EDUCATING FOR LIFE & LEADERSHIP

WOMEN'S CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

2017-18 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
With all of my heart, I want to thank you for your commitment to our shared mission to eradicate cycles of oppression and break down gender-based barriers. You have been instrumental in helping us make a life-changing impact in the UW community and beyond. I am eternally grateful to you!

With the dedicated work of our 100+ volunteers and our supporters’ contributions, we are able to be a safe haven for our students and community members. We are honored to provide services to help students excel in their educational pursuits and to give students and community members the tools necessary to stand up against inequality, violence, and hatred. All of us at the Women’s Center will continue to dedicate our lives to providing a welcoming, learning, and compassionate space for all who walk into the Women’s Center.

The pages of this report contain a brief summary of the services we offer and accomplishments of our students. I hope you feel as much pride as I do when I reflect on this past year. Once again, 100% of the seniors in our Making Connections program were accepted to colleges and universities. Through the Alene Moris National Education for Women’s (NEW) Leadership Institute, we had the opportunity to help guide undergraduate and graduate students in their journey to become leaders in both the public and private sectors. This past year we introduced the Breaking the Silence project, a series of events hosted in partnership with campus and community organizations on gender-based violence and the #metoo movement. Furthermore, we continued to advance our initiative to reduce human trafficking and forced labor in our State’s supply chains by working with partners and local and state governments. In addition, we helped returning students succeed in their educational pursuits.

Thank you, once again, for helping us open doors for everyone, build bridges, grow alliances, and advocate for women and girls to pursue and achieve their dreams. Year after year, you show up for us, so we can show up for our students and community members. We could not do our work without you! Thank you for making 2017-2018 a very productive and meaningful academic year.

Gratefully,

Sutapa Basu, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Women’s Center
University of Washington

VISION
WOMEN’S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
We envision a society where women and men work together to transform social norms.

MISSION
TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY
by promoting gender equity and social justice through educational programs and services that allow all participants to succeed in life.

WOMEN’S CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
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EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.
The Alene Moris National Education for Women’s (NEW) Leadership program aims to increase equity in public and private sector leadership. The Institute offers college students skills essential to participating more effectively as leaders in politics and public policy making.

The University of Washington’s Women’s Center hosted the 2018 Alene Moris NEW Leadership Institute from June 18 to 23, 2018. The 6-day intensive program was attended by undergraduate and graduate students from all over Washington State. Speakers from various fields ranging from public service to climate science, came together to share their experiences and provide training and guidance to participants on how they, too, can become more effective and influential leaders in their communities.

Thank you to our speakers who so generously shared their time and talent to support our next-generation leaders.

WORKSHOP TOPICS
Thirty-three dedicated leaders volunteered their time and expertise to train, encourage, and empower the participants to take the next steps in their professional lives and become influential community members. The workshops this year included:

Effective Communication
How to Build a Powerful Network
Resume Review
Public Speaking
Advocacy Skills and Persuasion
Navigating Change and Learning Resiliency
Nonprofit Board Leadership
Getting Ready to Run
Diversity Training
Cultural Sensitivity
Parliamentary Procedure
Developing an Elevator Pitch
Salary Negotiation
Community Organizing
Purpose-driven Activism
Realities of Politics and Policymaking
Women in Politics
Community-driven Policymaking

THANK YOU
The Women’s Center wishes to thank our speakers who so generously shared their time and talent to support our next-generation leaders.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
The drumbeat of my heart resonated with the songs of my ancestors, and I wanted to march to that drum. In college, I was the Advocacy Research Coordinator of the Student Leadership Council. I was also the president of the Indigenous and Aboriginal Students Union. I attended conferences focused on glorious words such as diversity, equity, and social entrepreneurship.

I found out about the Alene Moris NEW Leadership Institute after attending an astounding talk on indigenous rights at the Intellectual House. Because of my passion for the rights of people of color, I wanted to learn more to be able to help the community.

What I learned during the training was insightful, progressive, and innovative. It also came with another word I love: heart. The drumbeat of the hearts of the collective Institute community is felt in all the work they do. I learned many things, but, above all, I learned to listen to my heart. Women are socially programmed to distrust their leadership abilities, to think they cannot be gritty or tough, and that they cannot become leaders of their organizations. Thanks to the NEW Leadership Institute, I knew it was possible to be a leader - to trust my instincts and my knowledge.

