

Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women (CCSW)
2006-2007 CCSW Annual Report

Overview: This year CCSW engaged in a variety of educational projects by building collaborative relationships with campus and community organizations. CCSW continued to support initiatives that help students, staff and faculty to balance their professional and personal commitments. This year's accomplishments and recommendations to the Chancellor are grouped according to the organization's themes of Awareness, Balance and Community.

Significant Accomplishments

Awareness

Voter Registration and Education

CCSW capitalized on the success of its 2004 voter registration drive with another very successful voter registration drive in the fall, 2006. Lisa Wise, the Douglas County deputy election commissioner attend our September meeting to discuss the need to reach out to the college age population to register them to vote and to help engage them in the political process. A total of 392 students, faculty and staff were registered to vote, quite a few for the first time. For example, CCSW were present at the Library Student Appreciation events and several of the Homecoming events. CCSW's partnership with the American Democracy Project (ADP) and other campus organizations – including student groups - help contribute to the success of the drive.

Susan B. Anthony Coffeehouse Series

CCSW held 3 seminars in their Susan B. Anthony Coffeehouse series that helped to educate participants on a diverse range of topics from domestic violence to heart health.

1. Know Your Boundaries coffeehouse was held on October 19, 2006. The coffeehouse discussed the topic of intimate partner violence. Participants were given information about how to detect the warning signs of domestic violence and what someone can do to help if they suspect that a relationship has become violent.
2. Heart Health for Women Seminar was held on February 28, 2007. The speaker was Geri Moore from Creighton University -- who is a spokesperson for the American Heart Association. Each participant received a Red Dress pin and information about the Red Dress program. The seminar was well attended by a cross section of faculty and employees. The videotape, Geri's personal testimony about her experience with heart disease and the question and answer session greatly increased participant's knowledge of the specific issues for women in regards to heart disease.

3. Two 2007 "Sexual Assault Awareness Events" were held on April 17 and April 24 in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness month. On April 17, community educators from the Omaha YWCA and the Methodist Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner's office were present to share information and to facilitate discussion on sexual assault. On April 24, CCSW brought the exhibit, "Omaha YWCA Clothesline Project Display," to campus. The Clothesline Project is a visual display that bears witness to the violence against women. During the public display, a clothesline is hung with shirts. Each shirt is decorated to represent a particular woman's experience, by the survivor herself or by someone who cares about her. It was on display in the Milo Bail Student Center Fireplace Lounge. It was well attended. An entire Women's Studies class stopped by too.

Review of the Undergraduate Catalog

CCSW conducted a review of the undergraduate catalog for gender specific language for the fall, 2006 revision of the catalog. The recommendations from CCSW were forwarded to Student Affairs for inclusion in the fall, 2006 undergraduate catalog.

Welcome Week

CCSW participated in welcome week by staffing a table during the organization fair. A flyer was created that was handed out to participants. This helped to increase awareness of CCSW and its activities and projects particularly to students.

Website

Members Joyce Crockett and Marvel Maring completed a thorough overhaul of the CCSW website using the new University template. The result was a user friendly, eye catching website that will help to increase awareness of CCSW and its projects on the UNO campus.

Balance

Mentoring Reception

CCSW sponsored a mentoring reception for faculty and staff on October 24 from 3-5 pm in the Senior Scholar's Room at the Criss Library. The reception gave faculty and staff an opportunity to get acquainted and mentor in a social setting. The various departments and colleges of the University were well represented at the reception.

U-Wide Gender Equity Committee

Dr. Sonya Smith, the Diversity officer for the University of Nebraska was a guest at one of our monthly meetings. We had a very lively discussion about how the gender equity committee and CCSW can partner together to increase awareness on each campus of gender and equity concerns. We also discussed ways to increase the communication between the two groups such as sharing the minutes of each meeting and visibility on the website.

