INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW
Thank you so much for your support of the work of the Women’s Center!

The first campus-based Women’s Center in the U.S., founded in 1960, continues the critical work of creating an equitable University and world. In the Spring of 2016, we launched a Ten-Point Strategic Plan to guide our work and an enhanced mission:

The Women’s Center advances gender equity across identities. We advance an empowering intellectual environment, inspire feminist leaders, and advocate for an equitable University culture and community.

This report highlights some of the key accomplishments of this year as we worked toward our vision of an equitable university in which all people share collective responsibility to promote mutual respect and success for everyone—and striving to be a national model toward this end, in solidarity with our local and national partners.

ADVANCE AN EMPOWERING AN INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Support Scholarships & Change-makers
1. We hosted the 15th Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholar Award/Lecture which was given to Professor Anna Clark, Department of History.

2. We debuted a new award this year, the Charlotte Striebel Equity Award, established to honor Charlotte Striebel (1929-2014), Mathematics professor-teacher-friend-feminist-scholar-mentor. In its inaugural year, the Striebel award was granted to Professors Pat Frazier, Psychology, and Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, Carlson School of Business.

3. The Mullen-Spector-Truax Award was given to Linda Kim, Coordinator of Academic and Scholarship Support, MCAE.

4. The Sara Evans Women Scholar/Leader Award, co-sponsored with the Senior Vice President and Provost’s Office, was given to Professor Christy L. Haynes, Chemistry Department, and Professor Hari Osofsky, Law School.

5. We were able to give two students the Sharon L. Doeherty Student Leadership Award, giving them the opportunity to attend a national women’s leadership conference. The awardees were sophomore Soua Thao and junior Johanna Heegeman.

6. The Women’s Center awarded 17 students scholarships this year, through the Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship (targeting women over 28 returning to college) and the Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló Scholarship (targeting women of color, new immigrants and first generation women), with awards ranging from $1,000 to $8,000.

Sheri Hixon and Emily Dacquisto, our Masters of Social Work interns, completed a research project that surveyed past recipients. They presented their research poster in May, and received an Advanced Education Award for their amazing work! Here’s what some of our scholarship recipients had to say about the impact of scholarship on their lives:

“Receiving this scholarship reaffirmed for me that I am worthy of educational investment, and since receiving it, I have been even more mindful and deliberate in offering affirmation to others who may feel marginalized for one reason or another in relation to the goals they aim to achieve.”

“This scholarship empowered me and gave me confidence to continue to fight for equity of women in my school, work, and volunteer opportunities. I felt it was a very important mission to share in my community. I am proud I was able to help advance it and I still continue to do so.”

- Women’s Center scholarship recipients

New spaces: Addition of study/lounge and lactation room!

It was a year of building at the Women’s Center! We renovated a conference room into an empowering and relaxing Study/Lounge that is now frequented by many students every day. One student told us it’s “literally the nicest place on campus.”

With the help of Office for Student Affairs and the Office for Equity and Diversity, a lactation room was added Appleby Hall by converting a storage room into an adorable space for nursing mothers. One of our students painted a fantastic mural to decorate the wall!

Visibility via social media

On a large campus, it is always a challenge to reach people to inform them of our programs and services, as well to provide educational resources and essays related to local, national and global gender equity. We are proud of the reach of our website, monthly enews, Facebook, blog, twitter.

In July 2015, our e-news had 2,400 subscribers with an open rate of 32%. A year later in June 2016, our e-news had 3,100 subscribers with an open rate of 40%.
Collaborations on campus and in the community
We highly value our partnerships across the campus and community including (see us for deciphering the acronyms): FSAC, SHE, BMW, WIB, SWE, AS, AAIS, AAAS, GWSS, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, history, C/L Studies, CSOM, MCAE, MCSE, GLBTA PO, CSE-Stem Women Initiative, WISE-LLC, Aurora Center, Trans Commission, Minnesota Women’s Consortium, etc.

EDUCATE AND INSPIRE FEMINIST LEADERS

3rd Biennial Indigenous Women and Women of Color Student Summit (IWWOCSS)
In March, the Women’s Center hosted IWWOCSS with support from 23 co-sponsors. We had over 140 attendees from the U of M to North Dakota to Wisconsin join us for a powerful day of dialogue and solidarity, featuring keynote speaker Kabo Yang, Executive Director of the Minnesota Women’s Consortium.

“I am not alone in my struggles and journey... We are stronger together!”
- IWWOCSS attendees

Feminist Ambassador Brigade
We kicked off the Feminist Ambassador Brigade, or FAB, at the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Twenty-six students attended a four-hour training to become members of Feminist Ambassador Brigade, and throughout the year they met every other week to discuss gender equity topics, build a feminist community, practice leadership skills, and more. FAB’s International Women’s Day event was attended by over 100 people, who took a pledge for parity and learned about different actions to take to advance gender equity!

“I’ve learned to be more inclusive and FAB has really inspired me to become an activist for social rights and equality for the rest of my life.”
“FAB taught me the Superwoman pose.”
“I wouldn’t have known, without being in FAB, all of the positive hands-on work the Women’s Center does to promote gender equality and social justice.”
- FAB members

Feminist Fridays
We began a new series this year called “Feminist Fridays.” A monthly forum on equity topics, the seven Feminist Fridays covered the following topics: #SayHerName; Looking at feminism through an indigenous lens; Intersections of disability and feminism; a discussion on masculinity and black feminism; Asian American Pacific Islander Herstory; Film screening of No Más Bebés; and Self-care and meditation during finals week.

