In Brief

Newsletter of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy
University at Albany, SUNY

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to present the 2015 Issue of In Brief, the annual newsletter of the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society. We hope that the issue will highlight the depth and breadth of the work conducted at the Center, and illuminate the commitment and dedication of countless people and institutions that make this work possible. The Center and Board and staff are deeply indebted to those partners at the University, community, regional and global levels. This year, the Board and staff of the Center are renewing their commitment to the work of the Center by developing a vibrant and dynamic strategic plan that guide our paths. The plan reaffirms the Center’s core vision of a Society where people of all backgrounds participate equally in shaping the future, and its mission to deepen and broaden political access and economic opportunities for women domestically and globally. The plan lays out the broad strategic strokes and reinforces the social justice goals of strengthening the capacity of all sectors to implement gender-responsive, inclusive and equitable policies, practices and services; and help women position themselves in the pipeline of public policy leadership. We invite you to partner with us in moving the plan forward. There is a role for everyone in the Center’s work. We invite you to contact us, and become a member of an ever expanding circle of social justice actors. Meanwhile, we wish you a most joyful and most peaceful holiday season and a very happy and productive 2016!

CWGCS Team

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul Celebrated Women’s Leadership with 2015 Fellows!

Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul with 2015 Fellows, UAlbany President Robert Jones, Dean Karl Rethemeyer, and Center Staff

2015 Fellows: (Standing L-R) Nancy Allen, Kelly Smith, Brittany Glenn, Desiree Farley, Norain Siddiqui, Emily Steinbach, Jasmine Clemens, Michelle Blanchi; (Seated L-R) Sandra Sanya, Marie Lovato, Saira Khan, Christina Miller, Erin

Support CWGCS!

Visit http://www.albany.edu/womeningov/donate.shtml to make an online donation today!

Mission:

CWGCS seeks to deepen and broaden political access and economic opportunities for women domestically and globally. We do this by (a) strengthening the capacity of all sectors to implement gender-responsive, inclusive and equitable policies, practices and services; and (b) helping women position themselves in the pipeline of public policy leadership.

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IN BRIEF

The Alumnae Network, steered by co-chairs Kari Siddiqui '14, Kathleen Brady-Stepien '14, Norain Siddiqui '15, and Michelle Bianchi '15, has been hard at work to connect alumnae to current fellows, to provide opportunities for alumnae to meet one another, and to update our contact information (email, address, etc.) for fellow alumnae near and far. This past year, the Alumnae Network hosted several events for the current fellowship class, including an orientation potluck, panel discussions with alumnae throughout the fellowship, and a tour of the NYS Capitol and meetings with legislative staff. In addition, we worked to update our contact information for alumnae, and to offer happy hours and other events for alumnae to connect with one another. This year, we hope to expand upon the work we did last year to offer even more opportunities to network and to get to know one another. We thank last year’s co-chairs, Arielle Bernstein and Hilary Papineau, for the great work that they did to rejuvenate the Alumnae Network within the past few years. We encourage fellowship alumnae to reach out to us in the following ways, and we welcome your suggestions!

Kathleen Brady-Stepien ‘14 & Kari Siddiqui ‘14

13 Fellows completed the Fellowship on June 30, 2015. Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul addressed the 2015 Fellows as they started their leadership journey in public service. The Fellowship Graduation Ceremony featured the Fellows graduating each other, and exchanging symbolic gifts. 2015 Fellows organized and raised funds for a policy trip to Washington, D.C.; and met with prominent government and non-profit leaders.

Above: 2015 Fellows at the Girls’ Rising Screening sponsored by KPMG

Left: 2015 Fellows at the Capitol Building to meet with legislative leaders.

Distinguished Fellow

Dorcey L. Applyrs, DrPH, MPH, 2012 Fellow

“The winter of 2012 marked a significant milestone in my career. I was accepted as a Women and Public Policy fellow through the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society. Although eager to broaden my understanding about public policy, I had some reservations about my ability to meet the demands and expectations required for the program, while pursuing my doctoral studies at the School of Public Health, University at Albany.

