AAUWNYSFOCUS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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FROM THE PRESIDENT / EDWINA FRANCES MARTIN, ESQ.



efore we know it, Convention 2016, "AAUW Women on the Move: Achieving Women's Economic Justice," will be here, and it is not to be missed!

In addition to our business meeting, at which a new President, Development Vice President and Program Vice President will be elected, the Convention planning team under the direction of Convention Chair Margaret Williams



and NYS Program VP Jane Russell have developed an exciting program for NYS members and supporters for 2016 which will include:

Special Early Bird registration

prizes and a pre-convention culture walk, "Health, History & Horses;"

Special recognition of 2015-16 branch milestones;

A welcome from Saratoga Springs Mayor Joanne Yepsen;

■ Guest speakers Beverly Neufeld, Founder, PowHerNY, a statewide network committed to securing economic equality for all New York women, and Leigh Ann DeLyser, PhD, Director of Education and Research at the NYC Foundation for Computer Science Education;

An opening plenary panel discussion, "The Path Towards Women's Economic Achievement," with Beverly Neufeld, Founder, PowHerNY; Christine Sadowski, Executive Director, YWCA Orange County, N.Y.; Leah Rambo, Tradeswoman, United Sheetworkers, Local 28; and Lois M. Johnson, Director of Workforce Strategies, The Workforce Development Institute,

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2016 STATE CONVENTION APRIL 15-17







Clockwise from the top: Victorian gems; Saratoga Racetrack; Mayor Joanne Yepsen; Congress Park.

Growing ideas at fall conferences

BY MARY LOU DAVIS AAUW-NYS District Coordinator

DISTRICT 1

The District 1 Fall Conference was held on Oct. 17 at the UB Center for Tomorrow. The topic was "Transgender, What Advocates Need to Know"

The speaker was Michelle Wolf, the co-chair of Spectrum, the Transgender Group of Western New York. Michelle gave an informative, insightful and heartfelt presentation regarding the history, lives and challenges of transgender people. Topics covered included definitions, history, health care, employment, the long process of transitioning and the after-effects. The program was well received by all those in attendance.

DISTRICT 2

The District 2 Fall Conference was held on Oct. 17 at the First Presbyterian Church of Bath on the Square. The theme was "Women Rising out of Poverty as Entrepreneurs."

The group in attendance was very happy with the range of the speakers and their ideas. The branches took back the following ideas for their community.

Ithaca – Give Women Hope – have AAUW be a community resource to help women connect to services.

Elmira-Corning – Want to learn more from Ithaca & Cortland about how Tech Savvy works and see if it would be a viable program to run.

Fairport – Help women who can't afford formal education how to use things like EdEx and Linda.com to gain the skills they need to get a job.

Bath – Donate a copy of Marilyn Deane Mendell's book to the local library and learn more about the Jefferson County program to map existing mental health services, mentor a young woman in the community to create a business, and find out more about Access to Independence, a local organization that provides up to \$1,000 in matching funds to women to start a business.

Yates County - find out more about



how trauma affects people and choices they make.

Alfred-Hornell – Set up a meeting in Allegany County to connect small business development to the colleges' business programs with people looking to start new businesses.

GRAB (Greater Rochester) – Help the Coffee Connection to gain more visibility, push their products, and use them at branch events; perhaps assigning a business intern to work with them to further their development plans.

DISTRICT 3

The District 3 Fall Conference was held on Oct. 24 at the Paleontological Research Institution and the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca. The theme was "From Mud Pies to Dinosaur Bones: Encouraging Girls' Interest in STEM."

The speakers included Warren Allmon, director of the museum, Illa Burbank, founder and president of Ithaca STEM Advocates, Ellie Fitts Fulmer – assistant professor of education at Ithaca College and past professional developer with the DaVinci Science Center, Dr. Patrice Torcivia Prusko, Instructional Designer of MOOCs and Digital Initiatives at Cornell University, Dr. Silverstone, Associate Director of the Rochester Area Colleges' Center for Excellence in Math and Science, and Sally Wolfe, professional developer for DaVinci Science Center teacher leadership programs.

