Dear Friends,

First, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for you and your dedication to our students and their families. With you as our rock, we have celebrated countless achievements and supported our students through an extremely tough year as they experienced uncertainty as well as overt sexism and racism.

Whether through keeping our doors open late in the evening to offer a safe and compassionate place for students to study among their peers, or hosting workshops that helped students to navigate our current political climate, we have dedicated our lives to making sure every individual who walks into the Women’s Center feels welcomed and supported.

This year, we added two new scholarships and completed our human trafficking in supply chains research project. We celebrated our Making Connections students securing competitive internships, scholarships, and fellowships, and receiving their University acceptance letters. We are also pleased to share that five of our Making Connections Alumnae and Alene Moris NEW Leadership Alumnae were named in the Husky 100!

The pages of this report are filled with this year’s successes and stories from our students. I hope while reading this you feel as inspired as I do every day coming into the Women’s Center.

With heartfelt gratitude, thank you!

Warm Regards

Sutapa Basu, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Women’s Center
University of Washington
The Alene Moris National Education for Women’s (NEW) Leadership Institute is an intensive six-day program that offers college women skills integral to becoming leaders in the public and private sectors and to participating effectively in politics and public policy.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**
- Tammy Dye, Chair
- Nicole Mortenson, alumna
- Ana Silva, alumna
- Heather Hudson
- Sydney Jaramillo
- Johnna White

**WORKSHOP TOPICS**
Throughout the NEW Leadership Institute, participants attend daily workshops aimed at increasing their understanding of policy, organizing, and effective leadership. Topics such as “community organizing and purpose-driven activism,” “how to build a powerful network,” and “non-profit board leadership” prepare participants for leadership in both the public and private sectors. Other workshops, such as “parliamentary procedure” and “realities of politics and policymaking,” give participants insight into how to be effective participants in political life. Finally, the Institute always offers practical workshops focused on skills like resume writing and salary negotiation to give participants the tools they need to start their careers with confidence.

**THANK YOU**
The Women’s Center thanks all of our speakers who so generously shared their time and talent to support our future leaders, and to the UW School of Drama for their partnership and use of the Dolores and Floyd Jones Playhouse.

The AAUW Political Day was sponsored by AAUW-Seattle with support from Davis Wright Tremaine, which hosts the Leadership participants for the day in their beautiful downtown offices. Thank you all for your support and partnership.

Special thanks to Floyd Jones for his enduring financial support of the Women’s Center leadership program and to Don Muir, for his generous gift in recognition of his late wife, Mary Lou Neeble Muir.

**PARTICIPANT AREA OF STUDY**
- Biology
- English / French / Spanish
- Interdisciplinary Studies - Education
- Interior Design
- Law, Societies, and Justice and Intended Communications
- Medical Anthropology and Global Health
- Music
- Pharmacy
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Public Health
- Social Welfare

**9 SCHOOLS REPRESENTED ACROSS WASHINGTON STATE**
- Bellevue College
- Gonzaga University
- Pacific Lutheran University
- South Seattle College
- University of Washington Bothell
- University of Washington Seattle
- University of Washington Tacoma
- Western Governor’s University
- Western Washington University

**21 WOMEN PARTICIPANTS**

**16 UNDERGRADUATES**
Ranging in age from 18 to 37

**5 GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**2017 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON WOMEN’S CENTER**

**EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.**

**Community organizing and purpose-driven activism**
**Developing an action plan**
**Developing an elevator pitch**
**Diversity training**
**Effective communication**
**Getting ready to run**
**How to build a powerful network**
**Nonprofit board leadership**
**Parliamentary procedure**
**Realities of politics and policymaking**
**Resume review and writing**
**Salary negotiation**

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON WOMEN’S CENTER**

**EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.**

“**THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL WEEKS OF MY LIFE.**

“It has fundamentally changed how I look at leadership and at myself. On the first day, I had no interest in running for office. I thought I would be better behind the scenes, working on campaigns and promoting issues, and (that) I should let other people who are more qualified and have more experience run for office instead. But that’s the whole problem! Someone has to run, and it might as well be me.”

