

LAF Express

Welcome to the latest edition of *LAF Express*, LAF's monthly e-update to keep our states and branches regularly informed on all the latest LAF activities, deadlines, and programming resources. If your branch or state has LAF news or programming ideas you would like to share, please e-mail the LAF program assistant, Joan Jupiter, at jupiterj@aauw.org. You can also read the [LAF Express archives](#) for past issues.

LAF Celebrates Women in Transition Program and 20 Years of PIE!

The date we have all been waiting for has finally arrived! On November 19, LAF Director Lauren Kamnik will be in New Britain, Connecticut, to present the Women in Transition (WIT) program of Charter Oak State College with the 2007 [Progress in Equity Award](#). Charter Oak President Merle Harris says, "The college is proud to have been selected for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund PIE Award. We are pleased that a unique program that has helped low-income, single mothers earn a college degree and achieve self-sufficiency has received this recognition." Visit [LAF on the web](#) for more details.

LAF also recognizes the Leaders in Residence program at the University of Toledo in Ohio as our 2007 honorable mention, where AAUW members of the local branch work hand in hand with the university on equity issues important to the community.

LAF began the PIE Award in 1987. Stay tuned for updates and features on the historic legacy of the PIE Award and the journey it has taken over the past 20 years. LAF has awarded as much as \$111,700 to 30 institutions across the United States to illustrate the ways programs that promote equity can make a difference.

LAF Continues Campus Outreach Effort

On November 19, LAF Director Lauren Kamnik will meet with students, faculty, and staff on the campus of Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to discuss sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sex discrimination. Kamnik and the CCSU Women's Center will use these discussions to determine the types of programs that the university can implement to improve the campus climate and increase awareness of and sensitivity to these concerns.

Also this month, LAF Program Manager Sarah Warbelow will visit the University of Missouri-St. Louis to work with students and AAUW members on a social action theater project aimed at educating the campus community about sexual harassment on campus. The project involves an examination of Educational Foundation and LAF research on sexual harassment, a talk by a former LAF plaintiff on the impact of sexual harassment, a student-led performance on the forms sexual harassment can take, and a discussion with the audience about alternative actions to stop or mitigate sexual harassment. Warbelow will also travel to Baltimore, Maryland, to visit the Society for Music Theory's Committee on the Status of Women and to participate in a panel discussion on sexual harassment on campus. The society is an organization for professors and graduate students in music theory, a field in which women are underrepresented.

LAF Adopts Two Plaintiffs

Melissa Jennings, a former student and soccer player at the University of North Carolina, brought a claim against the university alleging that the head coach sexually harassed players on the team. Sherry Towers, a post-doctoral research scientist, is suing the State University of New York at Stony Brook for sex and pregnancy discrimination under Title VII and Title IX, unequal pay, and denial of pregnancy leave. [Read more about their cases.](#)

Thirteen Plaintiff Travel Grants Received

On October 15, LAF closed the books on application submissions for the 2008 Plaintiff Travel Grants. This year, LAF received 13 applications—a record number of submissions. The applications came from across the country, from Massachusetts to Florida, Alabama to Washington, and even Hawaii! LAF would like to thank all those who submitted applications. You can learn more about the program by visiting [LAF on the web](#).

LAF Case Support Applications Due December 15!

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance through the [LAF case support program](#), please submit an application to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund by December 15 for consideration. Please visit the [LAF on the web](#) for further information and criteria.