Budget and Fundraising

A new fiscal year budget cost center was developed for the monies from the Chancellor's discretionary fund. This new cost center will help CCSW to better manage its revolving and fiscal year funds in the future.

A new account was set up at the Alumni Center so that monies can be donated either on a one time basis or through payroll deduction. The monies from that account will help CCSW to cover the expenses for some of its on-going projects and also for special projects in the future.

Community

CCSW Awards Luncheon

102 luncheon tickets were purchased to this year's luncheon. This year's Awards Luncheon honored Lanyce Keel for her distinguished service in advancing gender equity at UNO. Omnium Worldwide, Inc. received the community service award for their partnership with the College of Business Administration that provides internship opportunities for business college majors. The CCSW scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Machacek majoring in Architectural Engineering with a focus on Mechanical Engineering who had compiled an impressive resume of both academic achievements and community service. The academic and athletic accomplishments of UNO's women's volleyball team were also recognized with a special recognition award given to the Women's Volleyball coach, Rose Shires. Luncheon guests were entertained by the UNO string quartet made up of Rose Morgan on violin, Daniel Sabra on violin, Axelle Verboon on viola and Audrey Herron on cello.

Donation forms and envelopes were included on the tables at the luncheon so that participants could make a one time donation or begin a payroll deduction donation to the newly created CCSW Alumni Revolving fund. The monies donated as a result will help provide the future funds to finance special projects and initiatives sponsored by CCSW.

UNO Women's Walk

UNO sponsored a team for the UNO Women's Walk on April 21. Team captains were Elizabeth Keller and Joyce Crockett. The team of 8 walkers raised a total of \$500 which will be used to support women's athletics at UNO.

Jessica O'Grady Fundraiser

CCSW was the sponsoring organization for the Jessica O'Grady fundraiser that was organized by her friends who are students at UNO. A total of \$550 was raised that will be added to the reward fund. An article was also in the *The Gateway* about the fundraiser.

Continuing Efforts

Several projects from the 2006-2007 year will be carried forward in 2007-2008, including:

Women's Centennial Archive Project CCSW is the sponsor for the service learning project, Writing a Women's Life, in conjunction with UNO's centennial celebration. The project is being led by CCSW member and English Department chair, Susan Maher. The Archive will be an oral/written project to gather the stories from our women graduates since the beginning of UNO. The stories of UNO alumna which provide a more intimate look at individual experiences that connect the evolving university to national current events.

Voter Registration and Education – With the 2008 Presidential Election approaching, CCSW will continue to partner with the American Democracy Project and the Douglas County Election Commission to provide voter registration drives on campus.

Health Education Liaison Committee – CCSW will continue to work with other organizations on campus to ensure that appropriate mental and physical health information and referral are available, particularly with the issues of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Membership – CCSW will continue to recruit new members so that the committee will be representative of UNO's diverse population. CCSW will also ensure that the various departments and colleges are also represented on the committee.

Gender Equity – continue to monitor policies on campus to make sure that gender equity issues are considered appropriately.

CCSW Procedures – continue to update policies and procedures so that we have a record of our activities and processes.

Visibility – continue to look for ways to promote the activities and projects of CCSW on campus, as well as to the Omaha community. This year, a couple of news releases were sent out to the local media on CCSW events that garnered media attention (see attached press releases). This action will continue next year.

Future Directions

Mentoring – CCSW will continue to support and promote mentoring programs on campus including the Women's Leadership training and networking events.

Outreach and Community Education – CCSW will continue to inform and educate the campus community on gender equity and issues related to women.

Resources for Child Care and Elder Care – Explore opportunities through the web site, education and seminars to provide the campus community; staff, faculty

and students with information related to the unique problems associated with child care and elder care.

We look forward to another year of assisting the UNO Chancellor's office in promoting gender equity on campus.

Respectfully submitted,

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Outgoing Staff Chair

Marvel Maring
Faculty Chair

Becky Bohan Brown
Incoming Staff Chair