



Iowa Branch Connector
December 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

Our guest editor for this month is Sue Jorgensen, Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch President and AAUW IA Secretary:

Initiating a Student Affiliate Branch of AAUW at Coe College in Cedar Rapids

Last summer I was confident that by now there would be a viable AAUW Student Affiliate Branch at Coe College, which is closer now, but still not a reality. I agreed in July to write an article for the Iowa AAUW Connector and I want to share some of the perceptions and the challenges we've met in initiating a Student Affiliate Branch at Coe College. I hope you find that it inspires you to reach out and recruit young women and men. It will require resilience and energy!

The journey for our branch began this past summer when I met Christa Angelios, a vivacious Coe student, and interested her in becoming an AAUW student affiliate. She arranged for me to meet with her and 2 other students. I realized then that I had met 3 very bright, aware women, one of whom had met Lilly Ledbetter! Christa, Sarah and Krysta (I will call them the Coe Cadre) collaborated on how to begin a student affiliate branch with free E-membership. They had ambitious plans to meet twice a month and they set out to begin their recruiting efforts.

As the Coe Cadre began recruiting, I sealed my commitment when I submitted a proposal for an AAUW presentation at Beyond Rubies a women's conference held in the spring at Kirkwood Community College. The proposal was accepted and we are scheduled for 2:30, Friday March 28th. The session, "AAUW: Shaping the Future, Empowering Women and Girls", will feature 3 generations of AAUW members. I am the long-time member, Maria Bribresco will represent a new member of the middle generation, and Christa Angelios is the younger, e-member.

Regardless of what AAUW has to offer, the bottom line is what is relevant to Coe students. In November Maria Bribresco, Christa Angelios and I went to the campus "Pub", the student hangout, to ask this question. Two girls said, "When you are willing to talk about rape, we will join". Another wanted a voice for GLBT. AAUW has a position on both issues and opportunities to host programs for both topics. Our branch is enthused about applying for a Campus Outreach Grant to bring expert presenters on those topics. We are waiting for the go-ahead!

Next steps are to continue collaboration with Coe administrators and the student "Cadre". It has been an exciting journey. I encourage you and your branch to venture into new territory, initiating a student affiliate branch of AAUW on a campus near you! AAUW must recruit young women to carry the torch.

Apply for a Campus Outreach Grant and Connect with Your Local College Campus!

Interested in connecting with college students in your community? Encourage your branch to apply for a [Campus Outreach Grant](#)! Campus Outreach Grants offer up to \$750 to help an AAUW branch host or co-host a program to educate college students about gender discrimination. In the past, branches have held events on fair pay, sexual assault on campus, Title IX compliance, and pregnancy discrimination. Your branch could use the grant to bring an equal-pay expert to speak on campus, sponsor a booth at an activities fair to help students lobby for more just campus sexual assault policies, or play an AAUW public service announcement and hand out information about Title IX at a campus sporting event. We can help connect branches with college/university partners. E-mail laf@aauw.org for more information and find the application [online](#).