NEW Leadership Alumna
On January 5th, 2018 the University of Washington Women’s Center and our community at-large lost a dear friend and champion for social change, Floyd Jones. Floyd was a remarkable human being. His heart was effortlessly full of love and joy. Just the thought of him warms my soul.

Although a well-known philanthropist, Floyd came from humble beginnings. He was the eleventh of twelve children in a poor, sharecropping family in Missouri. His childhood taught him to deeply value gender and racial justice, equity, and education. Holding his life experiences close to his heart and living his values, he spent his adult life generously supporting our community.

Floyd's compassionate heart led him to be a long time member of the ACLU, a supporter of Northwest Harvest, Union Gospel Mission, Tacoma Community College, Stanwood-Camano YMCA, the University of Washington's Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse, School of Dentistry, Women's Center, and countless other organizations.

His years of giving and legacy endowment to the Women's Center has helped countless students and will continue to do so for years and years to come. Floyd and his special friend, Alene, often spoke to me about their hopes for a woman President in the near future and many more afterwards. We are so honored Floyd has invested in the Women's Center to be a vehicle for this hopeful future and we are committed to continuously increasing the pipeline of women running for office through our Leadership Institute.

Words cannot express how grateful I am for Floyd's generosity and shared passion for women's leadership. We all will miss his dance moves at our annual Gala celebration. He is and will forever be an inspiration to us. Our lives are forever be changed for knowing him.

Sutapa Basu, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Women’s Center
The inaugural Leadership Lounge featured Phyllis Campano, Seattle Education Association (SEA) President, who discussed inclusive leadership within SEA. Campano gave insight into the changing landscape of Seattle’s school leadership as well as how to work to create supportive environments for students and faculty and collaborate with stakeholders so that all voices contribute to decision-making conversations. She extrapolated to how the techniques implemented at SEA might be used across platforms and organization types. Campano also stressed the importance of staying connected and engaged with district policies in order to be better informed.

The science was captivating and inspired my interest in STEM, but every day I saw people struggling to get by in a system that was broken. I knew I wanted to help bring this system down and give everyone an opportunity to flourish. I joined a committee to bring Tent City 3 to the UW campus and were instrumental in an educational campaign to teach 3700 residents about the connections between health and housing. We learned how to reduce stigma, build trust with tenants, and establish a safe and trusting space for people to come together to learn how to be leaders and to learn to lead from where we stand. Because it was a safe and trusting space, we could be vulnerable and express our experiences in a society that has been oppressive, dominating, and invalidating.

Unfortunately at the time, the Seattle chapter was fragmented and critically low in leadership. I wanted it to flourish – to realize its potential for social change. But how? I hardly understood the politics and culture of the world I was hoping to navigate.

This is exactly when I found the Alene Moris Leadership program. It was a week-long intense program where 30 students who identify as women came together to learn how to be leaders and to learn to lead from where we stand. Because it was a safe and trusting space, we could be vulnerable and express our experiences in a society that has been oppressive, dominating, and invalidating.

In this space, women with experience leading in government, nonprofits, and business, showed us how to believe in ourselves, to be confident, and to stand by our convictions. From sunup to sundown, they engaged us, trained us, and helped us to authentically get to know ourselves. From sunup to sundown, they engaged us, trained us, and helped us to authentically get to know ourselves.

We started the week unsure, unclear, and isolated. We ended the week confident, empowered, and inducted into a strong, vibrant, and dedicated community. I’d like to introduce you to some of the many amazing women who were empowered by this leadership training with me – Jessica Cafferty ran for city office while pregnant, demonstrating the courage to stand for young families. Lyna Sarapai is now a Programmes Liaison at the Office of the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, and inspired by her leadership training, is starting a leadership training program of her own. Kate West is ensuring trust is upheld when researchers work with vulnerable communities. Corey Sloane became Executive Director of the Tenants Union of Washington State which acts on housing injustice. Laurie Tran, the daughter of a single-mother refugee from Vietnam, is now President of the Tenant’s Union and was awarded a Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship. Heather Tilley is pushing for pharmacists to be community resources. And there are so many more stories.

The science was captivating and inspired my interest in STEM, but every day I saw people struggling to get by in a system that was broken. I knew a STEM career alone was not going to solve this problem.

