

American Association of University Women
New York State
Board Meeting
Notes from brainstorming on College Connections
November 19, 2005

How to get your branch on campus

- Find out some basic information about the college or university prior to contacting anyone so you know for instance if there is a Women's Studies Program, what the majors, concentrations, courses, and history of the college are, and the names of the president, dean, department chairs, etc. This information may be accessed on the college website or by visiting the college admissions office, undergraduate or graduate office, or through someone you know on campus; review the college course offerings;
- Be sensitive to the issues of the membership the college or university may have in AAUW; check with the state AAUW C/ U Director to see if the college is already a member and who that liaison is for us; also find out if the college has had an LAF litigant (Cornell, SUNY Buffalo, etc.) in order to approach with sensitivity;
- If one of your branch members is an administrator, faculty, staff member or a student then ask that person to assist you in making an appropriate contact on campus;
- Ask an AAUW NYS officer to go with you on a campus visit if there are state officers close to your branch or check with the C/U Director of NYS to assist you in approaching the college;
- Have a specific reason for your call/ visit thought out ahead of time;
- Discuss and then take along AAUW publications about membership and EF research with you; prepare other talking points about AAUW and check the websites for updated information about activities to gather talking points;
- Discuss and then take along AAUW information about the Student Leadership Conferences sponsored by AAUW in June of each year in Washington, DC and see if you can partner on a fundraising event or other way to sponsor a student to go to the conference; information about past conferences may be found on www.aauw.org;
- Offer to act as advisors to women students in some capacity such as career information, an event you could sponsor about a common interest, an offer to have a student affiliate for your branch, etc.

College Connection group notes: November 19, 2005
NYS AAUW Board Meeting

What to do when your branch arrives on campus

- Hold your board and branch meetings on campus and advertise them to the campus community; contact specific administrators, students, faculty, staff, and other members of the campus to attend and to partner with you;
- Discuss the importance of Title IX with campus community members;
- Collaborate with campus groups with similar interests or discover new avenues of learning;
- Explore Title VII with faculty;
- Check with Financial Aid about scholarships available for students; go to honor assemblies; explore ways to partner/ donate time or money; plan programs together;
- Find out if any current or past AAUW branch members impacted the campus history; find a connection;
- Research the “Yellow Dress” project (Betty Harrel has information, plus see <http://www.deanasfund.org/Yellow%20Dress.pdf> and present it on campus;
- Involve the college students in Sister to Sister & Transitions programs;
- Involve the college students as mentors in other programs;
- Offer to mentor students one on one in a method determined by the college;
- Talk with students in freshmen year about sexual harassment, drinking, drugs, and sex;
- Find a speaker for the student orientations;
- With great sensitivity find a way to discuss reports from the security department on campus crime and review the printed reports;
- Ask the students for suggestions on how they can be safe on and off campus; understand the balance between security department and admissions department relative to security reporting; explore the difference between public and private higher institutions in how crime reporting and security are handled;
- Contact through a college representative the lesbian and gay organizations such as Lambda to see if a program on diversity and tolerance is a possibility;
- Conduct a book discussion on lesbian and gay issues after reading a selection from the AAUW ¡Adelante! book list;

- Find out about “Take Back The Night” activities on campus such as a silent march to bring attention to harassment, and see if there is a way to partner for a program or participate in established activities;
- Contact the Women’s Center to discover the purpose of the house on campus (usually it is a place for women to go for support with issues); what can be done to assist with topics and activities there;
- Invite other community organizations such as Business and Professional Women, Zonta, and League of Women Voters to go together and provide a program or informational booths on campus;
- Place an AAUW informational packet, letter from the branch, or brochure in graduation materials;
- Talk to an undergraduate or graduate class about a topic relevant to the course;
- Run a film series in conjunction with the college;
- Partner with service organizations on campus to do a book sale, clothing drive, UNICEF Collection, etc.
- Partner with a sorority on a pertinent project;
- See if any student service group is participating in Habitat for Humanity and work with them to build a house for the needy;
- Help students attend a CTAUN conference;
- Sponsor a student for an AAUW Leadership Conference;
- Use AAUW Leadership materials to assist students;
- Identify women on campus as speakers on women's issues.
- Brainstorm in your branch on other methods to conduct a project or program or other actions on campus.

These three pages of campus activity options submitted on behalf of the board by:

Eileen S. Hartmann
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 November 21, 2005