

Allyship and Racial Justice:
Self-Discovery on the Journey to
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Join our multigenerational panel of
Women representing six State
College community organizations:



BRANCH PRESENTS JANUARY 14TH DIVERSITY PROGRAM

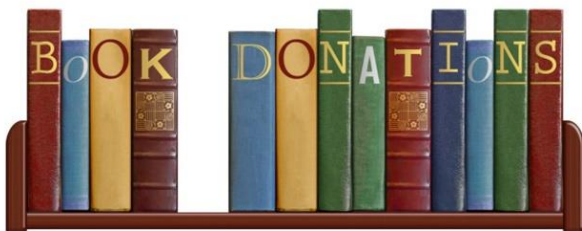
AAUW State College presents *Allyship and Racial Justice: Self-Discovery on the Journey to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion* on **Thursday, January 14th** from **6:00 to 7:30 pm via Zoom**. A multi-generational panel of women from different organizations within the Centre County community share their

personal and professional experiences in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Moderator: Melissa Walker, Director of the TRIO Training Academy within Educational Equity at Penn State and owner of the Training and Development Network.

- Panelists:**
- Wendy Vinhage, Executive Director, Centre County United Way
 - Carol Eicher, Founder and Chair, Community Diversity Group
 - Katie Marshall, Penn State World Campus mental health case manager
 - Danielle Ambrosia, M.Ed.; SCASD English teacher and BARWE (Building Anti-Racist White Educators) District Facilitator
 - Anne Ard, Executive Director, Centre Safe
 - Sarah Malone, AME Church

The program is free and open to the general public. Questions? Contact Naana Nti, naananti500@gmail.com
Register in advance for this meeting: <http://bit.ly/AAUWallyship>



BOOK DONATIONS DEADLINE – JANUARY 12, 2021

Due to the ongoing pandemic and state safety guidelines that may impact our 2021 book sale, AAUW State College is preparing for a smaller 2021 Used Book Sale and **will stop collecting book donations on Tuesday, January 12, 2021**. Donations can still be brought to our workshop at 176 Technology Dr, Boalsburg until that date. Donation bins are

currently open 24/7 and volunteers can help unload larger donations on Mondays from 6pm to 8pm, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 2:30pm.

Follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-State-College-130411100367979>

Follow the 2021 Used Book Sale Event on

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/3719074944774362/?active_tab=discussion

Visit our website (www.AAUWStateCollege.org) or email us at info@AAUWStateCollege.org for more information.



CENTRE COUNTY RECYCLING AND REFUSE AUTHORITY RECOGNIZES BRANCH BOOK RECYCLING INITIATIVES

In November, Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority recognized AAUW State College for our outstanding recycling initiatives with the Used Book Workshop and Sale by naming us as a 2020 Green Business Partner. We are among 38 local groups featured over the past two months. Visit: <https://www.centrecountyrecycles.org/>

AAUW STATE COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

We hope you will have a moment to browse our new AAUW State College website at <https://aauwstatecollege.org>

Advancing Equity for Women and Girls

For many years, Charlene Harrison and her son Erik have kindly developed and updated our website. This has been a monumental task with so much branch activity. It was time for us to share the updating of the website.

We competitively bid the site and hired Pam Mitchell's firm Keystone Connect in Altoona to redesign the site. Audrey Chambers of Audrey's Fluttering Shutters contributed her photography skills to photograph our leadership. See the photos Audrey took under **Leadership**. In addition, Carolyn Todd, Lisa Marie Cirincione, and John Larson of the State College Amateur Photography Club took photos of book donations provided by the branch to local organizations. All of this work was no small feat as we practiced social distancing and masks were the order of the day.

You will note the website now reflects the red and blue colors consistent with national's new branding. Likewise, note that branding guidelines detail that we no longer spell out the American Association of University Women, but use the acronym AAUW exclusively.

Over time, we expect to replace the stock photos on the website with photographs of branch members and events. Unfortunately, this was not the year to accomplish our goal.

There are many new pages on the site. You will learn more about **Our Mission** and our priority **Issues**. These **Issues** are those identified by national. You also can find op-eds and letters to the editor that have been authored by branch members and appear in the local media.

We are featuring our community partners with their logos and marks under **Community Outreach**. These organizations are important to our work and we support their efforts. You can review the **Presidents' Bookshelf** at Schlow Centre Region Library, as well as a **History** page that provides a comprehensive review of the branch over the years since its' inception.

