

Join us on February 26, 2008

Title IX at 35: Triumphs, Challenges and Strategies to Increase Gender Equity in Education

Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance, was signed 35 years ago. We are celebrating its triumphs, fighting backlash, and strategizing on how it can be fully implemented. Building on recent publications such as the fall 35th anniversary issue of Ms. magazine and the January National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE) report "Title IX at 35: Beyond the Headlines" (www.ncwge.org), the featured speakers, **Jocelyn Samuels** and **Kim Gandy**, will highlight advances in gender equality associated with Title IX and discuss backlash on key issues such as sex segregation. They will recommend specific strategies for the next administration.

SPEAKERS: **Jocelyn Samuels**, Vice President for Education and Employment at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and Vice Chair of the NCWGE.

Kim Gandy, President of the National Organization for Women (NOW)

Additional NCWGE Authors will provide brief strategy recommendations on some of the less publicized Title IX challenges: **Connie Cordovilla** for education employees, **Fatima Goss Graves** for non-traditional careers, **Sue Klein** for Title IX infrastructure improvements, and **Jan Erickson** for ideas on new legislation.

DATE/TIME: **Tuesday, February 26, 2008 / 12 Noon sharp – 1:30 pm**
Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

PLACE: One Dupont Circle, American Council on Education, 8th Floor, Kellogg Room
Bring brown bag lunch. Soft drinks available from a machine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

In case of bad weather and closing of government offices, the CWI meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Women's History speakers Jo Freeman & Kristie Miller

Strengthening Federal Women's Issues Offices

The Clearinghouse speakers at the January meeting were **Ruth Nadel**, former CWI president who worked many years in the first federal women's issues office, the Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and **Dr. Wanda K. Jones**, deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and director, Office on Women's Health.

Ruth Nadel, long-time feminist/activist, served as a social science advisor in the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau from 1968 to 1989. The Women's Bureau was established in 1920 to aid war widows and women in the workforce. She pointed out some Women's Bureau innovative contributions, including the way she (and others afterward) were hired at a fairly high salary level in the late 1960s based on "credit" for many years of "professional" volunteer work in California and Maryland. Mary Keyserling, a former CWI president and one of the founders of CWI, was the Women's Bureau director and started this work credit for volunteer experience.

In addition, Nadel noted contributions of some of the Women's Bureau directors such as Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, the first African-American director, who had been president of the National Education Association, and Alexis Herman, who later became secretary of labor under President Clinton.

Achievements of the Women's Bureau include many programs to train and encourage women to go into higher paying, high-skilled non-traditional careers for women, outreach and influence on helping women in DOL employment and training programs, working with labor



Ruth Nadel



Dr. Wanda Jones



Margot Dorfman

unions and other federal agencies to support women, work and family policies; was instrumental in the passage of the 1963 Equal Pay Act; recommending sick leave laws, and active collaboration with women's advocacy groups. Nadel showed some of the classic, hard copy Women's Bureau publications on topics such as community solutions for childcare, and job conferences for women and girls. Women's Bureau publications now are available only on the Web.

In 1972 Nadel, the mother of four sons, was assigned to the design and development of the first federal employee daycare center in the then new DOL building on Constitution Ave. She worked on this project with volunteers, including an architect and DOL parents. The Women's Bureau helped many other agencies establish similar day care centers, "Work and family issues, including eldercare, were at the heart of the Women's Bureau," Nadel said.

Speaking about the Women's Bureau today, Nadel pointed out that it needs a larger budget. Under the current administration, it has been reduced from \$10.1 million to \$9.5 million, with only 23 career employees in its national office and

30 positions in its regional offices. She noted that the damaging attempts by government to outsource Department of Labor civil service professional (including Women's Bureau) jobs to contractors have recently been curbed by congressional action, and that women's groups helped convince Congress that the Women's Bureau regional offices should be maintained. For more information about the Women's Bureau see www.dol.gov/wb.