The skills I learned at the Institute have helped me better lead and serve those in my community who need it most. I have served as an AmeriCorps member and have attended social justice conferences and leadership and legislative academies across the country, including the MODEL UN Summit. I also have had the honor of participating as an Organizing for Action Fellow and as an Emerging Leader Fellow and Social Good Fellow with the United Nations Association of the USA. The network of Institute classmates and all of the women who came before us have been a powerhouse of ingenuity, passion, and knowledge for which I am glad and grateful.

I grew up in a small community in Manitou Springs, Colorado. I was from a low-income household. Both of my parents had less than a high school education, and I knew too well what it was like to stand in line at the food bank. When I started school, I knew that I could use my education to provide a better future for my family. I worked hard to get good grades in high school so that I could earn merit scholarships for college.

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Making Connections (MC) is a college-readiness program for underserved students and their families in the greater Puget Sound area. The program provides four years of life-changing, wrap-around academic and enrichment services to students and their families with an aim to increase college enrollment and career interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

Making Connections combines college readiness programming with career exploration, academic tutoring, personal and professional mentorship, leadership development, ongoing enrichment, and a lifelong network of allies comprised of MC alumni and supporters.

This year, Making Connections launched an individualized writing coach program for seniors working on college applications. Following an all-day workshop in May on the foundation of writing a college essay, all Making Connections seniors were paired with a writing coach to help them craft personal statements for their applications. The coaches met with seniors during the summer and continued to guide them through the completion of their applications.

MAKING CONNECTIONS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Making Connections recognizes the role of families in ensuring student success. By offering multiple family-oriented services, Making Connections clarifies how parents and guardians can best support their children during the transition from high school to college. These services include parent/guardian workshops, financial aid education sessions, and assistance for students and families seeking funding for higher education.

105 9TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS
32 HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

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2,686 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

CLASS OF 2018
100% GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 4 YEARS
100% OF SENIORS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION
93% ATTENDING 4 YEAR UNIVERSITIES

$1,266,876 in scholarships awarded to the class of 2018

CAREER EXPLORATION, ACADEMIC, OR STEM-RELATED WORKSHOPS

5 COLLEGE VISITS
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERISTY OF WASHINGTON,kowski INSTITUTE, DOCTOR FOR A DAY AT UW MEDICINE

5 CAREER SITE VISITS
GOOGLE, MICROSOFT, STARTUP HALL, THORACIC SURGERY AT SWEDISH CANCER INSTITUTE, DOCTOR FOR A DAY AT UW MEDICINE

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE.
TUTORS OF THE YEAR: MARIELLE TURKOWSKI & SIMRAT GILL

The 2018 Making Connections Tutor of the Year awards were presented to two dedicated volunteers: Marielle Turkowski and Simrat Gill. Marielle volunteered at Making Connections multiple times each week and also met with students individually outside of her scheduled tutoring hours. Her passion for working with youth, patience in explaining challenging material, and ability to personally connect with students, supported and uplifted many MC students this year.

Simrat Gill served as a Making Connections tutor for two years. Simrat worked with her students in an intelligent, kind, and dedicated manner, until they reached their goals, ensuring that they felt supported throughout the entire process. Simrat inspired our students and was a role model of hard work and persistence.

MENTOR OF THE YEAR: AZARIA EVANS

Azaria Evans was honored with the Making Connections Mentor of the Year award. Azaria served as a Making Connections mentor for two years. Her mentor describes their relationship best: “My mentor always makes herself available to me. She has always been enthusiastic and has motivated me during the stressful times of the [college] application process. She even accompanied me to the UW offices when I needed to turn in my application forms, and I have learned so much from her and our meaningful conversations.” Azaria exemplified the spirit of generosity shared by all Making Connections volunteers, and her dedicated service helped our students flourish.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD: TSEWONE MELAKU & ADIAM TESFAY

It truly takes a village to help students grow, and this year Making Connections relied on hundreds of hard-working volunteers and supporters. The 2018 Outstanding Service Award was presented to Tsewone Melaku and Adiam Tesfay, two individuals who went above and beyond to serve the Making Connections community. Tsewone Melaku refers to the Women’s Center as her second home. Tsewone went out of her way numerous times to help prepare for workshops, speak at events, and work with Making Connections students. Many students looked to her for advice while navigating personal statements, college applications, and the day-to-day experiences of high school. Wise and always eager to lend a helping hand, Tsewone was an inspiration to Making Connections students.