We began our healthcare careers in the Office of the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, and inspired by her leadership training, is starting a leadership training program of her own. Kate West is ensuring trust is upheld when researchers work with vulnerable communities. Corey Sloane became Executive Director of the Tenants Union of Washington State which acts on housing injustice. Laurie Tran, the daughter of a single-mother refugee from Vietnam, is now President of the Tenant’s Union and was awarded a Bill Emerson Hunger Fellowship. Heather Tilley is pushing for pharmacists to be community resources. And there are so many more stories.

The women in these cohorts are forever connected. We help each other navigate interview questions like, “So, are you going to have a baby?”, review resumes, and network with employers. Our cohort has become a connective tissue that holds us in courage, strength, and the resolve to pursue our goals. When things get difficult, I have this vibrant community to remind me that I matter. I am a leader, and I will make the world a better place.

I left that week feeling comfortable in my own skin for the first time in my life. Immediately after, I decided to dig in and lead from where I stood and spearheaded a new Health Equity Circle course at the UW to train graduate students on leadership and community organizing. Having trained over 80 students, we’ve built partnerships with community leaders and local political representatives. Our students fought and won a campaign to bring Tent City 3 to the UW campus and were instrumental in an educational campaign to teach 3700 residents about the importance of public health funding.

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“Before I leave, I’d like to whisper in your ear and convey some of the wisdom I learned from NEW Leadership. Confidence is not arrogance. Being apologetic is often unnecessary. You have strength. You have value. You can change the world by standing in it. You have us, and we have you.

We have a duty to cultivate and invest in those around us, especially young women finding their feet and their way. We can build a path through today’s barriers for our next generation to flourish. Tonight I thank everyone involved in this leadership training at the UW Women’s Center, and honor our collective courage, our confidence, and our conviction to push on together forever.

Thank You.

LORELEI WALKER
New Leadership Alumna Class of 2013
Comments delivered at the 2017 Women of Courage Gala

My sister and I grew up in rural Pennsylvania, in a small town named Biglerville. Our family taught dance and gymnastics to many of the county’s children who didn’t have resources, and whose parents suffered the ills of rural life – pesticide exposure, hard labor, financial stress, housing instability, and discrimination, to name a few. This was during the human genome revolution when the national discourse claimed that we were going to find a gene for every illness. The science was captivating and inspired my interest in STEM, but every day I saw people struggling to get by in a system that was broken. I knew a STEM career alone was not going to be solving this problem.

Through an MPH and PhD program at the University of Washington, I learned how our environment flows through us and about the marks it leaves in its wake that foster chronic disease. I learned how our experiences have epigenetic implications that shape our behaviors, our thought processes, our connections, our communities.

With this appreciation, I founded the Health Equity Circle. This was a community of health sciences students – your soon-to-be doctors, pharmacists, nurses, dentists, public health professionals, and social workers – who believed that health is more than healthcare. We practiced the skills of community organizing to stand with local communities to apply social pressures to bring us closer to health equity.

Unfortunately at the time, the Seattle chapter was fragmented and critically low in leadership. I wanted it to flourish – to realize its potential for social change. But how? I hardly understood the politics and culture of the world I was hoping to navigate.

This is exactly when I found the Alene Moris Leadership program. It was a week-long intense program where 30 students who identify as women came together to learn how to be leaders and to learn to lead from where we stand. Because it was a safe and trusting space, we could be vulnerable and express our experiences in a society that has been oppressive, dominating, and invalidating.

In this space, women with experience leading in government, nonprofits, and business, showed us how to believe in ourselves, to be confident, and to stand by our convictions. From sunup to sundown, they engaged us, trained us, and helped us to authentically get to know ourselves.

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MAKING CONNECTIONS

Making Connections (MC) is a comprehensive college-readiness program that provides four years of personalized, life-changing academic and enrichment services to underserved students and their families in the greater Puget Sound area.

MAKING CONNECTIONS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Making Connections recognizes the importance of social and family support to student success. Our programming acknowledges the positive impact of supportive relationships with peers, mentors, and family members on student academic achievement and college attainment. These relationships are crucial to the success of our scholars. Students often indicate that it is rare to be in a room full of motivated first generation students who share the same dreams and aspirations. Making Connections creates a community of learners that are utilizing each other as they take courageous steps towards their future. Making Connections ensures that every student receives not just academic assistance, but also social support and encouragement throughout their time in the program.

