatives. Through this work, she continues to create opportunities for women to feel supported, valued, and encouraged as they navigate their personal and professional journeys.

Dr. Musalini is a graduate of Wingate University, where she earned her Doctor of Education in Higher Education Executive Leadership. Her educational and professional experiences have supported her continued focus on leadership, service, and faith-based values. She remains committed to building equitable access to opportunity, supporting professional development in higher education, and empowering communities through education and advocacy.

Dr. Musalini attributes her success to faith, perseverance, service, obedience to purpose, and a commitment to uplifting others. She believes that staying faithful to her calling and consistently supporting others has guided both her personal and professional achievements.

The best career advice Dr. Musalini has received came from her mother, who encouraged her to pursue the vision that eventually became Women's Empowerment Incorporated. She also draws guidance from her faith, ministry leaders, and professional colleagues, all of whom have supported and shaped her leadership journey over time.

For young women entering her industry, Dr. Musalini encourages them to trust their vision, remain faithful to their purpose, be true to themselves, and never underestimate the impact they can have on others. She believes it is important to continue pursuing education, leadership opportunities, and service work while remaining grounded in authenticity and faith.

One of the biggest challenges Dr. Musalini currently faces involves navigating ongoing changes in federal funding priorities and policies that directly affect grant acquisition and retention. These challenges include recent funding reductions, increased compliance scrutiny, and shifts affecting her institution's designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

In response, Dr. Musalini is focused on strategically positioning her institution to sustain and grow federal support while ensuring full compliance, protecting research participants, and continuing to advance its mission of innovation, student training, workforce development, and global competitiveness in science. Her approach reflects the importance of adaptability and strategic planning in an evolving research environment.

The values most important to Dr. Musalini in her work and personal life are faith, service, and empowerment. She is naturally a giver and finds fulfillment in supporting and uplifting others through both her personal calling and her work with Women's Empowerment Incorporated.

She is especially passionate about creating spaces where women feel seen, heard, and valued—where they can pause, breathe, and find renewal amid the many responsibilities they carry. Her goal is to remind women that they are worthy, purposeful, and not alone, while encouraging them to keep going even through difficult seasons.

Dr. Musalini also strives to remain obedient to her divine calling, prayerfully guided in her decisions and committed to walking in purpose even when the path is challenging. This commitment to purpose continues to shape her approach to leadership, professional service, and community empowerment.

Through her work in higher education and research administration, as well as her leadership of Women's Empowerment Incorporated, Dr. Laneika K. Musalini continues to bring together professional expertise, service, education, and faith. Her career reflects a sustained commitment to strengthening institutions, supporting opportunity, and uplifting others through purposeful leadership.

Learn More about Dr. Laneika K. Musalini:

Through her Influential Women profile, https://influentialwomen.com/connect/laneika-musalini, or through her profile on Metropolitan State University of Denver, https://www.msudenver.edu/faculty-staff/laneika-musalini/

Influential Women

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