Adiam Tesfay helped to drive Making Connections behind the scenes. She fulfilled many last minute requests and assisted with numerous events, including monthly class meetings and Parent Informational workshops. Adiam encouraged staff and students alike with her positivity, enthusiasm, and diligent work ethic. Making Connections could always count on Adiam for guidance and support.

“Making Connections was a safe place for me. I felt comfort in knowing the Making Connections staff and students knew where I was coming from. It was refreshing to be around students with similar backgrounds all trying to make a difference and working towards their futures.”

– MC Senior, 2018

“Making Connections is one of the most amazing things that has ever happened to me. Since I am a first-generation college student, I didn’t really believe in myself at first, but now I feel way more confident in myself and that I can achieve anything! I put my mind to it. I am more than thankful for all the resources I had here at Making Connections from visits to the Google campus to career exploration days.”

– MC Senior, 2018

“Through Making Connections I was able to get a Girls Who Code internship at Amazon. This helped me find my passion for computer science, which I have chosen to major in.”

– MC Senior, 2018
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.

ALUMNI SYMPOSIA AND MIXERS
This winter and spring, Making Connections hosted mixers for alumni to come together for professional development and networking. Making Connections aims to keep alumni engaged in a vast network of support that ensures they succeed even after graduating from the program.

ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM
For the first time, members of the Making Connections Class of 2017 were matched with alumni mentors to help guide them through their first year of college. Mentees can call on their mentors as a resource to navigate college as first-generation students.

FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES
In partnership with Oliver Wyman, CFA, Director at Citi Private Bank, Making Connections offered alumni and friends a four-part workshop series focused on financial literacy and financial health. Topics included personal budgets, credit scores, savings and investments, and salary negotiation.

MAKING CONNECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
The Making Connections Advisory Committee recently celebrated its three-year anniversary. The committee, composed jointly of MC alumni and key campus and community stakeholders, builds relationships with key constituencies, increases awareness of the program, helps the program secure sustainable funding, and creates internship opportunities that engage in STEM fields.

Members include:

DEVON ATCHISON (Board Chair) 
History Professor, Bellevue College

SAIMA JIBRIL
Global Health, Swedish Hospital

KRISTEN MARQUEZ
Engineering, Boeing

LULA SAMUEL
Business Strategy Consultant, Accenture

SENAYET WOLDEMARIAM
Physical Therapist, Kline Galland Home

MEHRET TEKLE
Student Success Liaison, Renton School District

KATIE ANTHONY
Writer (Motherhood, Feminism & Social Justice), KatyKatiKate

OSAZONAMEN IGBINOSUN
PhD Candidate, UW

DEWA GREENLEAF
Health Education Specialist

ANAB HERSI
Research Analyst, Pitchbook

CHELSEA YATES
Assistant Director of Publications, University of Washington

ADAM TESFAY
Director of Academic Support Programs, UW

AMERICORPS MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS
HANNAH LAUB
As the STEM Enrichment Coordinator for Making Connections, I had the privilege of working with 105 students. I was there for their highs, lows, and everything in between. This was especially true for our seniors who experienced the college application process this year. I got to help first-generation students learn about different types of schools and how to find a school that will meet their financial and academic needs. It was a difficult and intimidating process, but I was glad to be able to provide that support.

One student, in particular, comes to mind when I think about this process. To protect her privacy, I will call her Sarah. In the fall of her Senior year, Sarah had an accident and suffered a concussion. Because of the accident, Sarah was having trouble reading and concentrating. She didn’t get the score she expected during her SAT and had to get her application deadlines extended. Sarah worried endlessly that her personal statement was not enough to show the University of Washington just how much she has overcome in her lifetime. Sarah’s acceptance into UW was inspiring to all of us. Her strength in overcoming physical and mental hardships left me in awe.

I was able (and lucky) to see Making Connections students thrive while they explored and visualized successful futures for themselves and created a community of peer support. I am proud to have been a part of students finding their true selves and their passions, breaking out of their shells, and discovering that they could be the first in their families to go to college – all of which taught me the joy of creating supportive and empowering communities for underrepresented populations. It is crucial to help students realize their potential so they can be motivated to succeed in high school and beyond. My greatest teachers this year have been our students. Their passion and resilience inspired me every day, and I look forward to seeing them succeed with the tools Making Connections gave them.

