

NJ Legislature Honors CAWP

CAWP director Debbie Walsh and Eagleton Institute of Politics director Ruth B. Mandel joined New Jersey assemblywomen on the Assembly floor to accept a ceremonial joint resolution from the legislature honoring the Center for its work. In past years, lawmakers commemorated Women's History Month by asking members to choose individual women from their districts to be honored.



This year the legislature decided to select only one organization – CAWP – to be honored. CAWP is grateful to the women and men in the legislature for this recognition of the Center's work to advance women's political participation in New Jersey and nationally.

Do Women in Politics Make a Difference?

Does it matter if we have women in office? What difference do they make?"

In an ongoing effort to answer these important questions, the Center for American Women and Politics recently conducted a major national longitudinal research study that examines women and men in state legislatures.

The preliminary findings reaffirm what earlier CAWP studies showed: that the presence of women in state legislatures makes a significant difference in the extent to which legislators of both genders consider how laws affect women, racial and ethnic minorities, and the economically disadvantaged. Women state legislators of both parties are also more likely than male legislators of either party to work on legislation specifically intended to benefit women. The study was made possible by the generous support of the Barbara Lee Family Foundation.

Women also differ from their male colleagues on several specific issues, with women state legislators more likely than their male

colleagues to support more liberal or moderate public policy positions. For example, women state legislators are more likely to support harsher penalties for hate crimes, legally recognized civil unions for gay and lesbian couples, and laws permitting minors to obtain legal abortions without parental consent. Women state legislators are more likely than their male colleagues to oppose government-funded school vouchers, the death penalty, overturning *Roe versus Wade*, and a constitutional amendment to permit prayer in public schools.

Finally, the preliminary findings highlight some demographic differences between female and male legislators. Women state legislators are better educated and more frequently pursue traditionally male-dominated careers than did women legislators in 1988, but as in 1988, the women legislators in 2001 are older and are less likely to be attorneys than their male counterparts.

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CAWP Honors Women in New Jersey State Politics

Women from private, public and academic worlds gathered on February 13, 2002 at the Eagleton Institute of Politics to honor women active in New Jersey politics. CAWP, in partnership with the Eagleton Institute of Politics and the Bipartisan Coalition for Women's Appointments, hosted a reception celebrating the accomplishments of women in the New Jersey State Legislature and newly appointed women cabinet members and chiefs. The evening highlighted strides made within

both the new administration and the state legislature. (See article on page 6.)

Honored guests included Senator Martha Bark, Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein, Susan Bass Levin, Community Affairs Commissioner; Gwendolyn Harris, Human Services Commissioner; Ida L. Castro, Personnel Commissioner; Jeanne Fox, President of the Board of Public Utilities, as well as Amy Mansue, Deputy Chief of Staff and Jo Astrid Glading, Chief of Policy and Communications.

Research Awards for Junior Faculty

In 2001, CAWP invited junior faculty at colleges and universities across the country to submit proposals for research support. The Center received more than two dozen research proposals from scholars working in the disciplines of American studies, history, political science, rhetoric and communication, and women's studies. The award winners were:

Richard Fox, Union College, "Gender, Political Ambition and the Decision to Run for Elective Office"

Diane-Michele Prindeville, New Mexico State University, "A Comparative Study of the Political Participation of American Indian Women Leaders in the Southwest."

Kira Sanbonmatsu, Ohio State University, "Women's Recruitment to State Legislatures"

Ronnee Schreiber, University of California, San Diego, "Who Really Speaks for Women?: Anti-Feminist Women's Organizations and the Representation of Political Interests" (Schreiber has also been a visiting scholar at CAWP during academic year 2001-2002.)

Holloway Sparks, Pennsylvania State University, "Dissident Citizenship: Courage, Gender, and Discourse in Democratic Activism."

To share their research findings with a wider audience, each winner will produce a report to be published by CAWP.

CAWP Dissertation Fellows for 2001-2002

Wendy Smooth, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland, has been the 2001 Senator Wynona Lipman Dissertation Fellow at CAWP. Smooth's dissertation, "Perceptions of Power, Influence, and Effectiveness in State Legislatures: A Focus on the Experiences of African American Women Legislators," investigates how race and gender shape the attainment and use of positional power in state legislatures. The legislative experiences of Black women in the states, Smooth argues, challenge received views about traditional conduits of power, such as institutional

leadership positions, committee assignments, seniority, and issue expertise.

