



AAUW MD College and University Chair's Report

Terri Massie-Burrell, PhD

Overview:

The College and University Membership Chair position was vacant until mid-December 2019. The new Chair assumed role and joined the AAUW MD Board at that time. Mid-January the most current roster of college and university partners was made available to Chair and email communication was sent out to partners subsequently. Some emails bounced back or others the addressee was no longer the contact. The intent of first communication was to introduce Chair, to encourage active collegiate membership in AAUW and reach out to those who have not yet affiliated and provide support for them to do so.

The two important and urgent items shared in the initial correspondence:

- 1) [NCCWSL](#)-the Spring 2020 National Conference for Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- 2) [Scholarships](#) -for students to attend 2020 NCCWSL

Objective:

AAUW is fortunate to have many current members in Maryland, along with a few student chapters. One of the biggest opportunities AAUW offers for college women is financial support to attend the NCCWSL conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. With NCCWSL being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, plans for the 2021 conference are in order. The committee must resume focus on support for students to attend the conference, to connect college administrators to collegiates and lastly recruit them to attend graduate school.

Recent Findings:

The Chair held a listening tour to connect with select Branch members who had experiences as AAUW members in college chapters, advisors or mentors in the branches. The contacts were varied to include, President's Offices, Women's Centers, Diversity Offices and the actual undergraduate student leaders, etc. The email responses offer the types of things branches would like to collaborate with college/university chapters on and how branches envision collaborating with campuses.

The purpose was to learn desires of membership regarding this initiative and share feedback with the organization. The goal was to revive and support the chapters on college/university campuses, connect them with branches and assist them with valuable resources. Following is a summary of the information learned from email responses and conversations.

Frederick Branch (Communication with Theresa Bisceglia & Mary Anne Williams):

- Practice GRE with Hood College in partnership with Princeton Review
- Donate to Frederick Community College, Project Forward Step Program provides career counseling for returning adults
- Partnerships with Mount St Mary's University
- Encourage college students in the Frederick County area to join the branch rather than having a college/university chapter

Johns Hopkins University (Communication with Dr. Jeannine Heynes)

- Campus partner, presents AAUW's salary negotiation training on campus each Spring
- Semester for JHU women student leaders
- Serves as Diversity & Inclusion Chair for the NCCWSL steering committee
Offers three fully funded registrations for JHU students to attend NCCWSL each year

Baltimore Branch and former Notre Dame of Maryland University Chapter (Kashay Webb)

- Difficult to keep the momentum going with the collegiate chapter
- Students have competing priorities and understand the benefits of affiliation, but have difficulty balancing academics and work of the chapter

Financial Impact:

No committee budget, but individual branches are asked to support collegiate chapters. It is necessary to mention the certainty of a financial impact the COVID-19 will have on resources for the upcoming program year.

State branches may have variations in scholarships due to changes in priorities after cancellations of events and different needs due to COVID-19. As well, colleges/universities may have changes. Contacts about scholarships on campuses is often at the development office, but varies depending on the institution (similar to contacts for campus chapter being varied).

Suggestions for Upcoming Year:

Appoint Co-Chairs

Recruit members to serve on committee

Update the partnership roster

Explore the benefits of University/College Chapters vs. recruiting campus leaders serving under State Branches