KAYLA GRANADOS
As the Academic Enrichment Coordinator for Making Connections, my role was to provide students with academic support and resources in their pursuit of higher education.

As I wrap up my year of service, I look back proudly at the meetings I led, the events I planned, and the students with whom I worked. I am excited thinking about our students’ futures and the goals toward which they are all working. By interacting with low-income, first-generation students and their communities, I learned to put my privilege in perspective and think about how I can empower others. These students are resilient and driven individuals, full of heart, ready to take on a challenge despite any institutionalized inequity.

Every student in our program comes ready to fight for their right to an education and to earn a better life for themselves and their families. The Making Connections team provided these students with a support system, mentors, advisors, and friends. Students can come to Making Connections for guidance and assistance, finding a safe space to express their struggles at school and home. Every day, I got to see the personal growth of the students – each of whom continuously demonstrated their ability to connect and empathize with others, lend a helping hand, and contribute to the program and give back to their communities. As I move to a new state and start a new job in a new city, I’ll be picturing our Seniors walking onto their college campuses, eager for new experiences, knowledge, and success. I am forever grateful to have gotten the opportunity to be a part of that outcome for these students.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Anti-Human Trafficking Research and Policy Development program is committed to collaborating with campus and community advocates to increase public awareness, advise state and local policy development, and research the contexts and consequences of forced labor.

AND ONCE AGAIN WE’VE BEEN RANKED THE MOST INNOVATIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY.

I love this one because it reflects our willingness to think and work outside the box in ways that are unusual and unexpected. [...] It’s what enabled faculty, students and community scholars and activists to work through the Women’s Center to produce research that delves into the conditions that allow human trafficking to persist in our state, and make policy recommendation on how to reduce it.” (p.5)

- Annual President’s Address, President Ana Mari Cauce (2017)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESEARCH

In 2017, the Women’s Center completed a two-year study on clean supply chain management and eliminating the use of human trafficked labor. This year, we continued to share our findings and work with government entities, nonprofit organizations, and community members to implement our recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

Sutapa Basu, the Executive Director, was invited to speak at several universities in India during the month of December. Dr. Basu’s presentations included a variety of topics including how human trafficking laws were established/passed in the State of Washington and the implications of these laws in the community. Additionally, she gave a talk titled, “Women’s Rights are Human Rights – A perspective in the current global economy.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Washington State Senate, House, and King County Council all honored the UW Women’s Centers’ 20+ years of anti-human trafficking work – each with a declaration recognizing the University of Washington Women’s Center’s tremendous role in anti-human trafficking movement.

“WHEREAS, Since 2001, the University of Washington Women’s Center under the leadership of Dr. Sutapa Basu began convening a conference on human trafficking in Washington State and, in 2002, led efforts in creating in statute the nation’s first state task force against the trafficking of persons;” -- Senate Resolution 8694

“WHEREAS, Since 2001, the University of Washington Women’s Center under the leadership of Dr. Sutapa Basu began convening a conference on human trafficking in Washington State and, in 2002, led efforts in creating in statute the nation’s first state task force against the trafficking of persons, and in 2003 in creating the crime of trafficking on a state level, the first of its kind in the United States” -- House Resolution No. 2018-4664.

“WHEREAS, in the University of Washington Women’s Center, led by Dr. Sutapa Basu, and alongside organizations working with immigrants, refugees and communities of color, in 2001 began convening a conference on human trafficking in Washington State and led efforts in 2002 creating in statute the nation’s first state task force against the trafficking of persons” -- King County Proclamation
The Violence Prevention and Gender Equity Program is committed to promoting gender equity by eliminating gender-based violence on campus and in the larger community.

Gender-based violence and Immigrant & Refugee Communities

On January 18th, the Women’s Center hosted the first of the three-part series. The opening event focused on gender-based violence in immigrant and refugee communities. Speakers brought a wealth of knowledge and cultural competency and were able to speak from their years of experience with gender-based violence challenges unique to their communities.

