



MITCHELL INSTITUTE SENIOR FELLOW



Michelle Ruehl, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force. She flew over 800 combat hours in Operation Enduring Freedom, providing real-time airborne targeting data to air and ground forces during Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force missions. She also served as a NATO/ISAF ISR aviation liaison in Kabul and worked extensively with local Afghan citizens to prepare them for national voting procedures. Michelle travels the country, giving speeches on international relations and cultural intelligence. She flew the C-130E/H, MC-12W, and T-53. Now assigned to the US Air Force Academy, she serves as a professor and as a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate.

Ruehl is the creator/director of Social Impact Theater Project, an interactive bystander intervention program, which she facilitated for 2750 military members. To honor fallen military colleagues, she founded Parwana LEADership Legacy, a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide leadership camps to veterans and their families. Michelle earned two M.A. degrees, one in Psychology and one in English Rhetoric, and she was a Denver Writing Project Fellow.