DISTRICT 4

The District 4 Fall Conference was held on Sept. 26 at Adirondack Commu-

nity College in Queensbury.

The program, "Food Insecurity - The Next Step," featured a panel of four speakers. Kim Cook, director of the Open Door Soup Kitchen, spoke of its varied programs, ranging from free dinners for the poor and/or homeless to backpacks of food distributed at 6 schools every weekend to identified needy children. She recommended the book "Bridges Out of Poverty" to better understand the multiple barriers faced by poor people.

Ron Hanson, chair of Bridges to Nutrition, mentioned the barriers of lack of transportation and of the high cost of fruits and vegetables.

His organization holds forums featuring the film "A Place at the Table", stages a harvest festival at a low income development, and sets up nutrition circles that coach meal planning, shopping, and cooking.

Belinda Bradley, program director of the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health, described her work with a psychiatric day program for the mentally ill and substance abusers.

They have set up a garden and built a greenhouse at the center with the help of college and community volunteers.

The final panelist, Catherine Barton from State Senator Betty Little's office, enumerated some of the federal and state programs to help the hungry. AAUW-NYS Vice President for Public Policy Donna Seymour then spoke about her work with North Country Matters, a series of television programs focused on issues in St. Lawrence County.

Edwina Martin concluded with updates on the state Convention in Saratoga Springs.

Guidelines for preparing a resolution for Convention

BY DONNA SEYMOUR AAUW-NYS Public Policy Vice President

Just a quick reminder that a branch or member can submit a resolution at Convention for consideration by the delegate body.

The purpose of a resolution is to focus attention on issues of importance to the mission and vision of AAUW.

The resolution should contain specific and realistic suggestions for action.

Hint: Asking the state president to write a letter about a topic is not going to achieve sustained action.

Your first step is to carefully look at our existing Public Policy Priorities and active resolutions to see if the issue you identify is already covered at aauwnys.org

All the instructions for how to write a resolution for consideration at the NYS convention can be found on aauw-nys.org.

The 2016 deadline will be the Ides of March, March 15.

AAUW States and Branches may take positions on state or local issues that are not current AAUW priorities at the federal level, providing those issues do not conflict in any way with AAUW public policy priorities and principles.

Race to suffrage at Convention

By NANCY MION AAUW-NYS LAF Director

What a momentous event to celebrate! American citizens who were female finally obtained the right to vote in NYS in 1917. Nationally they gained the right three years later.

How are you and your branch planning to celebrate the achievement of this monumental goal? How are you going to honor the thousands of NYS women and men who worked so hard to gain women a place at the polls? What is being done to encourage everyone to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage, that significant date when women's voices were first heard as voting citizens?

The NYS Convention Workshop "Race to Suffrage: Preparing for NYS 2017 Centennial and Looking Forward to 2020" will answer these questions and more.

NYS legislators passed a law that was signed by the governor to establish and fund a Commission for the NY Women's Suffrage Centennial.

The NY Council for the Humanities was active in the drive that resulted in the Commission becoming a reality. Sara Ogger from the Council will be telling of the Council's role on the Commission and their coordination efforts to create a statewide commemoration.

Very importantly, she will discuss the Council's grants and programs that will support this effort. With AAUW-NYS, the Commission, the Council and funding behind you, your branch will certainly have the support needed to celebrate the Centennial.

There were thousands of people in cities, towns and villages all over New York State who were committed to the cause of women's suffrage. They rallied, march, trained, went door to door and much more. Their goal was to gain women the right to vote. How can you and your branch find suffragists in your area to



Susan Zimet

honor? Bonnie Mion will share with you the many exciting ways of finding the suffragists in your area. She will also tell you stories about suffragists in the Hudson Valley. With knowledge of local people who fought for women's right to vote, you can bring the celebration to your own back yard.

2020: Project Women was created by Susan Zimet when she realized how little is known and how important the centennial is. She will be updating us on what has been happening recently.

One of Susan's first accomplishments on behalf of 2020: Project Women was to have a NYS bill passed honoring the 100th anniversary of the Spirit of 1776, one of two suffrage wagons still existing in America.

