



## Iowa Branch Connector

June, 2013

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

**The Value of Affiliation with AAUW:** *By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

***Welcome to this monthly electronic publication. You are invited to share this information with other members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy.***

Maxine Lampe, AAUW IA President 2012-2014

For our June Connector, I am sending a blog on leadership which I found interesting and thought it might generate some discussion for you and your branch. Before you begin reading it, there are three items I need to remind you of. 1) Please remember to have your new officers respond to the invitation to the summer board retreat. The RSVP deadline is **June 14**. If you need a new invitation, let me know and I will send it again. 2) Don't forget to vote for AAUW National. Online Voting is open until June 10th. 3) If you have not already done so, please get your new officer list to both National **and** either Hiliary Burns ([hiliary.burns@gmail.com](mailto:hiliary.burns@gmail.com)) or myself. Now for the blog:

“Close your eyes, and imagine yourself back in your fourth-grade classroom. Most of you will remember your teachers, your little desks, and the important events that took place during that year. My most vivid memory is of being the line leader, the biggest honor a fourth-grader could receive. Only the students with the highest grades and the best behavior were allowed to be first in line and lead their classes around school. I thought that as soon as I became the line leader, I gained leadership skills. But new research suggests this may not have been the case. Evie Stone, a special education teacher at Vista Middle School in Van Nuys, California, used a similar system in her classrooms to motivate students. But when she realized that they were only doing the right thing because they would be rewarded, she stopped using this kind of motivation and instead empowered her students to take on leadership roles when they saw that something needed to be done. For Stone, this was the real secret behind cultivating leadership.

Other research has also found that rewarding students by placing a heavy emphasis on grades and prizes puts the growth of children's internal motivation at risk. A recent study by Ronald E. Riggio, [the Henry R. Kravis Professor of Leadership and Organizational Psychology at Claremont McKenna College](#), found that leadership development starts in early childhood. Children as young as two can show specific signs that predict their ability to lead as adults, such as taking on new experiences willingly, supporting their peers, seeking knowledge about lessons from their parents, and committing to new activities. Simply put, a child who seeks to learn new things and who has parental support could become a leader later in life. This new discovery might mean that in classrooms, leadership is not simply a way to reward good behavior — it is an opportunity for continuous growth with the support of others.

And while leadership may stem from childhood experiences, even adults can build those skills. This year's [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) will help women who are in college or graduate school to develop their leadership skills. Every year, this event helps hundreds of women build their skills, thanks to workshops and inspiring speakers.

Empowerment and support from our parents, teachers, and mentors are important in our childhood years and continue to play a role as we enter into adulthood. So whether your passions and interests were fostered at young age or you are just on the verge of making your mark, you too can grow to become a leader.

Can you remember your first childhood leadership experience and the impact that it had on you? Or did your path to leadership start in adulthood?"

*This post was written by AAUW Leadership Programs Intern Nzinga Shury.*

*In Equity,*

*Maxine Lampe, AAUW Iowa President*