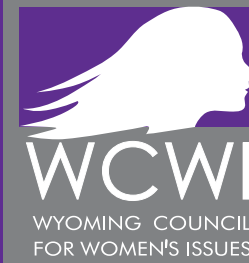




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WCWI News

Spring 2007 • www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org

Summit Award applications are due July 31

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Summit Award Applications are due July 31, 2007. The WCWI Employment Practices committee focuses its efforts on enhancing Wyoming's business environment. They accomplish this through the Wyoming Summit Award.

The Summit Award recognizes businesses that have successfully instituted family friendly workplace practices through programs that broaden, strengthen and support their workforce. The intent is to recognize those who have made employment conditions better in one or more of these areas. Any or all of the following attributes will be considered:

Broadening the workforce: Programs and policies should enable the business to progress toward an equitable and diverse workforce from under-represented populations.

Strengthening the workforce: Programs and policies should promote wages that compare to regional or national averages for similar jobs. Wage disparity between men's and women's wages should be nonexistent.

Supporting the workforce: Programs and policies should



demonstrate efforts to satisfy employees (single individuals or otherwise) and their families needs for flexible schedules, day care for children or elders, and any other service that would minimize stresses of balancing the demands of work and family obligations and increase employees' productivity.

The 2006 Summit Award winner was the Carbon County Higher Education Center's Kid's Campus Child Care Center. For the nomination form and for more information, visit the WCWI Web site at www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org.

UW Chicano Studies students honor Latina leaders of Albany County

LARAMIE - At a banquet on April 15, University of Wyoming's Chicano Studies, with support from KOCA 93.5 FM: La Radio Montañesa, the Wyoming Humanities Council and Associated Students/UW, recognized four Latina leaders who have had a significant impact in Albany County. The women recognized were Stephanie Coca Carter, Rosie Castañeda, Patty Flores and Erma Santistevan.

Oralia Mercado, WCWI's Woman of Distinction for 2000, was the speaker and honored guest at the banquet.

For their class project, the nine students in "Perspectives in Chicana Studies," identified the need to recognize distinguished Latinas in Albany County, then developed and carried out the program.

The students interviewed the four honorees, produced biographies of them, and took their photos, which they added to an existing exhibit, "Portraits of Latina Leaders in Albany County," originally created in 2002. They updated the biographies of previous honorees. In all, the exhibit features 20 women. KOCA will house



Photo by WCWI

Pictured left to right: Rosie Castañeda, Stephanie Coca Carter, Erma Santistevan, Oralía Mercado and Patty Flores.

the exhibit, but they hope to see it travel throughout Wyoming. If you are interesting in hosting "Portraits," please contact Connie Coca at cocaj58@aol.com.

WCWI congratulates nominees for Wyo Woman of Distinction Award

CHEYENNE - The WCWI received 11 nominations for its 2007 Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award.

The nominations include: Ruth Benson of Gillette, Willadeen Chamberlain of Cheyenne, Barbara Cubin of Casper, Ray Fleming Dineen of Cheyenne, Roxanne Friday of Fort Washakie, Judith Fuller of Sheridan, Maggi Maier Murdock of Casper, Marcia Patton of Evansville, Deborah Nagel Smith of Laramie, Christine Stocks of

Savery, and Diane Wolverton of Laramie.

The Woman of Distinction award is given annually to a woman who has demonstrated significant impact on the lives of women and families in Wyoming. It is a "once in a lifetime" award.

WCWI will recognize all nominees at a luncheon in the fall and will announce the winner in late summer.

WCWI celebrates Wyoming's women legislators for their service to the state

CHEYENNE - According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the 2007 state legislative sessions have 1,736 women legislators serving throughout the country. Women currently hold 23.5 percent of legislative seats in the 50 states.

The WCWI congratulates these women who gave their time to the 2007 Wyoming Legislature: Senators Pat Aullman, Rae Lynn Job, Jayne Mockler, and Kathryn Sessions;

and Representatives Deborah Alden, Rosie Berger, Bernadine Craft, Kathy Davison, Amy Edmonds, Liz Gentile, Mary Meyer Gilmore, Debbie Hammons, Elaine Harvey, Erin Mercer, Sandra Meyer, Lori Millin, Lorraine Quarberg, Lisa Shepperson, Mary Throne, Sue Wallis, and Jane Warren.

WCWI thanks these women for serving the citizens of Wyoming!



Photo by WBC Staff



WCWI News is a quarterly publication focused on news and information of value to women in Wyoming. To be added to the mailing list, call 307-777-2800.

Visit www.wyomingwomenscouncil.org for more information.

WCWI Members

Michelle Aldrich - Judicial District 1
 Cynthia Chavez Kelly - Judicial District 2
 Jan Torres - Judicial District 3
 Maureen Neavill - Judicial District 4
 Kim Capron - Judicial District 5

Julie Simon - Judicial District 6
 Vacant - Judicial District 7
 Sherrill Helzer - Judicial District 8
 Teresa de Groh - Judicial District 9
 Jenny Ingram - At-large

Suzey Delger - At-large
 Scarlet Skorcz - At-large
 Pamela Downing - At-large
 Diane Moser - Wyoming Business Council Ex-officio Member

Calendar of Events

May 13

Mother's Day

May 19-20

The 2007 regional Go Run training is scheduled for May 19 and 20 in Denver, Colorado.