The governor proclaimed July 1, 2013 the "Spirit of 1776" Wagon Day in the state of New York. When the Commission for the NY Women's Suffrage Centennial is formed this spring she will be one of the Commissioners.

Celebrate the centennial of women achieving the right to vote. It was a major victory for women and justice. The workshop will give you the background, the tools and the knowledge to spread the word of how women gained the rights of full citizenship which we use today whenever we vote for what we believe is right.

A special Convention invitation extended to college students, faculty and staff

By MARIA ELLIS AAUW-NYS College and University Director

The AAUW-NYS State Board is pleased to welcome college and university students, faculty and staff at our Convention on Saturday, April 16, at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs in New York for a day of learning and inspiration.

Hear great speakers including our keynote Nada Marie Anid, Professor and Dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences at the New York Institute of Technology. Her expertise includes industry-academic partnerships, entrepreneurship and innovation, emerging technologies, sustainability, global engineering education and STEM K-12 outreach.

Do you have concerns about handling your finances and loans after college? The student conference includes a workshop with financial counselors.

To pre-register for this educational and fun event, email mellis@fsacap.com or call 973-216-4181.

■ 10-10:30 – Registration and continental breakfast

10:30-11:15 – Welcome, introduction to AAUW, Getting to Know You exercise

■ 11:30-12:45 – Keynote: Nada Anid, NYI of Technology Dean

■ 1-2:45 – Join AAUW members for the LAF Luncheon

3-4:30 – Loan assistance expert and then breakout groups discussing how to manage loans/ finances post-graduation with financial experts

4:30-5:30 – Reception

Call for officer nominations: Do you know a woman who can serve?

Attention, branch officers and members. You are needed to help the AAUW-NYS board find qualified applicants to run for the NYS Board of Directors for the 2017-2019 term.

We know that branches have skilled, energetic, experienced members that could serve the state as well as benefit themselves by board service.

Please think seriously about expanding your AAUW knowledge base and networking abilities by volunteering for NYS board service.

If you know someone you think would be a good officer or you are interested in serving in one of the positions contact the Nominating Committee at loreen@fairpoint.net or 716-326-4270 as soon as possible.

The offices that will need to be filled next year are: Membership Vice President, Public Policy Vice President, Secretary/Bylaws and Treasurer.

You will find job descriptions and qualifications for each position on the nominations page on the AAUW website at (aauw-nys.org).

Click the green button on the left side of the home page. Or you may fill out the nomination form below.

Deadline for Nominations: July 15. Deadline for Applications: Oct. 1.

-- Loreen Ginnitti

AAUW-NYS NOMINATIONS FORM

This form is submitted to the nominating committee as a source for potential board members. We know there are capable, experienced women in the branches. Nominations from the branches give us a pool of names to be used in finding qualified candidates for state office.

Name of Person Being Nominated	
Branch of Person Being Nominated	
Name of Person Nominating	

Position(s) you think this person would be qualified for:

Public Policy Vice President _____ Membership Vice President

Secretary/Bylaws Chair Treasurer

I have spoken with the nominee about considering a position.

_____ I have NOT spoken with the nominee about considering a position.

Email to: Loreen Ginnitti at loreen@fairpoint.net. Or snail mail to: Loreen Ginnitti, 75 Third St., Westfield N.Y. 14787

Meet the candidates for state office

FOR AAUW-NYS PRESIDENT, ROLI WENDORF: Since joining AAUW in 2007, Roli Wendorf has held a variety of leadership positions. Currently Co-President of Westchester Branch, she has also served as AAUW-NYS LAF VP from 2011-2013.

During her tenure, LAF contributions



F contributions from NYS were second highest in the country. Other positions held at Westchester Branch were Co-VP Programs and EOF-LAF Chair.

Diona Koerner, Co-President of Westchester

Branch writes, "When Roli joined our branch she immediately took on a number of challenging positions and she made a success of them all." She further states, "Roli is an energetic leader who motivates her colleagues to work together for the benefit of our organization and she is always available and ready to help."

