

The 2006 National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Outstanding Achievement Award

About the Awards

The NACW Outstanding Achievement Award was established by the Board of Directors to identify and publicly recognize exemplary innovative commission programs. To that end, NACW created annual awards in the following categories:

- ◆ Commissions with budgets of \$10,000 or less
- ◆ Commissions with budgets of \$10,001 to \$100,000
- ◆ Commissions with budgets of \$100,001 to \$250,000
- ◆ Commissions with budgets of \$250,001 to \$500,000
- ◆ Commissions with budgets of \$500,001 and over

With governments playing an increasingly critical role in the quality of our lives, the innovations introduced by commissions are vital to women's present and future welfare. Recognition and sharing of innovative programs, services, and educational materials enable commissions to serve as a source of inspiration and model of excellence for others to follow nationwide, as we all work for equality for women.

All commissions meeting the criteria for NACW membership and who are dues paying members in good standing of NACW are eligible for consideration of the award. The criteria for judging include that the project submitted must:

- ◆ be a commission project;
- ◆ have occurred within the last three years or be presently on-going;
- ◆ have verifiable impact, i.e., address an important problem or concern of women to a significant degree;
- ◆ be innovative;
- ◆ have transferability; and
- ◆ be of lasting quality or durability.

2006 Award Submissions

Fifteen commissions submitted nomination packets for consideration. Following are the submissions, each listing the title of the project, commission, contact information, and the description of the project from the nomination form. Winners will be announced during the Awards and Installation Breakfast on July 22, 2006. There were no submissions for the category of commissions with budgets of \$501,000 or more. All submissions will be available for review at the convention. Contact Lori SchraderBachar for more information at 515/281-4470 or lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.

Commissions Under \$10,000

8th Annual 5K Run/Walk and Health Expo for Girls At-Risk

Los Angeles County Commission for Women (CA)

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This is a well-organized human services project to address problems besieging girls at-risk in the county. Scholarships provided by the program assist girls in overcoming hardships of broken homes, domestic violence, drug abuse, poverty, and violence-plagued neighborhoods. The primary goal was to award five (5) \$1,000 scholarships to girls, recently or soon to be released, from the L.A. County Juvenile Justice System; Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater L.A.; Boys & Girls Club; Department of Children & Family Services; and Department of Public Social Services. It provides assistance to: 1.) Girls-at-Risk by offering educational opportunities. 2.) Women & their families by encouraging healthful exercise & providing health/fitness information and screenings. Public/Private partnerships provided resources, e.g., gift bag items, door prizes, & food items for race participants. Funding was accomplished by corporate donations, race entry fees and in-kind contributions.

Marin County Workforce and Salary Analysis & Consent Decree

Marin Women's Commission (CA)

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In 1995, the United Way of the Bay Area released a report on the Economic Status of Marin County. Nearly ten years earlier, in 1976, NOW (National Organization for Women) had filed a suit with the County of Marin alleging that the County's employment policies discriminated against women in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Project is a result of the Marin Women's Commission concern that the County was not fulfilling the affirmative action goals as mandated by the Consent Decree and as illustrated by the UWBA Economic Report of Marin. It was at this time, in 1995, that the Marin Women's Commission established a subcommittee that began to address the continued discrepancy of women in high wage jobs within the County of Marin and to inform the Marin County Board of Supervisors of their progress toward the affirmative action goals outlined in the *Consent Decree* and in the County's Affirmation Action Plan.

This Project consists of two parts: a) *Workforce Salary Analysis* tracks relative salaries and measures the earnings gap between men and women in management and professional categories, and b) *Consent Decree* monitors the number and percentage of women by EEOC category and the county's progress toward attaining established goals in each category. The subsequent outcomes of this work are detailed in *Marin County Workforce and Salary Analysis & Consent Decree Update*, an annual report that is adopted by the Board of Supervisors to incorporate into the County's Affirmative Action Plan.

Women's Advocacy Initiative in the Local Jail System

Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women (CA)

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Concerned about on-going budget cuts in general and the depth of cuts to programming for female inmates in particular, commissioners began a cursory investigation into the local jail. Observations of best practices as well as concerns that arose from site visits, interviews with DOC staff and female inmates led to a call for a more substantial needs assessment of the increasing female population in our local criminal justice system. In partnership with the Office of Women's Advocacy and the Department of Corrections, funds were secured from the County of Santa Clara through a federal grant in 2005 to conduct a gender analysis to assess how gender-responsive programs and services are [meeting] the needs of female inmates. As the gender analysis is underway commissioners are key stakeholders in this countywide initiative to reduce the female incarceration rates and better understand this complicated situation.

Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Santa Monica

Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (CA)

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The *Report on Women and Girls in Santa Monica 2004* is a detailed compilation of statistical data about the status of women and girls in Santa Monica, California.

Project First Class

Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women (NJ)

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"Project First Class" was established by the Somerset County (NJ) Commission on the Status of Women to collect school supplies for needy children in the county. Each year, press releases are sent to local media asking for donations from the public, and personal appeals are made by Commission members for donations from local businesses and organizations. Commission members present the collected supplies to the designated recipient agency each August, just prior to the start of the school year in September.

2006 Women's Voices Forum

Fairfax County Commission for Women (VA)

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The Women's Voices Forum 2006 was held at the Fairfax County Government Center on March 29, 2006. The Forum provided an opportunity for the women and girls of Fairfax County and neighboring jurisdictions to hear from an extensive panel of experts and participate in discussions of key issues affecting women and girls in our community: Preventive Health, Domestic Violence (prevention and a survivor's perspective),

Personal Safety, Eldercare and Work: Finding the Balance, Financial Fitness and a discussion with our county government legislative body, the Board of Supervisors.

Commissions with budgets of \$10,001 to \$100,000

Gathering of Sisters: A Women's Fair

City of Glendale Commission on the Status of Women (CA)
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Initially conceived as a health fair, the GATHERING concept expanded from the original idea of including local hospitals and health care providers to provide education and services to the public (i.e., glaucoma, blood pressure, cholesterol screenings) to also being a showcase and forum for local women artists, film-makers, and women-owned businesses, as well as providing services and education to the community.

As the GATHERING, participants could purchase hand-crafted items, get health information, experience an exciting exhibit of visual art – from photography to painting to ceramics and film, take an anti-violence pledge, and locate child care and job opportunities in the local area.

The Oklahoma Women's Almanac

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
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The Oklahoma Women's Almanac focuses exclusively on the women of Oklahoma from territorial days to the present time. The book consists of five article-length chapters on policy issues with a current, major impact on Oklahoma women. Additionally, there are shorter issues sections followed by relevant statistical tables. Other sections of the book include Oklahoma girls' high school athletic records, brief biographies and photographs of distinguished Oklahoma women, and very brief write-ups and photographs of women who have been inducted into Oklahoma's halls of fame.

Reach for the Stars

Burlington County Advisory Council on Women (NJ)
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The "Reach for the Stars Project" is a partnership with Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors in Moorestown, NJ. This is a nontraditional career conference for 9th and 10th grade female students. The purpose of this conference is to offer high school females the opportunity to discuss and explore well paying careers not traditionally considered by women. The students participate in several workshops with Lockheed Martin women employees in nontraditional professions. Improving our program this year, we have included a speaker explaining networking and how it is important in today's job place.

As reported in "Land of Plenty," a summary of the report of the congressional committee on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Department (SET) July 2000, "The commission recommended we 'advance the full and equitable participation of all Americans in SET education; increase the number of

qualified American scientists and engineers by expanding the talent pool to include more women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities; and enhance the nation's economic capacity and technology growth in this era of global competitiveness.”

Despite the strength of the congressional commission report, the number of women entering nontraditional careers is still lagging. That is why programs like Burlington County Advisory Council on Women support the growth of programs like this in order to improve the number of women entering careers in areas including Science, Engineering and Technology. Programs like Reach for the Stars can have direct impact on changing the future careers of female students.

Commissions with budgets of \$100,001 to \$250,000

Thirteenth Annual Report, titled *Legally Yours: A Guide for Florida Women*

Florida Commission on the Status of Women

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The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to empowering women to achieve their fullest potential. In an effort to fulfill its mission, the Commission's 2004 Annual Report will provide the women of Florida a *Women's Legal Resource Handbook*. The Handbook will provide basic information to help women understand their roles and rights in the home, the workplace and the society. The Handbook will include information on Florida laws important to women, as well as names and contact information for the offices, agencies, commissions and courts that can correspond to specific subjects. The report will be produced in English and Spanish. The information provided will be brief and easy to understand. The handbook will not offer legal advice, just basic information that assists women in knowing where to seek additional information or assistance.

