



Iowa Branch Connector  
February, 2015

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.**

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President 2014-16

Information for this issue of the Iowa Branch Connector is from Dev Kiedaisch and Briana Bartlett, Program Co-Vice Presidents, AAUW Iowa.

## **Meet Me in Cedar Falls!**

Get ready for an enriching, exhilarating, enlightening AAUW Iowa Spring Conference on April 10 and 11, 2015 in Cedar Falls, IA. The theme is **Create Your Future** from a quote by Betsy McDowell, a member of the AAUW Board of Directors and a speaker at the AAUW Iowa Spring Conference in 2014, “The only way to protect your future is to create it.”

The conference will kick off on Friday afternoon from 2:30 to 5 when Pat Higby and Marcy Seavey, UNI faculty and AAUW members, will give us an overview of the STEM program at UNI, followed by students discussing their college and STEM experiences. Members will then choose a tour of one of the STEM areas. This will be followed by a cabaret experience from 5:00-7:00. Amelia and Melina Gotera, feminist singer-song writers, will perform while we enjoy an interesting light dinner and drinks.

Saturday morning begins with Pam Theil, an AAUW board member, presenting One AAUW, a National AAUW overview, including Start Smart and Work Smart. Pam is recently retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service where she supervised a five-state area. ReShonda Young, Operational Manager of Alpha Express and co-owner of Popcorn Express, will follow with her experience in pay equity. ReShonda was invited to Washington, D.C. to share her story at the announcement of “When Women Succeed, America Succeeds: An Economic Agenda for Women and Families.” She returned to Washington, D.C. to testify for a Senate hearing on the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Helen Gunderson and Leigh Adcock will complete the morning with their program on Women in Agriculture: An Iowa Perspective. Helen was awarded the Practical Farmers of Iowa first Farmland Owner Appreciation Award in 2013. She owns and manages a farm in Rolfe and has an “urban farm”, with chickens, in her backyard in Ames. Helen is producing a short video about Iowa women in agriculture that will premiere at our

conference. Leigh was the executive director of the Women, Food, and Agriculture Network from 2008-2014. She took a small, grass-roots campaign and increased its membership from 300 to 5000 and took it national in just five years. Leigh will be moderating a panel of women in agriculture that will include many aspects including how our food decisions impact agriculture.

A parade of past presidents, recognition of Title IX Champions, recognition of cities and counties that have attained gender equity on boards and commissions and recognition of members who serve on city and county boards and commissions will precede lunch. During a great lunch catered by UNI you will have the opportunity to meet with your counterparts from the AAUW Iowa board and other branches to discuss successes and challenges in your specific area.

Mike Ferjak, Senior Criminal Investigator of the Iowa Department of Justice—Office of the Attorney General, will bring us up to date on Human Trafficking in Iowa – The Basic Facts.

We anticipate ending the conference with a speaker from the AAUW staff before the closing of the conference.

The passion, strength, and vision of Iowa women make this very exciting program possible.