The idea of working closely with so many accomplished women leaders was empowering and, at the same time, a little intimidating. At that stage in my career, I could not fathom the depth of the opportunity I had been granted and how it would change my life and career trajectories. I wish every young woman was afforded such opportunities.

“My desire to learn more about policy has evolved into a commitment to take an active role in influencing public policy.”

Since completing the fellowship program, I earned my doctorate in public health; accepted a position as Public Health Faculty Program Director at Excelsior College; and was elected to the Albany Common Council to represent the City’s First Ward. My desire to learn more about policy has evolved into a commitment to take an active role in influencing public policy. I have current and future aspirations to be a public servant who is a thought leader, intentional about improving the lives of populations through progressive and evidence-based policies. As I excel and continue to pursue my life’s work, I am also committed to mentoring and preparing the next generation of leaders.”

Fellowship Alumnae Network Update

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Fellow-to-Fellow Reception, January 15, 2015:
IN BRIEF

Women’s Leadership Academy

Martha Mahoney, 2014 NEW Leader

“The inspiration and drive I gained from participating in NLNY left a lasting impact on me and influenced my career path to be one of public service, beginning with an internship in the office of US Congressman Paul Tonko as a constituent liaison. In this position, I learned firsthand the direct impact that government has on the community. I’ve since held positions in the legislative, executive, and agency levels of NYS Government and with the executive branch of the City of Albany.

Working directly for two Senators, alongside high-ranking members of the Governor’s staff, and with policy-makers at the Department of Health has given me a keen understanding of the State legislative process and of the key players and components involved in policy advancement.

“The impact of participating in NLNY has stayed with me throughout my career trajectory, and I’m confident that it will continue to inspire me as I continue in the field of public service.”

I currently have the pleasure of serving as the executive scheduler for Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, the city’s first female Mayor. In this role, I closely manage the Mayor’s calendar, ensure the efficient execution of requests, and act as the gatekeeper in a fast-paced executive office. The impact of participating in NLNY has stayed with me throughout my career trajectory, and I’m confident that it will continue to inspire me as I continue in the field of public service. I’m incredibly grateful to Dina, Bilge, Sue, and the entire Center for Women in Government & Civil Society team for their support and encouragement and for providing invaluable professional development programs.”

2015 NEW Leadership™ New York

NEW Leadership™ New York Summer Institute was held between May 28th – June 3rd, 2015. 18 undergraduate female students from all around New York State were selected to participate in the intensive leadership program. The NEW Leaders met with elected and appointed officials, representatives of non-profit organizations, ND prominent leaders of THE private sector. They attended leadership and professional development workshops; and held a meeting at UN Headquarters in New York City with activists and social justice actors. The one-week residential summer institute is provided at no direct cost to participating students.

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Request to join the CWGCS LinkedIn page at: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4440648
To update your contact information please contact Norain at Norain.sid@gmail.com
To participate in and to develop alumnae networking opportunities, contact Michelle at michellembianchi@gmail.com
To connect with the current class of fellows (there are various opportunities), contact Kathleen at kabradystepien@gmail.com or Kari at kdaviesmason@gmail.com
Breathing Lights for the Capital Region

We are proud to announce that The Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region invited the Center to conduct evaluation of the Breathing Lights project. This large public art exhibit will illuminate vacant buildings in Albany, Troy and Schenectady communities. It seeks to enhance appreciation of public art; promote sale of vacant properties and foster economic development in the targeted communities. For more information on the project, please visit: http://upstatecreative.org/about-breathing-lights-regional-public-art-challenge-submission/

Non-Traditional Employment & Training Program (Funded by NYS Education Department)

Since 2013, the Center’s Non-Traditional Employment & Training Program has been providing technical assistance to Perkins Granted Career & Technology Education programs in recruiting and retaining students who are pursuing a career in a non-traditional field for their gender through New York State Department of Education. The Center administers annual Vanguard Awards acknowledging 8 outstanding students pursuing careers non-traditional for their gender. (Above: One of the 2015 Vanguard Awardees Kristin Gordon)

Economic Well-Being of Immigrants in New York State

With over 50,000 foreign-born residents in Greater Capital Region, and more than 4 million foreign-born residents throughout the state, New York State is the home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the USA. Using census data, the study produces a numerical index that reports on the extent to which immigrants are incorporated in the economic fabric of each New York State county, and where each county falls in the spectrum of immigrant integration.