The **Used Book Sale** pages have been enhanced with Google maps of the Ag Arena and Workshop, information for visitors with disabilities, a diagram of the arena layout, and volunteer signup page for the **2021 Used Book Sale** as well as more detailed information on how to donate books.

A **Donate** button at the top of the page provides several opportunities to give back to the branch

There is an **FAQ** on the site to answer common questions. Under **Media**, you will find a gallery of photos that will be built-out over time and we now have a YouTube channel with videos. The **Branch Bulletin** will be available under **Media**. Jordan Glover will be authoring a **Blog** and as doing much of the updating on the site.

We have consolidated our various members' email addresses found throughout our former site to

and other swing states ran their elections. We mention this because two of the Congressmen signing on in support represent Centre County—G.T. Thompson and Fred Keller.

If you are reading the Letters to the Editor in the Centre Daily Times, you've seen the outrage stemming from State Representative Kerry Benninghoff's participation in a letter urging Congress not to accept Pennsylvania's Electoral votes. Representative Rich Irvin also is among the 126 members of our state Legislature urging Congress to overturn the will of Pennsylvania's voters. Representative Stephanie Borowicz signed on to a lawsuit meant to force Gov. Wolf to withdraw certification of our election.

Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward said she felt she had to sign on to the letter to Congress, as otherwise someone would bomb her house. When Republicans must fear their own voters, matters are well out of hand. Congresswoman Mary Gary Scanlon [D, PA] just introduced a bill to protect election workers—their lives are being threatened—but that alone will not cool down the current atmosphere.



Be prepared: the country may well not go back to normal. President Trump is predicted to run his post-Presidency the same way he's run his Administration, through tweets, threats, conspiracy theories and rallies. Someone who refuses to participate in the inauguration of his successor will show that successor no respect.

What can you do about it? Stay informed. Learn the facts. Support your representatives when you think they are doing the right thing. When you think they are not, let them know you are disappointed. Most of all, support better education in civics. Clearly, we need it!

--Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Public Policy Co-Chairs



FAIR DISTRICTS PA

The Pennsylvania General Assembly will reconvene on January 5th and its first order of business on day one will be to vote on the rules for the upcoming session. The rules are written by the majority party and result in complete control of legislation moved through the process. At the present time, one committee chair outweighs the people, and the speaker or majority leader can derail legislation.

The Fair Districts' bills in the past session had more co-sponsors than any other bill. Over 66% of citizens support them, but there was no floor vote due to the rules. Good bills deserve a vote and there must be rules in place to allow votes. What can you do? Visit Fair Districts at <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/> and view the Dysfunction by Design Town Hall. Next, write to your state legislators regarding the rules. Since many of us are in House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff's district and all are in Senator Jake Corman's district (Speaker), we have a unique opportunity to influence them.

--Sue Johnston, Liaison to Fair Districts PA-Centre County



AAUW-PENNSYLVANIA – CENTRAL DISTRICT UPDATE

The AAUW Huntington Branch is sponsoring two great programs that Central District branch members are invited to attend. The first will be in February (Date TBA) featuring an AAUW Research Publication Grant winner. The second program will be on **March 10 at 7:00 pm**, and will feature Dr. Jennifer

Carter, an assistant professor of physics at Susquehanna University. She is a recipient of an AAUW Research Publication Grant in Engineering, Medicine and Science.

More information and the Zoom link will be available later.

--Sue Johnston, Central District Representative



PAID FAMILY LEAVE PROGRAM

Thanks go to Karen Showalter from *MomsRising* who led an informative workshop on paid family leave on November 17th. It is a concept whose time has come. Not having paid time off to attend to family matters such as childbirth, care of a family member, extended illness, etc. particularly impacts women. The push for this is at the federal level.



In a virtual meeting with an aide to Representative Fred Keller, we were told paid leave is an area where there could be bipartisan cooperation. We also met with an aide from Senator Bob Casey's office and he is very supportive of paid family leave. Karen mentioned we should concentrate on Senator Pat Toomey since he is retiring and more receptive to a bipartisan approach.

Please contact your representative and both Pennsylvania senators to advocate for paid family leave.

--Sue Johnston, Public Policy Committee

SIX SCHOOL DISTRICTS SUE PENNSYLVANIA OVER FUNDING INEQUITY



Pennsylvania's constitution states that the General Assembly must "provide a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth." According to PA Schools Work, our state's model of funding public education is irrational and inequitable, failing to provide the resources all students need and discriminates

against students based on the wealth of their local communities. In response to this inequity, the Public Interest Law Center and the Education Law Center have filed suit on behalf of six school districts, seven parents, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS), and the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference in an attempt to force compliance with the state's constitution. The case goes to trial early 2021.

