



The 2007 National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Outstanding Achievement Awards

The National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Outstanding Achievement Award program was established by NACW's Board of Directors to identify and publicly recognize exemplary and innovative Women's Commission programs and projects. One award in each of the following categories is presented annually at convention:

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

Commissions that meet the criteria for NACW membership and were dues paying members in good standing by April 1, 2007 were eligible for consideration for the awards. Submissions were evaluated on the criteria that the project was:

- an individual Commission project;
- developed within the last three years and/or is currently ongoing;
- of verifiable impact, i.e., addressed an important problem/concern of women to a significant degree.
- innovative.
- transferable, showing promise of replication by other commissions; and
- of lasting quality or durability.

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 full equality for women.

2007 Award Submissions

Eleven commissions submitted nomination packets for consideration. Following are all submissions by category, including project title, commission, contact information and brief description from the nomination form. Winners will be announced during the Awards and Installation Ceremony on July 14. All submissions will be available for review at the convention. For more information, contact Linda Brantley, Outstanding Achievement Awards Committee Chair and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women at 617-626-6520 or Linda.Brantley@state.ma.us.

Commissions with Budgets Under \$10,000

Annual Golf O.P.E.N. (Offering Philanthropy, Education & Networking) Frederick County Commission for Women (MD)

Building on the format of a traditional golf tournament to raise money and visibility for the Commission, this all woman tournament also features a Woman's Health Fair with free

screenings and speakers on women's health. Money raised was used to launch a Women in Need mentoring program.

Commissions with Budgets \$10,001 to \$100,000

Alameda County Junior Commission on the Status of Women **Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women (CA)**

This Commission, for high school students in grades 9-12, was established to develop and enhance leadership skills for young women; teach and demonstrate how government works and show how young women can become empowered by advocating on policy related issues. Junior Commissioners are required to attend one meeting per month and provide input on issues related to young women. The Commission is comprised of 17 young women from different ethnic and economic backgrounds from ten different high schools.

The Clothes Closet **Luzerne County Commission for Women (PA)**

The Clothes Closet helps women whom may not have the adequate resources as they transition to economic self sufficiency. It serves women who are going on interviews, starting a new job, working in a low paying job or who find it is financially impossible to afford clothing for themselves and their families. It offers new and next to new clothing at no cost and consumers can visit once a month to select one bag of clothes. The Clothes Closet also serves as a worksite for the Luzerne County Workforce Investment Agency Work Experience Program. This partnership provides three part-time staff workers.

2007 Women's History Month Supplement & Columns **Okalahoma Commission on the Status of Women (OK),**

This two-part project was done to educate citizens of Oklahoma about the contributions of Oklahoma women on its centennial. During Women's History Month, The Oklahoman, the state's only statewide newspaper published "Generations of Oklahoma Women Moving History Forward." This full color, 16-page supplement featured accomplishments of Oklahoma women, including exercises to further engage younger women in learning more. The second part of the project was a series of thematic units on Oklahoma women, aimed at young women which appeared daily in the newspaper. The materials were received by 25,000 Oklahoma school children in grades 4-8.

First US Statewide Public-Private Partnership to Improve the Status of Women **South Carolina Commission on Women (SC),**

The Alliance for Women, a partnership between the County Carolina Commission on Women and Columbia College, a private women's college, was created to improve the status of all women in South Carolina. Specifically, the partnership is dedicated to improving the economic success, political participation and health of South Carolina women, and it is the only partnership of its

kind in the U.S. Since its inception, the partnership has effectively collaborated with state leaders, state and local women's advocacy centers, women-owned businesses, and state and local agencies to effect change through programming,, legislation and coalition-building.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative
Texas Governor's Commission for Women (TX),

In an effort to stop the cycle of teen violence, the Governor's Commission and several non-profit organizations have embarked on a project to promote healthy dating relationships among teenagers. They have distributed more than 250 educational toolkits statewide to high schools and organizations which contain educational guides for teachers, handouts, posters, emergency wallet cards and a DVD.

Commissions with Budgets \$100,001 to \$250,000

Why Women Should Vote! A Voter's Guide for Women
The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (NE)

This guide is a 12-page booklet designed with a three-fold goal: to encourage women to vote, to explain why it's an important legal right, and to educate women on the process of choosing the best candidate within the framework of women's issues. Over 5,000 copies have been printed and distributed in the community in the past three years. It is also a tool that community leaders can use to inform, motivate, encourage and network women into taking a proactive approach to political responsibility.

The Massachusetts Women's Resource & Referral Network
Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MA)

To fulfill its legislative mandate to serve as a clearinghouse of information for the women of Massachusetts, the MCSW created this interactive, online database that puts the resources and information women need at their fingertips. The database is searchable by topic or location and contains information on the following topics: legal, healthcare, child care, transportation, housing, education, finance, domestic violence, sexual assault and much more. The MWRRN is accessible at www.mcswnetwork.com. This resource was made possible through profits from the Commission's annual signature event.

Career 411 for Girls Web Site
Wisconsin Women's Council (WI)

This web site is designed for girls in middle and high school to provide information and resources needed to explore careers and design their futures. Sections include: career profiles/role models, all about college, teacher links, my future career and fun and games. The web site is averaging about 1,000 unique user sessions per month, with the average user sessions per month.

Commissions with Budgets \$250,001 to \$500,000

Florida Women Mean Business! A Guide to Successful Business Ownership for Florida Women

Florida Commission on Women (FL)

This annual report highlights the importance of women-owned businesses to Florida's economy and offers women resources and information on how to grow their own businesses. It served as a platform to connect women in Florida's business community and has provided public policymakers a tool in aiding women to develop and expand their own businesses. The report's success helped to launch similarly themed seminars to help women start and grow their own businesses.

Voices: African American and Latina Women in PA Share Their Stories of Success
Pennsylvania Commission for Women (PA)

To help young girls and women learn about overcoming obstacles and achieving success, *Voices* was produced. It features 50 Pennsylvania women who have reached the top of their fields, in law, medicine, communications, business, technology, education, government, and non profits. The volume provides very visible role models for young girls, especially in the African American and Latino communities. Complimentary copies were distributed to every free library and public school library serving students in grades six through nine in Pennsylvania.

2007 Awards Committee

Linda Brantley, Chair
Theresa deLangis

2007 Judges

Patricia T. Hendel
Ruth Jackson
Camille Faila Murphy
Mary Watkins
Mary Wiberg