

Category: ~~Community~~**Title:** **Professional Clothing Fair**

Unemployment is up sharply in the North Country (over 11% in SLC) and job seekers are competing hard for fewer openings in the area. AAUW helped to make the search a little less stressful with their 8th Professional Clothing Fair. The Fair was open to anyone looking to get a few items of clothing suitable for a job interview, student teaching, or a new job or an employment upgrade. Hosted at SUNY Canton on March 11-12, 2009, the Fair was cosponsored by AAUW, SUNY Canton, and the One Stop Career Center.

Advancing people's work goals, employment opportunities, and helping them to further their educational aspirations are all part of why we developed and continue this project. Clearly the Branch is able to fulfill our AAUW mission and effect positive societal change through this self-help program. By teaming up with other groups, we spread the workload and the impact.

The key organizer is an AAUW member and SUNY Canton staff member who coordinates the efforts of branch members, community organizations and campus groups and students to collect donated clothing, organize and display the goods, and help "shoppers" select clothing. The branch takes care of all publicity (see attached samples of several newspaper articles), including posting on our website. Each year, several hundred people attend the Fair to select a few outfits.

The county community responds every year with generous donations of new, nearly new and gently-used clothing. The Fair offers tax receipts based on the Salvation Army valuation guide for used clothing. This year the Fair added a Dress For Success Fashion Show with students and staff modeling new and slightly used clothes and a special "shopping day" for SUNY Canton student to help them get ready for job interviews and that first job following graduation.

Given the downturn in the economy nationally, the Fair is even more needed now than it was when we started it several years ago. We anticipate this need to grow and may have to expand the number of days we are "open for business" next year.



PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING FAIR - Shoppers are pictured looking over the selection of "gently used" clothing at last year's Professional Clothing Fair, sponsored by St. Lawrence County Branch AAUW, SUNY Canton, and the One Stop Career Center. The 2009 Fair takes place on March 11-12 at the SUNY Canton

Miller Campus Center, Multipurpose Rooms 212-214. Donations of clothing suitable for work will be accepted at the campus Center from March 5-7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The fair is open to anyone looking to get a few items of clothing suitable for a job interview, student teaching, or a new job or an employment upgrade.

AAUW Professional Clothing Fair March 11-12 At SUNY Canton

CANTON - Unemployment is up sharply in the North Country and job seekers are competing hard for fewer openings in the area. Just in time to make the search a little less stressful, the Professional Clothing Fair is coming soon to Canton. The Fair is open to anyone looking to get a few items of clothing suitable for a job interview, student teaching, or a new job or an employment upgrade.

SUNY Canton is hosting the Professional Clothing Fair on March 11 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and March 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Miller Campus Center in rooms 212-214. Men and women who expect to be in the work force can select suitable outfits at no charge.

"Gently used" or new clothing will be available, thanks to the generous donations of many county organizations and residents. Once again, the St. Lawrence County Branch AAUW is helping to coordinate the effort with SUNY Canton and the One Stop Career Center.

For the first time, this year's Clothing Fair will include a

"Dress For Success Fashion Show" with students and staff modeling new and slightly used clothes. The Fashion Show will be held on March 10 at 2 pm in the Campus Theater. SUNY Canton Student shopping will be held on March 10 from 1-4 pm in the CC 212-214.

AAUW member Betty Connolly with SUNY Canton is the key organizer of the event this year. She notes that the Professional Clothing Fair is really a county-community effort to benefit those who need to thin out their closets and those who need to get outfits in which they can look well dressed when they go for a job interview or to work. Call her at 386-7325 for more information, to donate or volunteer.

Anyone looking to donate items suitable for the fair can do so on March 4-6 in CC 218 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the campus center's ground floor. Donors can bring cleaned clothing on hangers and in ready to wear condition or neatly folded ready to be displayed at the Fair. You can park behind the Miller Campus Center to drop off clothing.

In 2008, the local AAUW branch earned a Make a Difference Day Award from USA Weekend magazine for the Clothing Fair in recognition of the spirit of community the event engendered. Connolly hopes this year's fair will bring out that same spirit of helpfulness when it is more needed than ever as the economy contracts.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There are no barriers to full participation in AAUW on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class. For more information about AAUW locally, contact President Lisa Wilson at 353-2518 or e-mail wilsonlm@potdssm.edu or Program vice president Sue Beller 769-7125 (th) or e-mail sbeller1@twcnycr.com.



GETTING READY - Volunteers help to organize the selection of "gently used" clothing for the Professional Clothing Fair, sponsored by St. Lawrence County Branch, AAUW, SUNY Canton, and the One Stop Career Center. The 2009 Fair takes place on March 11-12 at the SUNY Canton Miller Campus Center, Multipurpose Rooms 212-214.

Obtain Clothing For Work At Fair

CANTON - St. Lawrence County Branch AAUW member Betty Connolly is excited about the quality and the quantity of donated professional clothing available for this year's eighth annual Clothing Fair held at SUNY Canton from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 11 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 12 at the Miller Campus Center (Rooms 212-214).

With the job market in the worst slump in decades, many folks are out looking for a new job or hoping to upgrade their skills to keep their current job. That sometimes requires an upgrade in wardrobe or at the very least, a special outfit for that all-important interview.

"The variety of clothing we have is amazing. There are women's suits, dresses, blouses, sweaters and pants - many in high end name brands. And there is a very nice selection of next to new shoes. Our men's wear selections include excellent quality suits and jackets and even ties," Connolly said.

The "gently used," new or nearly new clothing has been generously donated by many county organizations and residents. The St. Lawrence County Branch AAUW is helping to coordinate the effort with SUNY Canton and the One Stop Career Center.

The Fair is open to anyone looking to get a few items of clothing suitable for a job interview, student teaching, a new job or for an employment upgrade.