The lawsuit establishes the inequities in the state's educational funding system. Data show the correlations between inadequate funding, academic achievement and graduation rates. Pennsylvania has larger gaps between racial and socioeconomic subgroups than any other state; Pennsylvania is 44th in the nation for school funding. Adequacy in funding is linked to educational equity. Additionally, research supports that better curriculum, take-home texts, support services, and lower teacher turnover make a difference in student achievement. Unfortunately, this case will not be decided in time for next year's budget.

With hope, a new system will evolve into what the state's constitution requires. Please contact Mary Dupuis, Dianne Gregg, or Carol Hodes if you are interested in serving on the Education Sub-committee.

--Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Education Sub-Committee Chair



RECOGNIZING OURSELVES AND OUR PARTNERS: AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE JANUARY 18th

Take a moment to think about your AAUW colleagues and our community partners. Is there a member or community partner who stands out in your mind as having worked above and beyond to help achieve our AAUW goals? If so, write a brief paragraph on how that person, group, or organization meets the criteria found on the Awards pages

10-11 in our handbook or on our branch website:

http://www.aauwstatecollege.org/about/branch_awards.html. Please submit your nomination(s) to Chriss Schultz, cschultz8g@gmail.com by **January 18, 2021**.

Outstanding Woman

This award is given to a member of the branch for meritorious service to the Branch.

Recent past recipients: 2016 - Billie Willits; 2017 - Centennial Committee; 2018 - Carol Hodes; 2019 - Sue Johnston; 2020 – Mary Dupuis

Making a Difference Award

Representing the spirit of AAUW, this member has made a big difference in an important initiative to the branch within the past year. Recent past recipients:

2016 - Connie Schroeder; 2017 - Cindy Hall; 2018 - Michele Crowl; 2019 - Star Campbell; 2020 – Ann Echols

Gateway to Equity Award

Individuals, or groups who, by action and philosophy, have advanced equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research are recognized by this award. Recent past recipients: 2016 - Mid-State Literacy Council; 2017 – Penn State Commission for Women; 2018 – Penn State Humphrey Fellows Program; 2019 - Interfaith Human Services; 2020 - Fair Districts PA–Centre County

Centre County Council for Human Services Volunteer of the Year

The CCCHS recognizes a member organization’s nomination for outstanding volunteer service at the April CCCHS Volunteer of the Year dinner. Recent past recipients: 2016 – Del and Steve Scott; 2017 – Mike Williams; 2018 – Jennifer Karch; 2019 – Angie Hay; 2020 – Suzanne Kerlin and Sherry Crassweller, Co-leads, Used Book Sale Workshop.

--Chris Schultz, AAUW State College Awards Chair



AAUW STATE COLLEGE ADVANCES STEM ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN and GIRLS

AAUW State College is committed to promoting interest and achievement among girls and women in the STEM areas—science, technology, engineering, and math. We are involved in several STEM initiatives, partnering with several campus and community groups to conduct STEM programs for women and girls. Despite the pandemic, the AAUW STEM Committee is active, connecting monthly and working with Penn State faculty, staff, and students, Discovery Space educators, local school district officials, and local business and

community members to provide virtual STEM experiences to Centre County girls in K-12 and higher education.

Earlier this school year, Discovery Space hosted several sessions of STEMPOWERED, virtual after-school programs for fifth-grade girls, showcasing careers in STEM and connecting the participants with female STEM professionals who work in their community.

The Penn State Graduate Women in Science hosted a virtual Young Women in STEM program over Thanksgiving break and were able to reach girls in grades 5-10 from three states. Coming up in February, they will host their annual Empower conference.

Penn State’s Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) has just begun a six-year NSF-funded partnership with Discovery Space to create a series of hands-on activities and an interactive website that will be shared with children in science center programs, public events, and school classrooms across the region. The project is called Mission: Materials Science.

Penn State’s Office of Science Outreach will host their annual ENVISION: STEM Career Day Supporting Young Women on March 20, 2021 for 6th-12th graders, virtually. A second event, the I AM STEM competition, is open to Penn State women students in the Eberly College of Science. The event identifies and showcases their STEM talents and provides an avenue for practicing their communication skills. Early in 2021, summer science camps also will be announced in early 2021 by Discovery Space and Science-U.

