



Iowa Branch Connector

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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

This month our guest editor is **Kim Babcock- Mashek** from the Waverly branch. She is AAUW IA CU Director:

For the past three years, my outside of work and family activities have been consumed, for the most part, by my board position as the College and University Relations Director. In this position I have worked to increase the number of academic institutions in our state from ten in 2011 to 23 as I write this article. I have to credit many of the current and past board members with helping to make connections with administrators and professors at these locations that support the values that AAUW advocates. However, there are many more academic institutions and also young women that we can recruit to join AAUW. So how can you help with this initiative? Promote this membership opportunity to all the higher education institutions in your area!

The biggest benefit of a College or University becoming a partner member are the leadership and professional development for both students and faculty members. Each year C&U members can send young women to the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#). This program gives young women the opportunity to attend workshops, hear exhilarating speakers, and expand advocacy, networking, and career-planning skills with 600 other young women from across the United States. Also AAUW provides programming for academic partners such as the Smart Start Money Workshops, Tech Trek Camps, Elect Her Workshops, and also funding for Campus Action Projects (CAP). AAUW provides CAP grants for ten teams up to \$5000 to implement their project on the selected theme. The theme for 2014 focus on last Spring's research report on [Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success](#). The application process is still available until October 21st and more information can be found at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/cap-grant-application/> Also students who attend a C&U partner school automatically can apply for a FREE e-student affiliate membership.

Those are just the benefits for students, there are also benefits for faculty members. With a membership the academic institution receives two free memberships for two delegates to represent the school. Also faculty members have opportunities to apply for more funding opportunities in addition to the CAP grants. Faculty can also apply for AAUW's Summer/Short-term Publication Grants, which invest in faculty publication or help to further current research initiatives. Faculty members can also partner with community groups and apply for Community

Action Grants. These grants provide funds to individuals, AAUW branches, and AAUW state organizations as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equality for women and girls.

Topics for these projects can focus on STEM opportunities, women's outreach, and other women or girls focused projects. In Iowa, the Latinas el Exito project was partially funded by a community action grant.

These are only some of the benefits of a College and University partnership with AAUW. There are many others including the networking opportunity with other institutions around the country and also within your own state. My goal for this year is to hit the 25 institutions mark, and push for 30 institutions by the time my term ends in June. If we reach this milestone we will have at least 75% of our academic institutions within Iowa being AAUW College and University partners, which is a statistic that will allow us to shine nationally!