INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Founded in 1960 as the first campus-based Women’s Center in the U.S., we continue the critical work of creating an equitable University and world.

Our 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.

Our Vision: An equitable university in which all people share collective responsibility to promote mutual respect and success for everyone. We strive to be a national model toward this end, in solidarity with our local and national partners.

ADVANCE AN EMPOWERING AN INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Support Scholarships & Changemakers

1. We hosted the 16th Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholar Award/Lecture, in which Sarah E. Hobbie, Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, presented “People, Pets and Plants: The role of human actions in creating and solving urban water problems.”

2. In its second year, the Charlotte Striebel Equity Award was presented to R. Lee Penn, Professor, Chemistry.

3. The Mullen-Spector-Truax Award was given to Brenda Ogle, Professor, Biomedical Engineering.

4. The Sara Evans Women Scholar/Leader Award, co-sponsored with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, was given to Kristen L. McMaster, Professor, Educational Psychology, and Theresa M. Reineke, Professor, Chemistry.

5. This year’s Sharon L. Doherty Student Leadership Award was presented to Cheyenne Svyrvst Hansen, Master of Social Work Candidate, College of Education and Human Development. Cheyenne attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland - College Park in June 2017.

6. The Women’s Center awarded 29 students scholarships this year, through the Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship (supporting women over 28 returning to college) and the Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló Scholarship (supporting women of color, new immigrants and first generation women students), with awards ranging from $1,000 to $4,000.

This year we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship, which has been awarded to 347 women since 1976! To commemorate this amazing achievement and the continued generosity of the Macpherson family, we held a celebration on May 1, 2017, at Eastcliff. Over 40 Macpherson scholars past and present joined the Macpherson family, current and former Women’s Center staff, President Kaler and Karen Kaler, and other University affiliates, for a night of gratitude, networking, and celebration.

“The scholarship boosted my confidence in my choice to go back to school because it validated my experience. Few such scholarships for non-traditional students exist, and that sends a subtle negative message to potential students. The Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship sent a clear positive message about my educational journey, and helped transform my life.”

– Tonya Kjerland, 2014-15 scholarship recipient and event attendee

EDUCATE AND INSPIRE FEMINIST LEADERS

Feminist Ambassador Brigade

The Feminist Ambassador Brigade (FAB) is the student volunteer group affiliated with the Women’s Center. FAB contributes to advancing gender equity at the University by assisting with existing Women’s Center initiatives as well as developing their own passion-driven projects. Additionally, the FAB cohort is an opportunity for feminist leaders to be in community with one another and take action on feminist and social justice issues. This was FAB’s second year, and twenty-five students completed the four-hour training to become members. Throughout the year they met every other week to discuss gender equity topics, raise awareness of Women’s Center events, practice leadership skills, and more. FAB hosted several programs, including an International Women’s Day event (co-sponsored with Culture Corps and ISSS) in Coffman Student Union that was attended by over 100 people.

FAB members and folks making feminist zines and buttons in our Study/Lounge

“ It is such an incredible group of open minded people who are always willing to listen, learn, and share.”

– 2016/17 FAB member

Feminist Fridays

As part of our commitment to continue ongoing intersectional feminist learning, the Women’s Center continued our Feminist Fridays programming, monthly forums on equity topics co-sponsored with offices across campus. This year’s Feminist Fridays included:

• Art of Arguing, co-sponsored with the Aurora Center, led by Katie Eichele
• Anything But Human: Media Coverage of Women Athletes of
Color, co-sponsored with the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, led by Cydney Gaines
• Disability Justice is a Feminist Issue, co-sponsored with Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and the Disability Resource Center, led by Angela M. Carter
• Claiming Intersectional Feminism in a New Political Reality, co-sponsored with Black Motivated Women, led by Amber Jones
• Stress Management as Self-Care, co-sponsored with and led by de-stress peer health student group
• Transformative Masculinity, co-sponsored with the Aurora Center, led by Malik Mitchell

Representative Ilhan Omar
Annual Speaker: Minnesota State
Ambassadors
• “Feminist Allyship,” conducted by
• “How To Be Outrageous,” on how to
• Certificate Program (6 times)
• • FAB, we conducted many workshops
• • Transformative Masculinity, co-sponsored with the Aurora Center, led by Malik Mitchell
• • Bag Lady Manifesto: #sayhername
• • birds, and vulvas… assorted
• • #BlackTransLivesMatter, art by Andrea
• • boobs, butts, and vulvas… assorted
• • disabled and non-disabled people
• • Stress Management as Self-Care, co-sponsored with and led by de-stress peer health student group
• • Nature & Travel, work from