“ I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR YOU AND HOW MUCH YOU SUPPORT ME. I don’t know what I would have done without [Senait]. I definitely see you as one of my moms because a mom takes care of you and comforts you and pushes you to get to where you need to be. You have been doing all of that for me! And a lot more! ”

MC Senior, 2017

“ We are so happy that our daughter is a UW freshman today. It was the result of your and MC’s support in the last four years through tutoring, scholarships, college preparation, and more. We are grateful to you all for the hard work and dedication that made such a big difference in our daughter’s and our lives. ”

FEW PEOPLE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING SUCH A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, and we are beyond lucky to have the Making Connections program in our life.

Thank you so much for being there for us.

MC Parent

CLASS OF 2017

102 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED
26 HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED
100% OF SENIORS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Individualized academic advising from the Making Connections team
- Mentor/mentee pairing to support and encourage students in their high school career and beyond
- SAT/ACT preparation classes
- Participation in conferences and college tours
- Assistance in searching for scholarships and editing and submitting applications
- After-school tutoring for all subjects (Math, Science, Writing etc.)
- Education about the college admissions process for students and parents
- Help with writing and editing college application essays and personal statements
- Development of computer science skills through our Girls Who Code chapter
- Financial aid literacy
In the summer of 2017, Dunya became the first high school intern ever to work at Amazon in Seattle, Washington, with a 5-month, paid marketing internship. Additionally, she attended a summer law program at Stanford University, fully paid for through scholarships, and attended the ACLU Summer Advocacy Program in Washington, D.C., on a scholarship.

This year, Kedus Geteneh was honored with the MC Tutor of the Year award. Kedus is a volunteer and calculus tutor extraordinaire who has been a part of Making Connections for six years as a student and now as a volunteer. He also tutors and offers support during the college application process, is actively engaged in workshops, and is a consistent source of encouragement for Making Connections students. He embodies the warmth and genuine support that is at the core of the Women’s Center mission and is always ready and willing to help empower and uplift our students.

This year, Tsewone Melaku was honored with the MC Mentor of the Year award. Tsewone is a volunteer and computer programmer, essay-writing tutor, Alene Moris National Education for Women’s Leadership Institute participant, and salary negotiation mentee. Now, I am a proud financial supporter of Making Connections.

My entry point to the Making Connections Program and the Women’s Center was in the fall of 2014 when I was a junior at the UW studying Informatics. I facilitated a college and career exploration workshop with the students where I shared the good, the bad, and the ugly about my journey. Through conversations with the group, I realized how my story resonated with so many students, and in that moment, I saw the beautiful solidarity and self-empowerment Making Connections was helping cultivate.

I continued my junior and senior year at the UW as a Making Connections speaker, mentor, computer programmer, essay-writing tutor, Alene Moris National Education for Women’s Leadership Institute participant, and salary negotiation mentee. Now, I am a proud financial supporter of Making Connections.

No student should ever have to experience racism in school, be told that they simply aren’t trying hard enough, or be told community college is their most “realistic” option, like I experienced. But when they do, because this is the reality so many of us face, I want them to always have Making Connections to support and guide them. I wish I had known about Making Connections when I was in high school.

This is why I am committed to supporting Making Connections and encourage others to as well. Shortly after receiving my first post-graduation paycheck, which the Women’s Center helped me negotiate, I gave back. I made my first financial contribution to the Making Connections program and created a matching campaign to encourage my colleagues to give. As both a beneficiary and benefactor of the Women’s Center, I know first-hand the importance and impact of their programming.
The Making Connections program has a vast network of alumnae who are located around the country, enriching their communities. Many alumnae are actively engaged with the Making Connections program as mentors, tutors, and supporters. Throughout the year, MC hosts events and workshops in support of our local alumnae including the following series from 2017.

**SISTERHOOD SERIES**
Offered as monthly workshops during the spring quarter, the Sisterhood Series focused on personal wellness and professional development skills. The topics were requested by Making Connections alumnae and were offered to all MC alumnae in the greater Seattle area.

**FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES**
In partnership with Olive Goh, CFA, Director at Citi Private Bank, Making Connections offered alumnae and friends a 4-part workshop series focused on financial literacy and financial health. Topics covered included personal budgets, credit scores, savings and investments, and salary negotiation.

**ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT**
**MESERET ALEMU**
Making Connections Class of 2011
University of Southern California (USC), B.S., Health Promotion Disease Prevention, 2016
AmeriCorps Member serving Making Connections, Academic Year 2016-2017

During my service, I had the privilege of celebrating all of our students who worked so hard throughout the academic year. Their journey towards graduation and attending college began in the first quarter of the academic year, which primarily focused on providing support for our senior class during the college application process. Monthly workshops centered on the FAFSA, personal statements, and scholarships, to connect our students to much-needed resources. Throughout the fall, students received assistance from 28 recurring tutor/writing volunteers. Our volunteers also dedicated 50+ hours to SAT prep on weekends and helped review students’ college applications before submission. We celebrated at the Making Connections Senior Application Night held at the end of November, where a majority of our senior class successfully clicked “Submit” on their very first college application.

Four months after Application Night, one of our students called me exclaiming she was accepted to the University of Washington (Seattle), her first-choice college. This success represented three years of her hard work. This student is an example of the strength, ambition, and potential all of our students embody. She will be the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. Throughout her four years in high school, she supported her family financially by taking on a job. The student did all this while in high school, taking extra courses to pursue her interest in Computer Science, and maintaining her grades. She came to the Women’s Center with ambition and perseverance, and we embraced her with the guidance and resources to empower her to achieve her dream of being the first in her family to attend college.

What never ceases to amaze me is that this student is not a rare statistic of the MC program, but rather, a representation of the resilience all of our students share. This year, we are celebrating our 25 seniors who accepted spots at four-year universities and colleges. Of the 25 seniors, 60% are first-generation students and 43% will be the first ever in their family to go to college! Our seniors in total received over $500,000 in funding for their education. I am so proud to have been a part of their journey. I am thankful for my role as an AmeriCorps member, and for having the opportunity to create new pathways for our next generation of leaders.
The trafficking of persons is a growing human rights problem exacerbated by public and private supply chain management that affects individuals both locally and globally.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE SECOND LARGEST AND FASTEST GROWING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE IN THE WORLD WITH PROFITS TO EQUAL $150 BILLION ANNUALLY

Globally, an estimated 21 million children, women, and men are victims of human trafficking. The vast majority of approximately 16.5 million (78%), are exploited primarily for non-sex related labor, specifically in sectors such as agriculture, construction, domestic service, hospitality, fishing, manufacturing, mining, and more.

“HE TOOK ALL THE DOCUMENTATION....WE WERE FORCED TO HERD COWS AND SHEEP, DO MAJOR FIELD WORK FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN....WE WERE OFTEN STARVED, SEXUALLY ABUSED, AND PHYSICALLY ABUSED....WE WERE SCARED AND DIDN’T KNOW WHAT TO DO; WE COULDN’T READ, WRITE, SPEAK ENGLISH....HE SPOKE FOR US, AND WE WERE INSTRUCTED AND TRAINED TO NOT MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH ANYBODY.”

Khurshida Begum - remarks from the UW Woman’s Center “Economic Growth on the Backs of Global Workers Conference (2016)”.

IN 2017, THE UW WOMEN’S CENTER COMPLETED A TWO-YEAR STUDY ON CLEAN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT AND SMART PRACTICES REGARDING GOODS AND SERVICES.

In total, over 40 individuals and organizations including public officials, attorneys, public procurement officials, labor organizers, scholars, nonprofit leaders, corporate representatives, and a small business owner, contributed to the project. The outcome is a thorough report as well as seven policy recommendations to encourage Washington State to support procurement untainted by trafficked and forced labor. To read the full report, please visit the UW Women’s Center website.