Roli initiated the StartSmart program at the Branch and created a team which has trained several hundred women in pay negotiation skills. She is a Planning Committee Member for the Explore Your Opportunities STEM conference and, as Branch Co-President, has helped the new WizGirls STEM event get started.

Selena Barron, Westchester Branch Co-VP Programs and Past President notes, "Roli is a woman making a difference and she would make an outstanding AAUW NY State president."

AAUW-NYS President Edwina Martin says in her recommendation, "Roli is a very empathetic and rational leader, working to build consensus rather than dictate what should be done – this makes her an ideal leader for a state-wide organization with many different points of views."

FOR AAUW-NYS DEVELOPMENT VP, NANCY MION: Nancy Mion has 40 years of membership in Islip Area Branch, 36 years of which she has held leadership positions from local to state and national levels Nancy is a past AAUW NYS President 2004-2006, Public Policy Director 2006-2010, Nominating Committee Chair, Convention Director and member of many other committees.

Currently, Nancy is AAUW-NYS Legal Advocacy Fund Director, branch Program VP, branch Long Island Suffragist Committee Chair, Empire State Virtual Branch Public Policy Director, and Long Island Interbranch Secretary/Treasurer. Nancy has been a member of the National LAF Committee since 2012

and the National

Course Commit-

She served on the

National Public

Policy Commit-

tee 2007 to 2011.

Islip Branch

President Susan

Furfaro says she

has "admired her

tee since 2013.

Charting the



NANCY MION

perseverance and commitment to the mission.

She takes her responsibilities very seriously and gives 1,000 percent of her time and effort when she takes on a new task. Her ability to listen, cooperate and get along with others makes her an excellent team member.

Diane Haney, past AAUW NYS President, said "Nancy has served an amazing range of positions and assignments with energy, graciousness and competence. Her devotion to mission is unequaled and distinctive. Nancy's dedication is long-standing and bedrock solid."

FOR AAUW-NYS PROGRAM VP, GEETA DESAI: Geeta has previously served as the president, international chair, and diversity director of the Poughkeepsie Branch. She was chosen as the branch Woman of the Year in 1995.

Geeta has represented Graduate Women International (GWI, previously IFUW) at the UN where she worked with its functional commissions, agencies and funds to help women and girls create lives of sustainable independence. In this capacity, she has also worked with UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, most recently supporting the development of workshops for the Commission on the Status of Women parallel events. She is also the Advocacy Convener for Women Graduates – USA, the American affiliate of GWI.

Geeta has been the featured speaker at



numerous women's conferences here in the United States as well as in Asia. She is also an Organizational Development Consultant who works with private foundations in the United States to help

GEETA DESAI

nonprofits with Program Development and Evaluation, Resource and Capacity Development, Human Resource Development, Management Training, Executive Coaching and the Management of Diversity. She has also chaired several national conferences on diversity in America, the most recent being "Diversity on Non-Profit Boards."

Her other accomplishments include the creation of a residence for homeless AIDS patients in collaboration with the Gannett Foundation and the Dutchess County Department of Social Services; the development of the first county needs assessment study; development of a blueprint for interracial dialogue for Dutchess County's media, criminal and law enforcement systems, housing, business and education representatives; creation of the first Universal Response to Domestic Violence System for Dutchess County and the first conference on Corporate Social responsibility in the county

Nancy Mion wrote "I wholeheartedly recommend Geeta Desai for the position of AAUW-NYS Program Vice President. She is extremely well qualified to perform the duties of the office. Geeta is an experienced leader with the skills necessary to achieve goals. She has the organizational ability to work with people and ideas to create the desired outcome."

'ACHIEVING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE'

Panel will focus on Paid Family Leave

tice. The Pub-

lic Policy Ad-

vocacy

workshop

that follows

will focus on

how to advo-

cate, using

Paid Family

Leave as our

case in point.

Beverly

Cooper

By DONNA SEYMOUR AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP

"I love it when a plan comes together," as John "Hannibal" Smith used to say on the A-Team.

And what a plan we have for our AAUW advocacy focus in 2016 and for our 2016 state convention.