Georgia Osteoporosis Initiative

Georgia Commission on Women

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A statewide education and prevention initiative created by a coalition convened by the Georgia Commission on Women, and including state agencies, advocacy groups, health care professionals, private agencies, business professionals and volunteers whose efforts are dedicated to reducing incidence of fractures from osteoporosis by staying physically active, practice screenings, and early detection, proper nutrition, adequate calcium intake and proper treatment. The objective is to reduce suffering, save lives, and substantially reduce state expense of treatment, which is \$1,000,000 daily. Osteoporosis affects one in every two women and one in five men.

Why Women Should Vote! A Voter's Guide for Women

Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission

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Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LL WC) commissioners were concerned with responses from non-voting women who indicated they did not know what impact election issues had on their lives. Commissioners developed a 12-page booklet that framed issues with questions that were directly related to women's lives. Included were statistics on issues affecting women's lives, including a detachable form to request an absentee ballot if they are unable to get to the polls on election day. The booklet includes information on topics such as sexual assault, health care insurance, care giving, domestic violence, poverty, employment & wages, gun violence and economic empowerment, with talking points and questions the reader can use to gauge candidates' stands on those issues. 1,500 copies of the booklet were distributed via mailings, to churches, child care facilities, libraries, government offices such as Health and Human Services, hospitals, university, doctor's offices, grocery stores, community centers, candidate forums, voting booths and various area nonprofit agencies.

The Women's Prison Project

New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women

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The Women's Prison Project initiated from a charge by former Governor Craig Benson and Executive Councilor Ruth Griffin. The project began with a series of listening sessions with female offenders and staff from the New Hampshire State Prison for Women (NHSP/W). With the support of service providers, staff and administrators of the New Hampshire Department of Corrections (NHDOC) *Double Jeopardy: A Report on Training and Programs for New Hampshire's Female Offenders* was released, including recommendations to improve the status of female offenders and address long standing inequities for women in the NHDOC. Based on recommendations of the report, NHCSW worked with the prime sponsor Senator Sylvia Larsen and a bi-partisan group of nine legislators to submit SB 262 for the 2006 Legislative session. SB 262 establishes an administrator of women offenders and family services with the NHDOC, and establishes an interagency coordinating council on women offenders.

Commissions with budgets of \$250,001 to \$500,000

Women's Economic Summit 2005: *The next step in our journey*

Kentucky Commission on Women

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Summit attendees from all of Kentucky's 15 area development districts gathered in Frankfort, Kentucky's state capital, to discuss and review the five issues of greatest concern to Kentucky's women: health and well-being, leadership, education, economic sufficiency, and equity. Through these many issues, one major concern evolved –

Kentucky must focus on our young women and girls by emphasizing all the issues at a much earlier age. Otherwise, we will be forced to continually discuss the problems of women.

Participants worked to identify progress to date, successes, and specific areas of concern. In addition, the Summit offered how-to workshops and information sharing sessions, featured nationally recognized speakers addressing the issues critical to moving Kentucky's women forward, and celebrated the successes and diversity of all Kentucky women.

Year of the Girl Documentary Project

New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women

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The NMCSW partnered with Emmy-award winning film producer Christopher Schueler to create a multimedia campaign that is designed to inform the public on the issues facing teenage girls and empower young girls in New Mexico through a broadcast documentary and a series of news stories created by girls. It is designed to inform young women through peer interaction and an educational video just for them, and help political leaders understand girl's issues through a special premiere showing. The project extensively involves girls ages 13-18 in the creation of all aspects of the project, so the message is about teenage girls by teenage girls.

The project, which involved film classes from five New Mexico high schools, focused on the topics of teen pregnancy, substance abuse, depression, dating violence, body image and career information for the 21st century woman. Schools created a 30-second news story highlighting the problem and then a 5 minute story about the solutions.

2006 Awards Committee

Lori SchraderBachar, Chair

Romona S. Fullman

Jacqueline Wilson

2006 Awards Judges

Romona S. Fullman

Patricia T. Hendel

Ruth Jackson

Mary Wiberg

Jacqueline Wilson