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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Public Service Leadership Training and Environmental Health (Funded by the U.S. Department of State)

In collaboration with Global Institute for Health and Human Rights, the Center has been developing online curriculum for public service leadership skills targeting non-profit organization leaders in environmentally sustainable economic development and public health, in the Middle-Eastern countries.

Mapping the Substantive Representation of Women in the Ugandan Parliament

The Center completed the study titled: Mapping the Substantive Representation of Women in the Ugandan Parliament. A report documenting study findings was produced. The Center also produced a journal article titled: Erosion and Transformation in the Ecology of Gender: Women’s Political Representation and Gender Relations in the Ugandan Parliament that documented the findings of this study.
Bridging the Gaps in Human Rights Law in the Middle-East through Enhancing Health Law Capacity (Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development)

In collaboration with Global Institute for Health and Human rights, the Center is supporting a collaborative initiative to develop an online curriculum to enhance capabilities to protect internationally recognized legal rights and strengthen a space for discussion by citizens of

WORK IN DEVELOPMENT

Community-Based Participatory Action Research

The Center submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health to create an academic-community partnership with the Triqui Mexican indigenous community in the Greater Capital Region. The project will conduct an assessment of Triqui adolescents’ reproductive health needs, develop and deliver a health promotion program; and identify research gaps and formalize the partnership to pursue advancing the research agenda through Community-based Participatory Action Research.

Collaboration with Albany Law School

The Center submitted a proposal for the Collaboration Ventures Request for Proposal issued by the University at Albany and Albany Law School to encourage enhanced collaborations between the two institutions. In collaboration with faculty members at University at Albany and Albany Law School, the Center proposed identifying a joint research agenda and conducting face-to-face visits with foundations to engage them in the agenda and request sponsorship.

Combating Gender-Based Violence through Digital Storytelling in Egypt

The Center is developing a proposal that will be submitted to the World Bank. The proposal seeks to develop a blended training course (combination face-to-face and online) to teach female participants the art of using digital storytelling to expose street sexual harassment and speak out against it. The course will be piloted in Egypt in collaboration with Nazra for Feminist Studies, a nonprofit advocacy organization in Egypt, as well as the Center for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley, California and faculty members from the Women; Gender & Sexuality Studies.

Research on Local Government Leadership

A proposal is under development at the Center to examine the representation of women in local government leadership. The study will analyze multi state systems and examine the different structures and mechanisms that women have to navigate to rise in the ranks within local government.
CWGCS would like to recognize and thank our Partners, Board Members, Working Committee Members, Fellowship Instructors, Fellowship Supervisors and Placement Sponsors to the Women’s Leadership Academy Programs. Thank you for your continued support of the Center and its programs!

2015 Fellowship Instructors
Sue Epstein, Ph.D.
Sue Faerman, Ph.D.
Julie Gutmann, D.A.
Dina Refki, Ph.D.
Ruth Walters

2015 Fellowship Supervisors
and Policy Field Placement Sponsors
Petrina Castracani
Medical Informatics
NYS OMH

Sara S. Blake
Bureau of Policy Analysis
NYS OCFS

Tom Vaughan
Public Transportation
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Tracey Brooks
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Division of Long-term Care
NYS DOH

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Michelle Bianchi
Jasmine Clemons
Desiree Farley
Brittany Glenn
Saira Khan
Marie Lovato
Christina Miller
Sandra Sanya
Norain Siddiqui
Kelly Smith
Emily Steinbach

2015 NEW Leaders
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Soraya Attia
Taylor Carson
Hannah Cohen
Ashley Dufrense
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We would like to thank to guest speakers of the Fellowship on Women & Public Policy who led workshops on Advocacy for Social Change, visited Fellowship courses, and spoke to the NEW Leaders. We would like to also thank exceptional individuals who gave generously of their time to mentor the Fellows. Thank you all!

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