

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 Highlighted at AAUW Convention: 25 Years of Progress and Precedents

The LAF 25th Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, July 1, was very exciting. Laura Leedy Gansler and Clara Bingham received the 2007 Speaking Out for Justice Award. Gansler promised that, following in the footsteps of her mother and aunts, she and Bingham would be AAUW members by the end of the week. LAF-supported plaintiff Claire Shuster followed with a moving yet humorous speech that demonstrated her commitment to Berea College's mission and her passion for equity for all women. It was truly a night to remember and a fitting way to celebrate this benchmark. LAF's movie night featuring *North Country*, the film based on the book written by Gansler and Bingham, was shown to a standing-room-only house on June 30. See more details of the LAF dinner in the July 2 edition of [Convention Today](#).

2007 Progress in Equity Award Winner Announced!

At the 2007 AAUW convention, LAF announced the 2007 Progress in Equity Award winner—the Women in Transition (WIT) program at Charter Oak State College of New Britain, Connecticut. The WIT program provides higher education opportunities for low-income, underemployed single mothers to make the transition from low-paid work to a college degree through distance education without cost or barriers of time and place. The WIT program has enabled underserved women to realize their dream of earning a college degree, empowering them to achieve a goal they had considered unattainable. On a related note, AAUW members were instrumental in the founding of Charter Oak State College. Many years ago, AAUW of Connecticut prepared a booklet for nontraditional women students, and members of the Naugatuck Branch helped women who wanted to go back to college. These AAUW members saw that there was a great need for an institution to accommodate such women and undertook an intensive lobbying effort in the state legislature. In 1973, the school's charter was authorized. The WIT program will officially receive its PIE Award at a reception this fall.

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

LAF Interim Director Testifies on Capitol Hill for Title IX's Anniversary

Saturday, June 23, marked the 35th anniversary of Title IX, the federal statute prohibiting sex discrimination in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. AAUW has long been a supporter of the law, and LAF plaintiffs often use the statute in fighting for their rights. On June 19, LAF Interim Director Lisa Maatz testified at the House Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness Subcommittee Hearing entitled "Building on the Success of 35 Years of Title IX." You can [read Maatz's testimony](#) on Title IX and sexual harassment and [watch the archived webcast](#) of the subcommittee hearing on the Education and Labor Committee website. You can also read more about AAUW's position on [Title IX](#) and then check out AAUW's [Title IX 35th Anniversary Resource Kit](#) for ideas on how you can celebrate Title IX's anniversary throughout the year.

Plaintiff in Workplace Discrimination Lawsuit Testifies Before Committee

On June 12, Lilly Ledbetter, the plaintiff in a workplace discrimination lawsuit decided by the U.S. Supreme Court on May 29, testified about her case before the House Education and Labor Committee. Ledbetter sued Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company after learning that she was the lowest-paid supervisor out of a group of 16 supervisors at the facility, despite having more experience than several of her male counterparts. In a sharply divided 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled against Ledbetter. The Education and Labor Committee has approved legislation—the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (H.R. 2831), introduced by committee chair Rep. George Miller (D-CA)—to reverse the Supreme Court's decision by clarifying workers' rights under federal employment discrimination law. You can [read AAUW's press release](#) about the Ledbetter decision and [send a letter](#) to your member of Congress in support of the bill. You can also [watch a video of Lilly Ledbetter's testimony](#).