Rose Corrigan, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University, won CAWP's third national competition for the Roberta Sigel Dissertation Fellowship. Her dissertation, "Talking to Strangers: Confronting Megan's Law," analyzes the political significance of the failure of feminists to challenge some of the most significant legal reforms of the 1990s, reforms that codified state-produced and state-centered definitions of sexual abuse that undermined years of feminist struggle.

Women State Legislators Gather in California

Women state legislators from 45 states, along with policy experts, organization leaders, women officeholders from other levels and other nations, and student interns, gathered in Dana Point, California for CAWP's fifth national Forum for Women State Legislators. Forum highlights included speeches by General Claudia Kennedy (U.S. Army Ret.), former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, and terrorism expert Juliette Kayyem of Harvard's Kenedy School of Government.

The latest CAWP research about women and men in state legislatures was released at a plenary session. Other plenaries highlighted critical issues in education and health



Legislators gather at the Forum to listen to lunch-time speaker.

care, as well as women's relationship to the new technology. Participants also met in more than two dozen smaller workshops to exchange ideas and strategies.

CAWP worked closely with two partners, the Institute for Women in Technology and

Rutgers' Center for State Health Policy, to plan sessions in their areas of expertise.

The Center also made special efforts to ensure that an awareness of applications of technology extended throughout the program.

Do Women Make a Difference

(continued)

This project, entitled "Women State Legislators: Past, Present and Future," is a follow-up to previous CAWP studies. It studied current women and men state legislators and compared the new information with CAWP's 1988 research findings.

For more information about CAWP's research on state legislators, visit the CAWP web site at www.cawp.rutgers.edu or request a copy of the findings by calling the office at (732) 932-9384.

CAWP Web Site Wins Praise

In recent months, CAWP's web site (www.cawp.rutgers.edu) has been recognized twice for excellence. The Infography, an online resource compiled by college faculty members to highlight resources in their fields of expertise, cited CAWP's site as "one of the six superlative sources of information about the subject of 'Women in Politics - United States.'"

Earlier in the year, the site was named "Hot site of the Week" by The Weekly Politicker, a publication of Politics Online (which describes itself as "Fundraising and Internet Tools for Politics.") They reported, "The website of CAWP is a very informative site with lots of facts and figures relevant to women in politics - all in one place." They went on to note,

Among other uses, the site is great for a researcher to gain a more dense knowledge of a woman's role in politics, or by a candidate to promote their agenda for an upcoming campaign. The most eye-catching section of the home page is a neat looking graphic of a bulletin board with push pin postings for new things. "The Facts" section has an abundance of good research and publications.

CAWP Brings Together Future African American Women Candidates

On April 25-28, CAWP and the National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women convened (NOBEL Women) the first Women's Campaign Training and Public Policy Institute. This leadership and training program for African American women interested in pursuing elected or appointed office, seeks to significantly enhance the representation and influence of African American women in public leadership.

A group of sixteen women from eleven states and Washington DC came together at the Eagleton Institute of Politics for four days of exciting and intensive workshops and training sessions. The participants were joined by 20 faculty members - members of NOBEL Women, campaign operatives, and former and current women officeholders. Participants heard from former California Assemblywoman Gwen Moore, Donna Brazile of the Democratic National Committee and Christy Davis of Davis and Partners about how to put a campaign together. A panel of current and former officeholders talked about what goes into

the decision to run for office in the first place. Christine Jahnke of Positive Communications conducted an interactive session on media strategies for women candidates. Joyce Wilson Harley, the former mayor of South Orange, NJ, shared her experiences moving from the private sector into the public sector. The Honorable Regena Thomas, Secretary of State of New Jersey explained how a candidate has to educate and target voters and get them to the polls on election day. Finally, Erica Henri, of the Women's Campaign Fund gave a detailed lesson on fundraising.

The Institute Fellows arrived on the first day unsure of themselves and uncertain about their future plans. They left on Sunday with a clear goal, either to run for office this year or next year or work for a candidate now and think about running themselves in the future. Each Fellow presented her plan to a panel of NOBEL Women faculty members: Senator Diana Bajoie, Representative Catherine Barrett, Representative Claire Clarke, Former Senator Gloria

Tanner, Former Assemblywoman Gwen Moore, Assemblywoman Gloria Davis and Representative Polly Williams. The faculty then evaluated their plans and gave them specific action steps to take by the time the group came together again in June in Detroit at the NOBEL Women Annual Meeting.

Attendees at the first NOBEL women campaign training.



Visiting Scholar to Join CAWP for 2002-2003

CAWP is pleased to announce that Kira Sanbonmatsu, Assistant Professor of Political Science at The Ohio State University, will join the Center as a visiting faculty member in September. She will be in residence at Rutgers throughout the academic year. Sanbonmatsu's work seeks to enhance our understanding of women's underrepresentation in politics by studying why women run for office and why more women do not run. She is particularly interested in the role of the parties in shaping women's political opportunities.