Workshops and Class Presentations
Between the Women’s Center staff and FAB, we conducted many workshops and educational presentations this year, including:
• “Breaking the Glass Ceiling,” as part of the OED Equity and Diversity Certificate Program (6 times)
• “How To Be Outrageous,” on how to enhance self-confidence
• “Positive Genius,” on how optimism can lead to happiness and success
• “Feminist Allyship,” conducted by members of FAB to MCAE Ambassadors

Annual Speaker: Minnesota State Representative Ilhan Omar
We were honored to host Ilhan Omar, the first Somali-American state legislator in the nation, as our annual speaker. Representative Omar shared insights about running for office as a woman of color, what keeps her inspired, and answered questions from activists in the audience.

ADVOCATE FOR AN EQUITABLE UNIVERSITY

Advocacy across campus
• Served on the Lactation Advocacy Committee
• 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
• Collaborated with the Women in Science Living and Learning Community
• Served on the University Women of Color Council
• Hosted the annual Regional Higher Education Women’s Professional Network meeting
• Advocated for equal amounts of women’s and men’s bathroom stalls in Hodson Hall
• Assisted our Office for Equity and Diversity colleagues in their work
• Invested $4000 in seven projects to enhance gender equity on campus through our Gender Equity Grants, including “Y Acción con el Corazón,” a new initiative by the University YMCA centering Latina students.

Scholarship fundraising: “Feminist” hats - and now baseball hats, sweatshirts, stickers, and scarves!
With the Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló scholarship fund running low, we needed to get creative in order to keep granting scholarships to incredible women-identified students. Last year, we sold winter hats. This year, we expanded the fundraiser to include baseball hats, sweatshirts, stickers, AND scarves! We continue to create new ways for people to showcase their Feminist pride, while sporting campus colors and supporting the education of women on campus!

External Review
In fall 2016, the Women’s Center underwent an external review. The process included an extensive self-report, two days of on-campus meetings with constituents, as well as an online survey. The reviewers stated: “The intersectional framework and collaborative nature of the WmC contributes deeply to the academic mission of the University and will play a key role in reimagining equity and diversity and in transforming the UMN campus into a just and equitable community for all its members.” The Women’s Center is excited to continue growing in the areas of opportunity the reviewers mentioned, such as building upon engagement with faculty, increasing the visibility of our student interns and volunteers, and advocating for additional staff and funding.

Staff Accomplishments 2016-2017
• Peg Lonnquist, Director, received the National Women’s Studies Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award
• Graduate student intern Naly Yang created a video on body positivity for the Women’s Center website.
• Bronwyn Miller, Program Coordinator, and Uyenthi Tran Myhre, Assistant Director, presented the original workshop, “Better Together: Feminist Self-Care and Community Care When Everything Feels Awful” at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C., in June 2017.
• All staff worked together to create a strong, empowered, intentional team of leaders who promote positive change toward equity and diversity centered on gender equity.

Women’s Center
Office for Equity and Diversity
University of Minnesota

WOMEN’S CENTER STAFF
2016-2017
Peg Lonnquist, Director
Uyenthi Tran Myhre, Assistant Director
Bronwyn Miller, Program Coordinator
Stephanie Richardson, MSW Graduate Intern
Naly Yang, MSW Graduate Intern
Eloho Urhieyovwe, Program Assistant
Emma Saks, Program Assistant
Olivia Novotny, Communications Assistant
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AHA! Art Gallery
The Appleby Hall Art (AHAI) Gallery is an ongoing project sponsored by the Women’s Center featuring primarily women artists with a social justice focus. This year, our three exhibits each featured a University staff member.
• bags, butts, and vulvas... assorted art by heather c. lou
• Bag Lady Manifesto: #sayhername #BlackTransLivesMatter, art by Andrea Jenkins
• Nature & Travel, work from photographer Sue Mitchell

Thank you!
Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló Scholarship

YOU’VE RAISED
$20,000
FOR THE
DR. NANCY “RUSTY” BARCELÓ SCHOLARSHIP

Office for Equity and Diversity