

# *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](mailto:jupiterj@aauw.org). You can also read the [LAF Express archives](#) for past issues.

## ***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 [LAF on the web](#) for further application information and criteria.

## ***LAF PIE Ceremony a Huge Success!***

On November 19, LAF Director Lauren Kamnik visited New Britain, Connecticut, to present the Women in Transition program of Charter Oak State College with the 2007 [Progress in Equity \(PIE\) Award](#), along with a \$5,000 stipend. The event, held at Central Connecticut State University, was a huge success. Many people from the college and surrounding community attended the ceremony. Notable attendees included John Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University; Merle Harris, president of Charter Oak State College; Delores Bell, program coordinator for Women in Transition; a representative from the office of Rep. Christopher Murphy (D-CT); Valerie Lewis, the Connecticut commissioner of higher education; a representative from office of Connecticut's lieutenant governor; and Christopher Harris, a Connecticut state senator. A number of AAUW members and guests attended, including Doris Cassiday and Ruth Budlong, who played significant roles in the founding of Charter Oak State College, and Gail Nordmoe, AAUW executive vice president/secretary. Visit [LAF on the web](#) for media updates, ceremony details, and the 20th Anniversary PIE book (coming soon).

Also, this is your early-bird reminder to [apply for the 2008 Progress in Equity Award](#). Each year LAF recognizes an innovative program or initiative that advances equity for women students, faculty, and staff on a college or university campus. Recipients receive a stipend of up to \$10,000 and public recognition throughout their communities, campus, and AAUW. Since 1987, 25 programs have received this award and 25 others have received an honorable mention or special distinction award. The application deadline is **March 14**. Please go to [the PIE Award web page](#) for more information and a list of past winners.

## ***LAF Visits College Campuses to Spread the Word about Sex Discrimination***

On November 14, LAF Director Lauren Kamnik visited 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 included a talk by former LAF plaintiff Kathy Sokol on the effects of sexual harassment, a student-led performance on the forms sexual harassment can take, and a discussion with the audience of alternative actions to stop or mitigate sexual harassment. Kamnik will conduct a follow-up forum at the university in March 2008.

Also in November, Kamnik met with students, faculty, and staff on the campus of Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to discuss experiences and perceptions of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sex discrimination. Faculty and staff turned out in large numbers, and Kamnik found the discussions to be extremely productive. Kamnik and the CCSU Women's Center will use these discussions to help implement programs that improve the campus climate and increase awareness of and sensitivity to women's concerns.

## ***Watch Out for Next LAF Update***

The final [LAF Update](#) of 2007 will be in the mail soon. Highlights include an article about the 2007 Progress in Equity Award winner and news about LAF's campus outreach.

## ***Happy Holidays***

*LAF would like to thank all the AAUW members and representatives for their continued support. Your outreach and constant grassroots efforts help spread the word about LAF programs, fight sex discrimination in higher education, and promote women's equity across the country. We wish you and yours a joyous, safe, and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year!*