"Achieving Women's Economic Justice" is our theme. Following up on the 2015 legislative successes where many of the provisions of the Women Equality Act were signed into law, we're turning our focus to an expanded agenda, including Paid Family Leave.

To help us do that, we're bringing many of the top women advocates together for the opening panel discussion at convention who will discuss women's economic jus-



COOPER NEUFELD

Neufeld, who will address the convention on Friday night as our keynoter, has been doing "women's work" for a long time. The founder and president of PowHer New York and president of BCN Consulting Group LLC, Bev led the eight-year, statewide campaign for pay equity reform. She reinvigorated the 20-year old New York Women's Agenda, is a member of the national Paycheck Fairness Taskforce, and is on the steering committee of the NYS Women's Equality Coalition.

She will be joined in the workshop by Blue Carreker, the Upstate Organizer of the NY Paid Family Leave Insurance Campaign for Citizen Action of New York, and by Christine Sadowski, the executive director of the YWCA Orange County and another WEA Steering committee member who is also a Plenary Panel member.

Our state convention follows the NYS budget process, so we have all the pieces in place to hit the ground running for the remainder of the 2016 legislative session. Be part of this great endeavor to move us forward toward real and sustained economic justice for all New Yorkers.

AAUW-NYS proposed bylaws amendments

By LOREEN GINNITTI AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws Chair

The following AAUW-NYS bylaws amendments were proposed by the state bylaws committee and approved by the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors at the fall board meeting Nov.13-15, 2015.

Delegates will be voting on these amendments at the AAUW-NYS Convention in Saratoga Springs, April 15-17. A copy of the AAUW-NYS Bylaws can be found on the website at "aauw-nys.org" under the "NYS Guidelines" tab.

Items below that are underlined will be removed and items in "quotations" are to be added.

Article IV

Section 3 Categories of Membership - #4 add c.

"An AAUW-NYS member is a dues paying member of both AAUW and AAUW-NYS."

Rationale – Defines a state member

#5 – a "College/University" Partner Member. (for clarity only) Rationale – Paragraph only relates to C/U members because

next section is "other" partner members

 $Article \ V-Section \ 2$

The officers <u>elected</u> "nominated" in a given year shall be members of different branches. (moved from VI section 3)

Rationale – If more than one officer is nominated from the

same branch they could potentially be elected and that violates the bylaws and the intent of this article.

Article VI

Section 3 Terms of Office

No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms "unless a qualified candidate cannot be secured by February 1 of the election year."

Rationale – It is difficult to find competent officers who want to serve, it gives flexibility to the board when the situation warrants.

A term shall be defined as a year or more of a full two-year period. A period of less than one year "two years" is not to be considered when counting years of board service "or time in a specific office." The officers elected in a given year shall be members of different branches.

Rationale – If a member fills an unexpired term and is willing to serve this gives them the opportunity to serve the full two elected terms.

Article XIII

Section 2

b. voting procedures

Voting. A member of the voting body shall <u>cast no more than</u> <u>one vote.</u> "Represent no more than one vote."

Rationale – Original wording sounds like they can only vote once during the business meeting. Wording needs to indicate intent. Ie; a delegate can not hold the vote of both a branch and a state position and therefore hold two votes.



AAUW-NYS ELECTED OFFICERS

President Edwina Frances Martin, Esq. edwinamartin@hotmail.com

Program Vice President Jane Russell homechick@empacc.net

Public Policy Vice President Donna Seymour seymour6985@verizon.net

Development Vice President / Acting Administrative Director Janice Brown j2brown1012@aol.com

Membership Vice President Peggy Tiffany tiffanyfamily@netsync.net

Financial Representative Mary Lou Davis maryloudavis125@gmail.com

Secretary/Bylaws Chair Loreen Ginnitti loreen@fairport.net

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

LAF Director Nancy Mion Myown220@aol.com

EOF Director Lucienne Nicholson nicholsonlucienne@gmail.com

Cultural / International Director Jennifer Mayfield jennifer.a.mayfield@gmail.com

Communications Director Cynthia "Cyd" Averill averillc@optonline.net

Immediate Past President / District Director Mary Lou Davis maryloudavis125@gmail.com

> Focus Director Claire Regan regan@siadvance.com

Diversity Director Valora Blackson vblackson@gmail.com

College/University Director Maria Ellis mellis@fsacap.com

Don't forget the pampering

By JANE RUSSELL AAUW-NYS Program VP

Saratoga! This small city rich in history is the location of our 2016 state Conference. The newly renovated Holiday Inn on Broadway has just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Besides being within easy walking distance of several of the famous springs, all you need is a cup; it has Wi-Fi, an indoor pool and a fitness center.