Program Summary, continued

Dr. Wanda K. Jones has been deputy assistant secretary for health and director of the Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) since 1998. The office was established in 1991. Dr. Jones is a long-time civil service employee who joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta in 1987, working on women's health and HIV/AIDS issues before coming to HHS headquarters in Washington in 1998.

Jones discussed the role of the Office on Women's Health, as well as many of the other HHS offices focusing on women's issues. She explained that the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health is actually the oldest office in HHS focusing on women's and minorities health research, adding that the NIH Reauthorization Act of 1993 is one of only two containing statutory language assigning an authority on women's health. The other is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), but noted that the legislatively mandated position of associate administrator for women's services is currently vacant. Other HHS agencies with offices on women's health are the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the Indian Health Service.

Although most people assume that by now all medical research must include women and minorities and report on the disaggregated results, Dr. Jones pointed out an interesting loophole. If the federal government funds research, it must include women and minorities; but privately funded research is exempt from this requirement. The FDA Office on Women's Health fosters analysis by gender and ethnicity as part of the review criteria for drug trials. AHRQ women's health responsibilities are now positioned in the Office of Priority Populations where it works across the entire agency's research portfolio. The newly-established Women's Health Nurse program in the Indian Health Service focuses on issues of violence in Indian country where domestic violence

is especially rampant. Over their lifetime 40 percent of women in the general U.S. population will experience abuse or assault; in Indian country reported rates are 60 to 80 percent.

The efforts of various offices on women's health in and outside of HHS are led by a coordinating committee on women's health in HHS established in 1983. It is chaired by Dr. Jones and managed by her office. All have a designated senior liaison whether they have an office or not. They meet monthly, sharing information and resources.

The Office on Women's Health has a \$31 million budget (FY 2008). They are succeeding in educating health professionals and consumers, disseminating information on women's and girl's health, and establishing programs to help women and girls. In addition to www.4woman.gov/owh/about (for information on the Office on Women's Health), see www.womenshealth.gov and www.girlshealth.gov for details of OWH programs. Additional information about the other women's health offices in HHS is in the "working groups and committees" section of www.womenshealth.gov.

In the Q&As, when asked about the most important recommendations for women's issues offices, Dr. Jones hoped for more attention to gender issues throughout HHS, including increased interaction with administration leadership to influence policy. She said, "Women must be at the table deciding on how to address gender equity issues in all areas. Separate but equal does not work. It is important to hold the whole system accountable for women's and men's health outcomes."

Margot Dorfman, CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, representing 500 million women nationwide and around the globe on economic-based issues affecting them, briefed the attendees on current problems with lack of implementation of legislatively mandated programs to help women's businesses. Dorfman agreed that there is a definite need for federal women's offices but they must have enough independence to fully implement their legislative mandates. She described her congressional testimony and a current lawsuit against the Small Business

Program Summary, continued

Administration and its women's procurement program which issued a regulation that does not adequately implement the 1994 or 2000 legislative mandates to provide a five percent goal for federal contracts with women-owned small businesses. In fact, the highest use of women-owned businesses was in 2003 with less than three percent. She urged all to write Congress, urging repeal of this inappropriate regulation. (Dorfman spoke to the Clearinghouse in 2006).

Former Clearinghouse president Ellen Overton, who served as the first women's program manager at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce, joined others in lamenting that we had trouble finding any federal women's program offices that had previously been coordinated by a women's office in the Office of Personnel Management. It also was noted that nothing had replaced the coordinating

and public liaison function of the President's Interagency Council on Women which was discontinued when Clinton left office. Information on this council is at www.state.gov/www/global/women/index.html#picw

Dr. Sue Klein, Clearinghouse vice president, pointed out that the job position, special assistant for gender equity, was still a required part of the Department of Education legislation, but the position and coordinating functions on gender equity ended after the Clinton administration.

The issues and insights from this meeting show that it is important to commission a current Government Accountability Office (GAO) study on women's issues offices in federal agencies. It was suggested that the recommendations in this report should include substantial input from women's/gender equity advocacy groups and be used to guide transition decisions and new legislation in the next administration.