AHA! Art Gallery
Three art shows by women artists were held this year. One show featured two undergraduate students, Grace Welch and Della Rose; one featured an international student scholar, Lisha Kirpalani; and one showcased a University staff member, Tricia Schweitzer.

Workshops and Class Presentations
Workshop topics ranged from “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” (offered six times), to Salary Negotiation to “How To Be Outrageous” (self-confidence) to women, diversity and leadership.

Annual Speaker: Sarah Deer
We hosted Sarah Deer, Professor of Law and a 2014 MacArthur Fellow, as our annual speaker. Professor Deer shared powerful stories of her activist-scholar work in confronting sexual violence in Native America.

ADVOCATE FOR AN EQUITABLE UNIVERSITY

Advocacy across campus
- Invested $4000 in seven projects to enhance gender equity on campus through our Institutional Change Grant awards
- Served on the Lactation Advocacy Committee to increase number of lactation rooms and awareness
- Served on Women’s Faculty Cabinet who hosted the Women’s Faculty Leadership Retreat and worked on extending the family leave policy.
- Served on and funded the P&A Women’s Council, who sponsored several book discussions.
- Helped launch the Graduate and Professional Student Parent Group with SPHC.
- Collaborated with the Women in Science Living and Learning Community
- Served on the University Women of Color Council
- Continued the annual Regional Higher Education Women’s Professional Network meeting
- Advocated for equal numbers of bathroom stalls in Hodson Hall
- Assisted our Office for Equity and Diversity colleagues in their work

STAFF IN THE NEWS

Uyenthi Tran Myhre, Assistant Director, received the College of Education and Human Development’s 2016 Rising Alumni award. She also serves on the Sexual Violence Center Board.

Emily Dacquisto, MSW Graduate Intern, was published in Higher Education for Women in June 2016.


Peg Lonnquist, Director, served on the MN AAUW State Board and on the Editorial Board for the Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies.
GIVING
https://diversity.umn.edu/women/giving

Choose where your gift goes!
Small or large, ongoing or legacy, your gift makes a huge difference! By clicking one of the following links, you can choose to give your gift directly to the Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship, the Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló Scholarship, the Mullen/Spector/Truax Endowment, the Charlotte Striebel Equity Award, or the Women’s Center Leadership Fund. Thank you!

1. The Dr. Rusty Barceló Scholarship supports approximately 10 U of MN women students (focus on women of color, new immigrants, and first generation college students) per year with awards of $1000. These scholars have extraordinary goals and the tenacity to overcome adversities and reach for their dreams! Help us reach our goal of $250,000 or more to endow this scholarship.

2. The Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship, a family foundation scholarship, provides about 10 scholarships per year of $2000-$8000 for women students over 28. Join us to celebrate its 40th year with a party next May! Stay tuned for more information in 2017!

3. The Charlotte Striebel Equity Award. Named for Mathematics professor-teacher-friend-Feminist-scholar-mentor-salary equity warrior, Charlotte Striebel (1929-2014), this award recognizes contributions from faculty and staff of any gender who promote access for the common good, help undo bias and discrimination, or build capacity for diverse and equitable campus communities.

4. The Mullen-Spector-Truax Award is given annually to a faculty or staff woman at the University who has made outstanding contributions to develop leadership within other women.

5. The Women’s Center Leadership Fund provides seed money for new initiatives and supports work that develops socially responsible leaders e.g. The Women’s Leadership Institute; the Indigenous Women and Women of Color Student Summit.

“Feminist” and “Flawless” hats
With the Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló scholarship fund running low, we needed to get creative in order to keep granting scholarships to these incredible women-identified students. Our solution? Sell made-in-Minnesota, warm winter hats branded with “FEMINIST” or “FLAWLESS,” a statement of radical confidence and an ode to Beyoncé. We sold over 700 hats and raised over $5,000 for the Barceló scholarship fund. And as a side effect, we created a way for people to show their pride as Feminists along with their campus pride!

THE WOMEN’S CENTER GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Your gift supports these guiding principles
We are committed to social justice and anti-oppression. We recognize the intersection of gender-based oppression with race, ethnicity, class, age, ability, and all social systems and strive in both perspective and practice to challenge oppression in all its forms.

We engage, inform and mobilize people to action by developing first our staff and then others as effective, socially responsible leaders.

We are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all genders that encourages dialogue and respect.

We encourage individuals and organizations to think bigger and think differently about what is possible.

We promote culture-shifting strategies, systems-building, and collective, partnership action that works to transform the University into a system that advances the common good for all. In addition, we focus our resources and support innovation and creativity toward value-added, high-impact programs.

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Uyenthi Tran Myhre, Assistant Director
Bronwyn Miller, Program Coordinator
Sheri Hixon, MSW Graduate Intern
Emily Dacquisto, MSW Graduate Intern
Luna Allen-Bakerian, Program Assistant
Olivia Novotny, Communications Assistant

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