Sexual Assault to Prison Pipeline

On February 15th, the Women’s Center hosted the second event in the series, which was focused on the relationship between a survivor’s experience with sexual assault and a later prison sentence. Speakers shared a powerful presentation questioning the roots of the prison industrial complex, its racial disparities, and the absence of women’s and girls’ voices in the cultural dialogue about this problem. They concluded the event by describing the role women and girls might take in resisting racist and sexist social norms, as well as in supporting survivors of violence in their communities.

An Appraisal of Muslim Women’s Law Against the Backdrop of the Shariat in India

On May 4th, the UW Women’s Center hosted the last event in the series. Zeba Khair joined us from New Delhi, India, to discuss gender-based violence in India. Zeba, a lawyer and advocate for Muslim women, has been at the forefront of creating legislation to protect vulnerable women for many years. Zeba’s talk centered on issues specific to Muslim women’s rights in India, including divorce and polygamy. Zeba spoke about a growing dialogue among Islamic feminists about understanding the context and meaning of the Qur’an and taking their place to interpret it alongside men.

Breaking the Silence Event Series

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Women’s Center hosted a three-part event series called Breaking the Silence. The series was focused on raising awareness of gender-based violence in various local and international contexts.

Gender-based Violence and Immigrant & Refugee Communities

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Braking the Silence Event Speakers

LAN PHAM
Manager of the Mayor’s Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

CARLIN YOOPHUM
Domestic Violence Program Director of Refugee Women’s Alliance

NORMA GUZMAN
Domestic Violence Program Manger of Consejo Counseling Services

MERRIT ARGO
South King County Organizer of OneAmerica

FARHIIYA MOHAMED
Domestic Violence Advocate of the Somali Family Safety Task Force

NIKKITA OLIVER
Local activist, educator, and lawyer

PRIYA RAI
Community Solutions Coordinator of API Chaya

Zeba Khair
Lawyer and advocate for Muslim Women in New Delhi, India

Event Hosts: UW Women’s Center and City of Seattle Human Services Department (HSD)

Event Co-sponsors: API-Chaya, ASUW Asian Student Commission, ASUW Middle Eastern Student Commission, Black Student Commission, Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center, SARVA, Womxn’s Action Commission, wshab1talk® (Intellectual House)

The Women’s Center offers trainings to student organizations, athletic teams, groups in Greek life, and others on consent, sexual assault, and rape culture, to help promote a safe and healthy college experience for all.

Beyond #MeToo

In collaboration with Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Activists (SARVA), and during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Women’s Center hosted a panel with representation from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN), and a UW Law student and activist. The event was moderated by Renata Cummings, UW Academic Advisor, to encourage an open dialogue about the #MeToo movement and the ways in which we can move forward in a mindful and inclusive way.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Partnership

The Women’s Center and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) – both the national organization and the Seattle chapter – have enjoyed a strong relationship for years, facilitating a variety of opportunities for Women’s Center programming, which has extended to benefit the greater UW community.

Representing the University of Washington, the Women Center’s membership with AAUW-National opens doors to exclusive grants and fellowships, leadership training, professional development, educational resources, and advocacy tools through e-student membership (free for undergraduates and discounted for graduate students).

Salary Negotiation Workshops

In collaboration with the AAUW Seattle branch, the Women’s Center offers workshops on salary negotiation techniques to reduce the gender-pay gap and empower undergraduate students to start their career with a fair and equitable wage.
Taking post-secondary education entrance exams can cause anxiety and have a lasting influence on a student’s future. We believe every student deserves an opportunity to succeed when entering undergraduate and/or graduate programs, regardless of their financial circumstances. For this reason, we offer year-round, low-cost SAT and GRE courses that address many common concerns, such as math anxiety and study skills, in addition to test content.

For over two decades, the Women’s Center has been advising non-traditional students interested in returning to school after time away as well as students who delayed attending to work or gain life experience, first. 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 individual needs. Additionally, each fall, the Women’s Center hosts an orientation for future and current incoming UW re-entry students. Orientation covers a variety of topics including financial support, childcare, disability services and resources, career services, student healthcare, and an opportunity to build a network with other students returning to formal education after a significant time away.

