



Spring 2007

Dear AAUW Members,

On behalf of the AAUW Association and Educational Foundation boards of directors, regional directors, committee chairs, and all state presidents, we extend our best wishes for a successful and productive state convention. In honoring our 125th year, *A Legacy of Leadership*, we know these conventions celebrate the year's accomplishments, renew commitment to AAUW's mission, and provide an opportunity to reconnect with friends throughout our network. Your individual and collective investments and contributions of time, talent, and resources are the heart of AAUW's grassroots achievements and community pride.

Here are a few AAUW highlights of the 2006-07 year, which made a difference in the lives of women and girls. Through these efforts, AAUW provided tangible value for your membership investment and offered unique mission-based opportunities for local involvement.

Affirming Key Focus of AAUW

- **Strategic Process for AAUW's future:** With feedback from more than 11,000 members, AAUW and Educational Foundation boards identified core strategic issues and critical steps to ensure AAUW is a vital and sustainable organization.
- New **Mission** statement: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*
- New **Vision** statement: *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

Achieving Equity through Advocacy

- **Voice at national level:** Branch and member e-activists sent more than 60,000 messages—personal visits, e-mails, and telephone calls—to members of Congress and the administration through Action Network in support of AAUW public policy priorities. AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps members and staff continued this 31 year tradition with over 1,450 in-person visits to congressional offices.
- **Voice at local level:** States and branches amplified AAUW's voice with support of staff technical resources and field consultation for grassroots advocacy work.

Achieving Equity through Education

- **Program focus:** *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*—This programmatic theme is a basis for expressing AAUW's mission and vision. Theme teams were developed and supported through states to provide theme-related programming ideas and resources. A one-page resource with theme highlights was distributed to every branch to assist with focus; detailed program descriptions were posted to the Program Toolkit to assist with implementation.
- **International:** Partnership in *One Shared World* campaign, with "program-in-a-box" materials to raise awareness of U.S. global development assistance efforts.
- **National Girls Collaborative Project:** Partnership with Puget Sound Center for Teaching Learning and Technology, through a National Science Foundation grant to develop regional collaboratives across the country to help girl-serving organizations to leverage resources and provide more opportunities for girls and young women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields.

Achieving Equity through Research

- **Research:** *Behind the Pay Gap*, which examines earnings of female and male college graduates will be released on Equal Pay Day, April 24, 2007.
- **Campus Action Projects:** 10 campus teams across the country were awarded grants to create and implement projects which address the ongoing gender pay gap and identify solutions.

As AAUW moves toward conclusion of its 125th anniversary celebration year, we know equity is still an issue. Our work is not done. We hope you will join us June 29 to July 2, in Phoenix, Arizona, to help define the path upon which a vibrant, relevant AAUW can venture another 125 years. Your voice and vote of support for AAUW's strategic process will make a difference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth Z. Sweetser".

Ruth Z. Sweetser, President
American Association of
University Women

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara L. O'Connor".

Barbara L. O'Connor, President
AAUW Educational Foundation