When this writer visited the hotel in August, the food was delicious!

We will have many rooms for meeting and even a separate lobby for registration.

Margaret Williams has arranged guided walking tours of the town for Friday afternoon. If you want to try your luck at the slots there is a track-side casino within easy driving distance from the hotel. For the shoppers, Broadway is a delight.

You can even purchase a special "Ladies Bonnet" for the polo games or the



The Lincoln Baths building.

races which happen in the summer season in Saratoga Springs.

For special pampering, you can make a reservation at the historic Roosevelt Spa for a "bath in the Saratoga waters" and massage.

Definitely plan a drive by the beautiful Victorian grandstands at the Saratoga Race Track. Most importantly, plan on coming to meet your friends from across the state in AAUW and share an exciting weekend of new ideas. Hope to see you there.

It's everybody's business

By PEGGY TIFFANY AAUW-NYS Membership VP

Membership is ... everybody's business! That's my slogan, and if you think about it, it makes lots of sense.

Each of us had our own reasons for joining AAUW when we first took that step. Maybe you already knew about the history, mission and accomplishments of AAUW, so you wanted to be a part of it. Maybe your mother or other relative was a member.

Maybe you had just moved to a new area and wanted to meet other women who were committed to working for equal rights. Or maybe – just maybe – you were invited to an AAUW branch meeting or event by a member.

That's what happened to me. Several months after we moved to Fredonia, an AAUW member invited me to a meeting of the Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch. Although she wasn't the branch membership vice president, she understood that membership was her business. I had heard of AAUW, but really didn't know much about the organization. I did some research, and when I discovered that AAUW had taken the lead in lobbying for the Lilly Ledbetter Act, I was convinced.

It's a new year, and I'd like to challenge each member of AAUW-NYS to think back to what first brought you to AAUW.

Then look at what AAUW has achieved for women and girls in the time that you have been a member. If your own knowledge has grown, if you have been encouraged to be a leader in some capacity, if you have been inspired by the stories of women and mighty girls, then make 2016 your year to pay it forward.

Make membership your business! Invite a friend to come to an AAUW meeting or event with you. There truly is strength in numbers, and membership is ... everybody's business.



MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Focus, a quarterly newsletter, is published by the American Association of University Women-New York State. The distribution cost of \$4 is included in state dues.

Questions and articles should be addressed to: Focus Director Claire Regan, Associate Managing Editor, Staten Island Advance, 950 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island, N.Y. 10305. Phone: 718-816-2845.

Email: focus@aauw-nys.org.

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Come to Saratoga April 15-17

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Troy, N.Y.; moderated by Lynn Brown, President & General Manager, PBS (Watertown);

The second annual New Leadership Track for college and graduate students, featuring Dr. Nada Amid, Dean, New York Institute of Technology;

Breakout sessions on Paid Family Leave, the upcoming women's Suffrage centennials, women and STEM careers, and using education as a tool to lift women out of poverty;

■ A Know Your Rights workshop (eligible for CLE credit for practicing attorneys) focusing on recent state legislation impacting women and families and the Medicaid Long-Term Care System;

■ Branch awards and "FUN"-raising opportunities for cherished AAUW funds; and

• Opportunities to re-connect with old friends, make new ones, create lasting memories, and recharge your AAUW batteries!

I hope to see all of you for what promises to be a memorable convention.



THIS JUST IN!

Leigh Ann DeLyser, PhD, Director of Education and Research at the NYC Foundation for Computer Science Education, will keynote Convention 2016's Saturday night program. Hear how Leigh Ann is working to expand computer science to all schools in the New York City public school system.