

# WOMEN'S CENTER

The University of Washington Women's Center serves women and men through educational programs, individualized services, skills training, research, and community outreach. We strive to inspire women and girls to become lifelong learners and leaders, and to realize their own personal and educational goals.



## Gender Equity & Violence Prevention

The Women's Center promotes a safe environment by offering campus and community members educational programs, workshops, and events that address gender-bias culture. The activities encourage individuals to become knowledgeable and active in efforts to reduce violence against women and sexism in everyday life, and to encourage positive masculinity. To ensure that we are meeting the needs of our community, we regularly collaborate with various campus and community organizations to provide a broad scope of services and programs.

## Human Trafficking Research and Policy Development

The Women's Center continues to examine the root causes of human trafficking and develop strategies to work towards eliminating the trade in our community and around the globe. We also raise awareness of human trafficking to the UW campus and larger community through lectures, forums, and conferences.

The Women's Center is currently conducting research on ethical sourcing practices, shareholder value, and the impact of forced labor for Washington State. The Center will present its findings, as well as recommendations for designing legislation to prevent trafficking in supply chains, to the State Legislature. The Center also co-hosted SEVEN in Seattle, a documentary play about women's issues such as trafficking and forced labor, to begin International Women's Month in March 2016.

## Information, Referral Services, and Support Groups

Since the 1970s, the Women's Center has served as a resource for women from all walks of life. As a result, we have built strong relationships with the University's campus and community services. The Women's Center provides information, resources, and referrals for women and men on a number of issues including health and human services, violence prevention, counseling, financial aid, scholarships, gender equity, culture and diversity, and more.

## Lifelong Learning

We believe every student, regardless of her or his financial background, deserves an equal opportunity when entering undergraduate and/or graduate programs. For this reason, the Women's Center offers year round, low-cost SAT, GRE, and Basic Math refresher courses to help ensure optimal performance. These courses are aimed at increasing accessibility to post-secondary education for low-income populations.

## VISION

The vision of the Women's Center is to be a vital place where women and men collaborate to build a culture of gender equity campus-wide, locally, and globally.

## MISSION

The mission of the Women's Center is to promote and advocate for gender equity and social justice on campus and in the larger community through educational programs and services that allow all individuals to nurture an equitable, inclusive and compassionate society.

## ABOUT CUNNINGHAM HALL

Cunningham Hall was the first building built for the women of Washington State in 1909. During its inception, the Women's Center served for many years as a meeting place for the suffragists who fought for Women's right to vote in our state. Today, the Women's Center continues to serve thousands of campus and community members through our programs and services.



## Making Connections

The mission of Making Connections (MC) is to help high school girls from low-income, first generation families in the greater Seattle area attend college and pursue a career in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Our comprehensive services—from tutoring and mentoring to college tours and assistance with college and financial aid applications—enrich and support students over the course of four years. Activities like site visits to local companies and attending conferences allow students to explore career options and gain hands-on experience in their chosen field. By providing individualized academic and enrichment services, the Women's Center helps all MC participants, no matter their background or unique circumstances, graduate high school and attend college.

Making Connections (MC) has recently revitalized both the Leadership Retreat, which focuses on helping students grow their leadership skills and interpersonal connections, and the Summer Bridge program, which introduces incoming high school students with MC and helps them explore future career and college possibilities.

## Alene Moris National Education for Women's Leadership

The Alene Moris National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Institute, a partner of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, inspires and encourages young women to seek out leadership roles in politics and in their community. Each year, a group of undergraduate and graduate women participates in six days of intensive training at the University of Washington to connect with one another and to learn from women in leadership positions throughout Washington State.

NEW Leadership participants receive training in the following core areas:

- Leadership styles
- Negotiation
- Public speaking
- Managing diverse communities

In addition to training in core areas, the women in NEW Leadership meet representatives from state and local government as well as local leaders engaged in public service through non-profit organizations and foundations.

## Re-Entry Program for Returning Students

The Re-Entry program is a free service available to individuals considering returning to school after a significant time away. Many participants have been through life-changing experiences and are in search of a career change that requires them to seek educational training in a new field. The program provides support and counseling during the application process and offers assistance for students in their academic pursuits after their acceptance. Additional programming includes an annual day-long orientation helping returning students acclimate to university life. Guest speakers include former Re-Entry students and representatives from many UW programs.



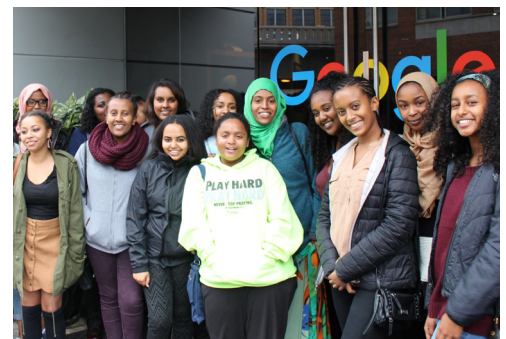
Making Connections students at the 2016 Leadership Retreat.

### MAKING CONNECTIONS PARTICIPANTS FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

100%	Graduated high school on time
96%	Students of color
80%	Qualify for free/reduced-price lunch
74%	First generation to attend college



2016 NEW Leadership Institute participants with benefactors Floyd Jones and Alene Moris.



Making Connections Career Exploration at Google.

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