From left to right: Johnna White and Sutapa Basu, PhD, authors of Human Trafficking and Supply Chains Report. Honorable Velma Veloria and Emma Catague, collaborators and long-time anti-human trafficking advocates.
RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

1. Implement anti-human trafficking public procurement policy that addresses supply chain management.
2. Encourage corporations with a significant presence in Washington State to transparently and diligently manage clean supply chains.
4. Contract with third-party monitoring agencies such as the Worker Rights Consortium, the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, and Electronics Watch, to audit Washington's supply chains and support vendor compliance.
5. Invest in third-party research to map and analyze risks present in WA's supply chain.
6. Revive the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy to review the impact of trade agreements and make recommendations to trade representatives on solutions to eliminate forced labor in global supply chains.
7. Leverage Washington ports as an enforcement mechanism.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND GENDER EQUITY

The Violence Prevention and Gender Equity Program is committed to promoting gender equity and helping eliminate gender-based violence on campus and in the larger community.

The Women's Center collaborates with students and community-based organizations to host educational forums and provide resources that encourage all genders to cultivate a more just and equitable society.

SPOTLIGHT FROM THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

Maria* was born and raised in Mexico. In search of work and a better life, she hired a smuggler on a payment plan to help her cross the border without documents. Now indebted to her smuggler and with limited employment options in the United States, she was passed off to and exploited by a human trafficker who forced her to do custodial work. Maria was held physically captive and abused; she was debt-bonded and continued to accumulate debt from her trafficker, who charged her exorbitant fees for transportation, housing, and food.

Eventually, Maria was relocated to Washington State where she was forced to work for a custodial contract agency. At this point, Maria was debt-bonded to a new trafficker, a woman who controlled her and the other victims (female and male) by isolating them from their families, indoctrinating them with fear of the police and immigration officers, and torturing them with physical and psychological abuse.

Maria's trafficker owned a janitorial service company and held contracts to provide these services to several businesses, including hotels and office buildings in Washington State.

The trafficker forced all her victims to work in her janitorial business cleaning deserted buildings overnight and condemned them to domestic servitude during the day. Maria and her peers worked long hours, slept on the floor, and were rarely given enough food. If Maria's trafficker suspected anyone of trying to reach out for help, they were relentlessly beaten. After years of being trafficked, abused, and forced to clean hotels and businesses in Washington and Texas, Maria was finally provided the opportunity to rescue herself when she was connected with a local service provider.

Today, Maria and her child are safe and separated from her trafficker.

* A pseudonym


SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CONSENT WORKSHOPS

The Women's Center offers trainings to student organizations, athletic departments, fraternity/sorority houses, and other groups, on consent, sexual assault, and rape culture with the goal of promoting a safer and healthier college experience for all students.

“Consent is everything. Treat women [respectfully] to make a change. Looking out for others in social situations whether male or female.” – UW Student Athlete, 2017

“In learning to know how to ask a woman for consent, I'm also learning ways to change the rape culture” – UW Student Athlete, 2017

START SMART SALARY NEGOTIATION WORKSHOP

In the US, women are paid less than men for equal work and are underrepresented in higher-paying fields like science and technology as well as in executive positions. The Women's Center offers workshops every winter and spring quarter on salary negotiation techniques to students entering a range of fields from communications to computer programming. Workshops are designed to help reduce the gender pay gap and empower undergraduate students to start their careers with a fair and equitable wage.

“Critical information that I've never gotten before” – Student, 2017

“So helpful and informative; it is also a crucial step we can take for ourselves. I will definitely be using this.” – Student, 2017

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW) PARTNERSHIP

The Women's Center and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) – National and Seattle branches – have enjoyed a strong working relationship for years that includes a variety of opportunities extended to the greater UW community through Women's Center programming. The AAUW-Seattle branch was a generous sponsor of our annual Gala event, the political day of our NEW Leadership Institute, and two scholarships to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). More information can be found in the scholarship section of this report.

Representing the University of Washington, the Women's Center's membership with the AAUW-National branch opens doors to exclusive grants and fellowships, leadership training, professional development, educational resources, and advocacy tools through e-student membership (free for undergraduate and discounted for graduate students).
For over two decades, the Women's Center has been advising women interested in returning to school who are often considered "non-traditional" students. Every student's journey to higher education is unique, and therefore, we offer ongoing one-on-one advising (in-person and over the phone) to help students identify resources and develop an action plan tailored to their needs.

