

Learning for Life ladies,

It's the end of our fall season (I think the weather tells us so!), and I hope you have enjoyed our time together as much as I have!

Today we were introduced to two inspirational female sports writers. Christine Brennan of USA Today spoke about the importance of the Title IX legislation, while reminding us that Northwestern has been a class-leader in the inclusion of and priority on women's sports. Remember she shared that our field in the Ryan Fieldhouse and Walter Athletics Center has both the yard lines for football and the field markers for women's lacrosse. Melissa Isaacson, who is now teaching sports writing, focused on her experiences on her state championship-winning high school basketball team, and how the team was a haven for so many of her contemporaries and women since.

I hope I was able to draw their contributions and that of the women in the weeks before them together in my talk about the intersection of media, politics and civic learning. We are bringing together Northwestern's outstanding scholars in journalism, education and social policy, and arts and sciences, and building a thought leadership center that shines a light on the mechanisms by which people connect to their communities, come to know what they know, and develop entrenched views. This includes attention to how gateways to accurate information might be opening, and how bridges among disparate parties might more effectively be built. It's nascent work, so I thank you for allowing me to share it with you.

I'm excited to see what the future holds for us, and I wish only the best for you!

Together in learning,
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