Message from Barbara J. Ratner, President

We have all been bombarded with political emails, and many of them untrue accusations. Please don't forward these unless you know for a fact they are true. Election times tell us how much hate and distrust there is in this country! Despite all this, isn't it exciting that a woman finally has a chance at the White House!

Our monthly meetings have been well attended. We would love to have more of you able to join us. If there are any topics of interest that you would like featured, please let us know. We are always looking for speakers, so let us know if you would like to present a program.

How the President's Budget Proposals Would Hurt Women and Children

From Helen Blank, director of leadership and public policy at National Women's Law Center

- 200,000 low-income children and their families would lose childcare assistance and 13,000 children would lose Head Start.
- Decreased funding for Medicare and Medicaid would further reduce critical health care for nearly 50 million elderly and low-income women.
- Reduced funding for employment and training programs, at a time of rising unemployment for women and men.
- Budget cuts supports for vulnerable and low-income people, including victims of domestic violence; energy, housing and nutrition assistance, child support enforcement; and other vital social services.

Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform First Annual Leadership Forum

Sunday, February 24. 11am – 1pm.

Dr Susan F. Wood, former assistant commissioner for women's health in the FDA's Office on Women's Health will be the guest speaker. "The Coalition is a state-wide movement working to bring access to quality, affordable health care to every resident in Maryland."

The meeting will take place in the Somerset Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Ave., Chevy Chase; for more information, or to register, contact womenscoalition@mdhealthcarereform.org or visit www.mdhealthcarereform.org or www.mdhealthcarereform.org.

Women's eNews "Cheers"

(a compilation of good news around the world.)

Denver has the highest teen pregnancy rates in Colorado. "Pregnant teens and counselors are calling for maternity leaves in the public school system ... to give new mothers one month off from school ... and prevent penalties for excessive absences caused by giving birth." The article quotes the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned pregnancies, which says, "nation-wide, only 40 percent of women who give birth before they turn 18 graduate from high school."

"The United Arab Emirates will amend its laws and open courtroom doors to female judges," the justice minister announced. The proposed law would make that country the second Gulf country after Bahrain to allow women on the bench. In neighboring Qatar this led to a media debate "as to whether women are fit to hold the gavel ... Qatari male lawyers either oppose the appointment of women as judges or prefer that they be restricted to family courts."

"Girls Gotta Run" Art Exhibit To Help Ethiopian Girls, Feb. 26-April 6

This exhibit will be at the Invitational Gallery in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, N. Bethesda, MD. The reception will be held Feb. 28, 7-9pm; sales of the art work will benefit rural Ethiopian girls who, but for the lack of a pair of shoes, could finish high school and perhaps go on to college or a technical school. The girls are migrating to Addis Ababa in hopes of being trained as runners. Running is a popular and lucrative sport in Ethiopia and elsewhere, where races are numerous and girls are a large percentage of the participants. The artists will buy athletic shoes for these young females who are striving to escape poverty, early marriage, and a high likelihood of childbirth-related death. To find out more, visit www.girlsgottarun.org.

UAW Appoints Hallman

Linda D. Hallman has been appointed executive director of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Hallman has a long history of executive-level association and foundation experience in our area. She served most recently as vice president of policy and government strategy, external and member relations, with the National Alliance for Health Information Technology in Washington.



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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COMING EVENTS

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|------------------------------|--|
| February | Black History Month |
| March | Women's History Month |
| Sunday, February 24 | Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reforms
See page 5. |
| Tuesday, February 26 | CWI Meeting |
| February 26 - April 6 | "Girls Gotta Run" Art Exhibit
Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD.
For more information, www.girlsgottarun.org . See page 5. |

Photos by D. Anne Martin; January meeting summary draft by members, Jean Landweber and Jennifer Lee. Newsletter production by Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design

CWI Board of Directors, July 2007 - June 2008

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