Each fall, the Women’s Center hosts an orientation for future and current incoming UW re-entry students. The orientation covers a variety of topics including financial support, child care, disability, career services, student health care, and other services and resources on campus. The meeting also provides an opportunity for participants to build a network with other students returning to formal education after a significant time away.

Thirty years after receiving my undergraduate degree, I found myself at a crossroads. I was a mother, separated from my husband, and in need of a fulfilling and self-sustaining career. I lacked the skills and prerequisites for any career I was interested in and was feeling terribly alone and vulnerable. For over a year, I regularly met with Nancy to develop a plan for how I would return to college, build my resume, and successfully get through this difficult period in my life. The second Tuesday of every month, Nancy listened to me, always made me feel important, cheered for me as I achieved each milestone, and mentored me through one of the toughest times in my life. With Nancy and the Women's Center by my side, in 2015, I was admitted into the UW Health Informatics and Health Information Management Master's Program, and for the past two years, I've had the honor of sharing my journey with all my returning women peers at the Women's Center's annual Re-entry for Returning Women Orientation. I am forever grateful for the support I received from the Women's Center.

Nancy Finelli has over three decades of experience supporting women returning to a formal learning environment. Nancy offers college re-entry guidance to support women through a variety of life experiences such as motherhood, career transitions, divorce, widowhood, abuse, and everything in between, with the aim of helping women transition back into a classroom environment. As a woman who has experienced many of these transitions herself and someone with a passion for women's education and empowerment, Nancy has a wealth of knowledge and resources to help women pursue and achieve their higher education and career goals. Nancy has led the Women's Center's Re-entry for Returning Women Program at the UW Women's Center for 24 years. We are so grateful for her ongoing service and leadership on the behalf of women on campus and women seeking to join the campus community.

Nancy has dedicated her life to giving back to our community of women who are on a similar journey of self-empowerment, self-sufficiency, and self-realization. I have had the privilege of working with and learning from thousands of women who have built our community of women participating to build a network with other students returning to formal education after a significant time away.

During this time, I found solidarity and support through programming at the Bellevue College Women's Center. The connections I made and the renewed sense of self I developed helped me successfully navigate this transition period. For the past 34 years, I have dedicated my life to giving back to our community of women who are on a similar journey of self-empowerment, self-sufficiency, and self-realization. I have had the privilege of working with and learning from thousands of women who have built our community of women reimagining their careers, women returning to higher education, and women mentoring other women. I am forever grateful for the support I received from the Women’s Center.

Nancy Finelli

Thirty years after receiving my undergraduate degree, I found myself at a crossroads. I was a mother, separated from my husband, and in need of a fulfilling and self-sustaining career. I lacked the skills and prerequisites for any career I was interested in and was feeling terribly alone and vulnerable. For over a year, I regularly met with Nancy to develop a plan for how I would return to college, build my resume, and successfully get through this difficult period in my life. The second Tuesday of every month, Nancy listened to me, always made me feel important, cheered for me as I achieved each milestone, and mentored me through one of the toughest times in my life. With Nancy and the Women's Center by my side, in 2015, I was admitted into the UW Health Informatics and Health Information Management Master's Program, and for the past two years, I've had the honor of sharing my journey with all my returning women peers at the Women's Center's annual Re-entry for Returning Women Orientation. I am forever grateful for the support I received from the Women's Center.

Nancy Finelli has over three decades of experience supporting women returning to a formal learning environment. Nancy offers college re-entry guidance to support women through a variety of life experiences such as motherhood, career transitions, divorce, widowhood, abuse, and everything in between, with the aim of helping women transition back into a classroom environment. As a woman who has experienced many of these transitions herself and someone with a passion for women's education and empowerment, Nancy has a wealth of knowledge and resources to help women pursue and achieve their higher education and career goals. Nancy has led the Women's Center's Re-entry for Returning Women Program at the UW Women's Center for 24 years. We are so grateful for her ongoing service and leadership on the behalf of women on campus and women seeking to join the campus community.

During this time, I found solidarity and support through programming at the Bellevue College Women's Center. The connections I made and the renewed sense of self I developed helped me successfully navigate this transition period. For the past 34 years, I have dedicated my life to giving back to our community of women who are on a similar journey of self-empowerment, self-sufficiency, and self-realization. I have had the privilege of working with and learning from thousands of women who have built our community of women reimagining their careers, women returning to higher education, and women mentoring other women. I am forever grateful for the support I received from the Women’s Center.