“I learned a lot of valuable information, some I didn’t even know I needed. There were fantastic presenters - very supportive, informative, and encouraging.” – 2018 student

“That was great! Especially Nancy, she was really helpful and very kind to me, an international student. I really appreciated her kindness and the prepared coffee and croissants!” – 2018 student

In the summer of June 2018, I was fortunate to participate in the Alene Moris NEW Leadership Institute. It was an intense week-long training in an atmosphere charged with empowerment and inspiration among a diverse cohort of women leaders. I enjoyed interacting with women pursuing degrees in various fields who were also determined to bring positive change to their communities. The reflections of prominent local women leaders on their struggles to bring forth the voice of women in their communities, were uplifting. The guidance from these women, who had paved the way for us, empowered me and gave me hope for the change women can bring by coming together.

“Everything was great! Especially Nancy, she was really helpful and very kind to me, an international student. I really appreciated her kindness and the prepared coffee and croissants!” – 2018 student

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Later in the year, I had the opportunity to share my personal story at the Women’s Center Re-entry Orientation event. I shared the life challenges I faced as a young woman and a single mother of two, including enduring domestic abuse and economic hardship, along with developing the resilience and self-sufficiency required to pursue higher education. I am a first-generation immigrant college student, an identity that entails multiple, intersecting challenges. I am thankful for the support of family, friends, and mentors along the way who uplifted me, and I am so grateful to the UW Women’s Center for being a place of resource, mentorship, and empowerment for women of all races and backgrounds on campus.

“I wasn’t excited to learn SAT strategies, but this course ended up being really interesting! I will definitely recommend it to my sophomore friends.” – SAT student, January 2018

“I loved the confidence this course gave me and how the strategies were super useful and easy to do, even with the stress and pressure of the testing time limits.” – SAT Student, September 2017

“We would learn a strategy, do a practice problem slowly together, and then practiced independently, in timed conditions – I loved it!” – GRE Student, July 2018
KEYNOTE, TSEWONE MELAKU

Making Connections alumna and recent graduate of the University of Washington, touched the hearts of attendees. She shared how her Making Connections cohort became part of her family and how the program helped her push past academic setbacks and discover her interest in engineering.

Video link: https://youtu.be/7mc-d6WV0dY.

“I stand here today as a senior at the University of Washington, Seattle studying Human Centered Design & Engineering with a minor in Education, Learning, and Society. Because of Making Connections, I’ve been able to pursue countless opportunities with confidence and resilience. I learned how to walk into a room and own it, be proud of myself and always, always, always lift as I climb, because the top will get lonely."
SCHOLARSHIPS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS (NCCWSL)
With support from the AAUW Seattle Branch, two Making Connections alumni 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.

NADA AL-MUSAWI
Making Connections Class of 2015
University of Washington, Class of 2019. Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration.

NELLA KWAN
Making Connections Class of 2013
University of Washington, Class of 2018. Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration (Information Systems & Marketing).

“In addition to the awe I felt from the speakers, I found inspiration from peers who had stories just as heartening and uplifting.”

“NCCSWL was a fantastic conference filled with inspiration and love.”

– Past NCCWSL Scholarship Recipient

AAUW SCHOLAR RECOGNITION
For the fourth year in a row, AAUW has recognized three Making Connections high school seniors for their achievements in math, science, and technology. The students received their award at the annual AAUW Scholar’s Recognition Reception. Amount: $250.

KARLEE WONG
Making Connections Class of 2018

SAMRA BEREKET
Making Connections Class of 2018

SEBLE HALLU
Making Connections Class of 2018

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.

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 the 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.

ELIZABETH HAINSE
PhD Student, Rehabilitation Science
MS Candidate, Mechanical Engineering

ELISE RAMUSSEN
MUP Candidate, Urban Design & Planning
MPH Candidate, Community Oriented Public Health Practice

NADIA PAYET SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship supports two 2018 Making Connections graduates who are pursuing engineering or math degrees. One-time award, two $2,500 scholarships.

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EDEN GEBREMARIAM
Making Connections Class of 2018

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THANK YOU!

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

In 2018, approximately 59% of our funding came from the generosity of gifts, grants, and sponsorships made to support our programs, services, and students. Individual donors and small grants fund the following programs completely:

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

Thank you to our donors for their unwavering support.

7% Lifelong Learning Class Revenue
34% College of Arts & Sciences
59% Gifts & Grants
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MIKEY HERRING & JAMES PHELPS, STANLEY & BERTHE HABIB, KEN KARROWSKI & KRISTIE SPENCER, ELISE & JOHN LINDESTED, DON MUIR, AND NADIA PAYET FOR THEIR TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

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