Whether funding STEM projects or providing leadership and volunteers, AAUW State College is integral to providing STEM activities for women and girls in our community. In the coming months, AAUW State College STEM volunteers, in partnership with others, will facilitate virtual after-school programs in State College and Bellefonte School Districts for middle-school girls.

AAUW State College STEM endeavors are a vital part of branch activities. Proceeds from the Used Book Sale fund our community STEM initiatives. For more information about any of our STEM programs or to join the STEM Committee, contact <mailto:Michele@DiscoverySpace.org>.

--Michele Crowl, AAUW State College STEM Chair

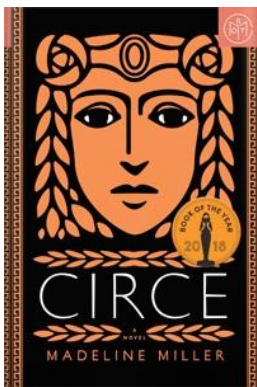


APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR AAUW STATE COLLEGE BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

AAUW State College seeks applicants for four undergraduate scholarships, to be awarded for the academic year 2021–2022 (Fall 2021 until Summer 2022). An applicant must be a woman who:

- is a Centre County resident - with intent to maintain such residency for the duration of the grant - although she may attend a college or university located outside the county;
- is seeking a first associate or baccalaureate degree on a part- or full-time basis;
- has interrupted her studies for at least two years or delayed her higher education for at least two years after graduating from high school, having enrolled in a post-secondary institution;
- has completed at least one quarter of the course work required for the degree (15 credits for an associate degree or 30 credits for a baccalaureate degree);
- demonstrates financial need, academic promise, clarity of educational goals, and service to the community.

References and financial information are required. The awards range from \$3,000 to \$7,000 depending on financial need and the recipient's circumstances. The **Application Deadline is March 1, 2021**. For details, visit <http://www.aauwstatecollege.org/>. For additional information, contact Falene Hamilton: hfalene@gmail.com or Suzanne Kerlin: suziekerlin@gmail.com.



¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB TO MEET JANUARY 21st

Our book club is modeled after the AAUW Diversity Outreach for Impact Program, featuring diverse cultures in both fiction and nonfiction offerings.

We meet during the afternoon every other month on the third Thursday of the month, with our next (virtual) meeting taking place on **Thursday, January 21st at 2:30 pm**. We will discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller, which was the International No. 1 Bestseller, shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2019.

To participate with the group, please contact info@aauwstatecollege.org. We warmly welcome new members.

WELCOME new members

Seher Karaca

seherkaracatr@gmail.com

Hafsa Karaca

hafsa.karaca5@gmail.com

Hafsa and Seher are mother and daughter. Hafsa is a student at Penn



State, studying Biobehavioral Sciences, but is now taking a gap year from her studies and is working as a substitute teacher. Seher is a kindergarten teacher and is taking classes at Mid-State Literacy Council. They both moved to the United States from Turkey in 2017 seeking political asylum. Their interests are reading, collecting books, public speaking, and traveling.

In their current state, Seher and Hafsa are unable to pursue their passion for traveling, but for now they both think that the United States is more than enough and are excited to continue their ventures here. They joined AAUW because of their passion for books. Hafsa now volunteers at the book sorting at the book workshop. Both joined AAUW State College to feel more a part of the community and to have their voices heard.



Kristine Werling - kristine.werling@gmail.com

Kristine, originally from Illinois, earned her B.A. in Environmental Science from Northwestern University in 2014. She then moved to the East Coast to pursue graduate studies at Harvard University, where her research focused on understanding how mosquitoes efficiently transmit malaria parasites. Just this Spring, she graduated (via Zoom!) with a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences in Public Health. Kristine recently moved to State College to begin her post-doctoral work at Penn State in the College of Agriculture and will continue her study of mosquito-borne diseases affecting global populations.

Kristine is excited to be a new member of AAUW State College and looks forward to getting involved in initiatives to promote the participation of women in STEM – at all ages and stages of their career. Kristine is also eager to get involved with issues of diversity and inclusion to support and amplify the voices of minority women, particularly those in STEM.



BRANCH BULLETIN SCHEDULE

This is the first issue of the new *Branch Bulletin*. Going forward, news items are requested **the first and third Monday of each month** and sent to connieschroeder@gmail.com. Starting in January, the *Bulletin* will be issued the second and fourth Monday of each month, September through May. *Branch Bulletins* are accessible anytime at <https://aauwstatecollege.org/blog/>