NEW Leadership for Young Women Broadens Reach

NEW Leadership Development Network, CAWP's initiative to broaden the reach of the NEW Leadership program to colleges and universities across the United States is in the final year of a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Since 1999, CAWP has developed partnerships with educational institutions across the country to assist them in planning and instituting NEW Leadership programs on their campuses.



Participants gather at NEW Leadership Inland Northwest held at Washington State University.

Five Development Network partner institutions have hosted NEW Leadership programs in the Summer of 2002. Three of these are our newest partners who held their inaugural NEW Leadership programs this summer.

- The Center for Women in Politics in Pennsylvania at Chatham College, under the guidance of their new director, Cindy Busis, hosted their third annual NEW Leadership Pennsylvania Summer Institute June 1-7.
- The staff of the Center for Women and Democracy at the University of Washington in Seattle, having recently completed an eight day women's mission to Cuba, offered their second NEW Leadership Puget Sound program on June 23-28.
- The Women's Resource Center at Washington State University hosted NEW Leadership Inland Northwest June 12-16 in Pullman, WA. The center serves the interests of women at Washington State through programming, information and referral services on issues related to women, and works to promote equity, access and diversity throughout the University through its programs and services.
- The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma, a non-partisan research and education institution concerned with the problems of modern representative democracy, is encouraging more women from Oklahoma to consider a career in public service. They sponsored NEW Leadership Oklahoma on May 17-21.

- The John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy is working with the Department of Women's Studies at The Ohio State University to encourage public service and train young women for effective leadership. NEW Leadership Ohio was held on June 24-28.

In addition, CAWP is continuing to develop new partnerships that will broaden the Development Network:

- The Women's Research Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is working with CAWP to plan NEW Leadership Nevada for the summer of 2003.
- Representatives from Minnesota State University and North Dakota State met with CAWP staff in Pullman Washington to observe NEW Leadership Inland Northwest, with the intention of planning a regional NEW Leadership (Upper Midwest) summer institute in 2003.

CAWP will continue to support our Development Network partners to help them successfully institutionalize their NEW Leadership programs. We are making plans to strengthen the network and facilitate greater communication between partners by expanding the NEW Leadership website to enhance communication and providing resources and information for Development Network partners.

For more information about our NEW Leadership Development Network partners, visit the NEW Leadership web site at www.newleadership.rutgers.edu.

Women Move into Trenton Leadership Roles

With a new gubernatorial administration and a newly elected legislature in Trenton, there are many new faces in state government – including several women. CAWP was actively involved in efforts to ensure that the new administration would include women at all levels, and the Center was happy to be able to welcome many of those new appointees, along with women in the legislature, at a special reception.

The Bipartisan Coalition for Women's Appointments (BCWA), a group of prominent New Jersey women and organizations, convened in the fall of 2000 with the goal of ensuring that the next administration, whether Democratic or Republican, would include women appointees at the highest levels and throughout state government. Building on the model first established in the 1980s, the Coalition promoted the expectation that women should hold top-

A record seven women are serving in the Governor's cabinet, and his chief of policy and communications is also a woman.

level campaign staff and committee roles in both major parties and should assume significant state government positions in even greater numbers than in past administrations. With that goal in mind, BCWA established a "talent bank" of resumes from New Jersey women seeking appointments in the new administration.

Since the gubernatorial election, BCWA has monitored the new administration's appointment process to ensure that qualified women are included. And the results? A record seven women are serving in the Governor's cabinet, and his chief of policy and communications is also a woman, Jo Astrid Glading. The cabinet members are: Banking & Insurance Commissioner Holly Bakke; Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin; Human Services Commissioner Gwendolyn Harris; Personnel Commissioner Ida L. Castro; Secretary of State Regena Thomas; Board of Public Utilities President Jeanne Fox; Public Advocate Seema M. Singh. The Coalition plans to continue to track future appointments closely to ensure that the progress continues.

At the same time, the New Jersey State Senate has its first woman president pro tempore, and in the State Assembly, there are currently women serving as chairs of seven committees as well as majority conference leader, assistant majority leader and assistant majority whip.