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Nancy Finelli
On April 1, 2017, the Women’s Center hosted the tremendously successful WOMEN of COURAGE: Undaunted Gala. With over 400 people registered, the sold-out event featured:

Keynote LEIGH MORGAN, COO, Gates Foundation
LORELEI WALKER, PHD
Alene Morris NEW Leadership alumna, on the impact NEW Leadership had on her career and the ripple effect it has had on the greater Seattle community.
VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS of two graduating Making Connections students, their high school experiences, their excitement of realizing their dreams of becoming the first in their family accepted into college to pursue a degree, and finding their passions through Making Connections career exploration opportunities.

11 WOMAN OF COURAGE HONOREES AND 1 MAN OF INTEGRITY.

WE RAISED OVER $334,000!

WOMEN OF COURAGE HONOREES
Adriane Brown, PhD
Katie Collier
Stephanie Lin Hsu
Ralina Joseph, PhD
Sarah Prager, MD
Teresita Batayola
Judith Howard, PhD
Deborah Parker
Nancy Woods, PhD
Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega

MAN OF INTEGRITY HONOREE
Jonathan Sposato

PLANNING COMMITTEE
With our heartfelt thanks to those who made this event possible:
Janelle Eckrich, Chair
Sutapa Basu, PhD
Senait O. Habte
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Mehret Tekle
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With support from the AAUW Seattle Branch, two Making Connections alumnae attended the three-day National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington, D.C., with all expenses paid by an AAUW-Seattle scholarship.

FEBEN GIRMANI
Making Connections Class of 2016
University of Washington Class of 2018. Major: Social Work and Sociology

SHEWIT BERHE
Making Connections Class of 2016
University of Washington Class of 2018. Major: Social Work and Sociology

“Not only did the conference open many doors for me, but it was also very empowering as well. I came out of this experience with not only more information, but also confidence in myself.”

“I left the NCWSSL with courage, optimism, and great passion.”

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)

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THE MEENA VASHEE SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship supports University of Washington undergraduate students who are survivors of domestic violence or are the children of a domestic violence survivor(s). Amount: $2,000

THE STANLEY AND BERTHE HABIB SCHOLARSHIP
This gift was established to support current Women’s Center Making Connections students entering the University of Washington to pursue a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) Fields. Two Making Connections students are awarded the Habib Scholarship annually. Amount: $1,000 per year, renewable up to 4 years.

THE JUDITH M. RUNSTAD - WELLS FARGO WASHINGTON WOMEN’S ROUNDTABLE SCHOLARSHIP
The Judith M. Runstad - Wells Fargo Washington Women’s Roundtable Scholarship was established to support tuition or program fees for the continued education of women aiming to advance their careers in the fields of technology, innovation, business, engineering, health, or real estate. Scholarship size varies between $4,000 and $6,500, depending on the cost of the program. In its inaugural year at the Center, the applicant pool was so impressive the committee chose to fund two scholarships at the maximum $6,500 level.

NADIA PAYET SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship supports two 2017 Making Connections graduates who are pursuing engineering or math degrees. One-time award, two $2,500 scholarships.

MEENA VASHEE SCHOLARSHIP
The Meena Vashee scholarship supports University of Washington undergraduate students who are survivors of domestic violence or are the children of a domestic violence survivor(s). Amount: $2,000
Thank you!

The Women’s Center is immensely grateful for the support we receive to run our programs.

In 2017, approximately 65% of our funding came from the generosity of gifts, grants, and sponsorships to our programs, services, and students. The following programs are funded completely by individual donors and small grants:

- Making Connections
- Human Trafficking Research and Policy Development
- Alene Morris National Education for Women’s Leadership
- Gender Equity and Violence Prevention
- Re-Entry Programs for Returning Students

In 2017, approximately $530,000 in gifts and grants were received during FY 2017.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BERTHE & STANLEY HABIB, MIKE HERRING & JIM PHELPS, NADIA PAYET, DAWN TRUEAU, AND FLOYD JONES FOR THEIR TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS.

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