Good Housekeeping Award Winners Announced

Winners of the *Good Housekeeping* Award for Women in Government and the *Good Housekeeping*/Wyeth Award for Women's Health in 2002 were announced in the July edition of *Good Housekeeping* magazine. The 2002 winners are:

\$25,000 Award for Women in Government

Meg Falk, Department of Defense

\$25,000 Award for Women's Health (shared)

U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Maryland and

U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe, Maine

\$2,500 awards

Dion Aroner, California state assembly member; Mary Hawkins Butler, mayor of Madison, Mississippi; Patricia A. Gabow, CEO

and medical director, Denver Health and Hospital; Renee Lewis Glover, president and CEO, Atlanta Housing Authority; Leticia Medina, director, Utah State Office of Hispanic Affairs; Kathleen Robinette, principal research anthropologist, U.S. Air Force; and Marian B. Tasco, majority whip, city council of Philadelphia.

Nomination Form for 2003 Awards

Read more about these winners and find out how to submit nominations for next year's awards at www.cawp.rutgers.edu.

Nominations for the 2003 awards are **due by December 6, 2002**.

Ready to Run: Campaign Training for Women

The fourth annual *Ready to Run*: Campaign Training for Women will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2002 at the New Jersey Law Center. The bipartisan *Ready to Run* program aims at encouraging women in New Jersey to seek public office and provides them with the necessary tools and strategies to create a successful campaign. The one-day conference presents a unique opportunity for potential women candidates to hear directly from prominent elected and appointed leaders, campaign consultants and party officials about how to get *Ready to Run*. If you are interested, please contact Amy Bain at (732) 932-9384 ext. 260 or at abainru@rci.rutgers.edu.

Become a Sponsor

Help support *Ready to Run* with a tax deductible gift. You or your organization can donate by check or credit card online. Visit the CAWP web site at www.cawp.rutgers.edu or contact Sue Nemeth, director of development, at (732) 932-9384 ext. 229 or by e-mail at gsnemeth@rci.rutgers.edu to learn the details.

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CAWP relies on a community of donors – individual, corporate and foundation – who believe in the power of women's presence in public life and who express their convictions by supporting CAWP. Your tax deductible gift can support a single student at a leadership training or launch a national project. You choose. We're ready.

For information, contact Sue Nemeth at (732) 932-9384, gsnemeth@rci.rutgers.edu. To give today, make your check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation/CAWP and mail it to CAWP. Thank you!

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As you plan for the future of your estate, consider a bequest to CAWP. Let our planned giving specialists help you review the options that will protect your financial interests and finance the work of your dreams. For a confidential consultation, contact Jim Dawson, Director of Gift Planning, Rutgers University Foundation, at (732) 932-8808 or jdawson@winants.rutgers.edu.

Announcing On Line Giving to CAWP

Visit CAWP's award-winning web site www.cawp.rutgers.edu, click on the Donate icon and donate to CAWP using a credit card. For your protection, contributions are processed through a secure site hosted by the Rutgers University Foundation.

2001-2002 Senator Wynona Lipman Chair Occupant Activities

The three latest occupants of the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership participated in a number of CAWP activities during academic year 2001-2002.

The chair, established at CAWP by the New Jersey legislature, is designed to honor the late New Jersey State Senator Wynona Lipman by bringing outstanding women political leaders to Rutgers to share their experiences with students, faculty, staff and the public. The chair was inaugurated in 2000 by former Congressional Representative Shirley Chisholm.

The first chairholder for 2001 was the Honorable Gertrude Fester, a Black South African anti-apartheid activist, former African National Congress Member of the South African Parliament, and currently a Commissioner on the Gender Equality Commission of South Africa. As a grassroots activist, Ms. Fester was a founding member of various women's organizations created to oppose apartheid. She visited Rutgers in November and participated in CAWP's Forum for Women State Legislators in California.

The second chairholder was the Honorable Alexis Herman, former U. S. Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration. Herman spoke at CAWP's Forum for Women State Legislators and also visited Rutgers in February, where she met with students, faculty, and staff and gave a public lecture. She also visited high school students and staff in Newark, where Senator Lipman's legislative district was located.

Patricia Williams, Professor of Law at Columbia University and winner of a MacArthur Fellowship, is serving as the Lipman Chair holder in 2002 and 2003. Her lecture at the Eagleton Institute in April was a meditation on race and gender, starting from questions about the cultural significance of Oprah Winfrey and Halle Berry.

While at Rutgers, Williams will continue her pathbreaking research in feminist theory, critical race theory and U.S. law. She will also teach "Civil Rights and Wrongs" in the Rutgers Women's Studies Department in Spring 2003.

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About the Center for American Women and Politics

The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater understanding and knowledge about women's changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. A unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds.

About the Eagleton Institute of Politics

The Eagleton Institute of Politics explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how contemporary political systems work, how they change, and how they might work better.