May 28

Memorial Day

May 31-June 1

Governor's Summit on Workforce Solutions at Snow King Resort in Jackson. The Summit is designed to assist Wyoming businesses in developing solutions to the many workforce issues the State faces. Find out more online at www.wyowdc.org.

June 10-15

Visiting professor of Women's Studies Barbara Ellen Logan will explore the role of women in ancient religions at the 2007 Summer Classics Institute at UW in Laramie. For more information, visit www.uwyo.edu/humanities or call 307.721.9246.

June 21

Summer begins.

July 4

Independence Day

July 7

WCWI meeting in Lander.

July 31

Summit Award Applications are due.

August 5-7

Snowy Range Nonprofit Institute will teach skills in fundraising, volunteer management, publicity, and board development and takes place August 5-7 on the University of Wyoming campus.

August 11

Komen Wyoming Race for the Cure in Cheyenne. For more information, visit www.komenwyoming.org.

October 12

2007 Nontraditional Career Day: "Open the Door to Your Future" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Western Wyoming community College in Rock Springs.

WCWI opens the door to the future at 2007 Nontraditional Career Day

ROCK SPRINGS - The WCWI will host the 2007 Nontraditional Career Day: "Open the Door to Your Future" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 12 at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs.

The career day is open to Wyoming high school girls from grades 9-12.

Women in Wyoming experience one of the largest wage gaps in the United States. The career day is an excellent opportunity for young women to explore nontraditional career opportunities that pay well. Students

WyVIP Program offers HPV vaccine free to WY Girls

By Kristin Espeland
Wyoming Public Radio

LARAMIE - A new vaccine has been added to the state's seven month old Wyoming Vaccinates Important People or WyVIP program, which offers vaccines free to any child of Wyoming residents. It's the vaccine for HPV, or human papilloma virus, which can cause cervical cancer.

Andrea Clement Johnson manages the state's immunization outreach program. She

White House Project's Go Run training starts in May

DENVER - Go Run training provides the nuts and bolts of running a political campaign by focusing on such areas as communications, fundraising and strategy.

The 2007 regional Go Run training is scheduled for May 19 and 20 in Denver, Colorado, and aims to demystify the political process as well as increase the number of women in the political pipeline, regardless of political affiliation.

In the 2006 elections, Wyoming saw the largest increase in the percentage of women in its state legislature. The Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus is hoping to capitalize on that energy by encouraging more Wyoming women to learn what is involved in running a political campaign and serving in public office. Marie C. Wilson, a national expert on women in leadership who spoke in Laramie and Jackson this March, says women in the Equality State today have a long way to go to reach the "30 percent tipping point" necessary to effectively address gender issues in campaigns and in politics.

will have the opportunity to attend workshops related to nontraditional career paths and participate in "hands-on" activities.

The first nontraditional job fair took place in October 2006 at Casper College. The WCWI hosted over 600 Wyoming girls from 25 high schools at the event.

To register, visit the Web site at www.wgcc.wy.edu/Career_Day2007/default.htm. For more information on the event, call Peg Larson at 307.382.1828 or e-mail her at plarson@wgcc.wy.edu.

says current legislative funding levels make it possible to offer the free vaccine to girls ages 9 to 18.

Health experts recommend vaccinating girls around the ages of 11 or 12, especially before they're sexually active, since HPV is contracted sexually. Clement-Johnson says it's a rare opportunity to be vaccinated against a type of cancer, and she hopes Wyomingites will take advantage of it. For more information, call 307.777.7621.

Women represent 23 percent of the Wyoming State Legislature, while 20 percent of elected state officials are women. Wilson and other experts say women's participation in the halls of government provides a more thorough representation of statewide issues.

In 2006, seven Wyoming women participated in the Go Run training, including Hillary and Katie Freudenthal, who used what they learned to participate in their father's reelection campaign for Governor. Melissa Turley, who successfully campaigned and was elected to the Jackson Town Council, credits her Go Run experience with providing the expertise to run her campaign and win her position. Ms. Turley is acting as the Go Run coordinator for Wyoming.

The White House Project is a national non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing women's leadership in all communities and sectors. For more information, visit <http://www.thewhitehouseproject.org/voterunlead/gorun/>.

Snowy Range Nonprofit Institute slated for August 5-7

LARAMIE - Women remain active in the nonprofit sector and the sixth annual Snowy Range Nonprofit Institute is here to support them, whether they are board members, staff or volunteers. The institute, which teaches skills in fundraising, volunteer management, publicity and board development, will take place August 5-7 on the campus of the University of Wyoming.

This year's theme is "Enhancing Nonprofit Collaboration: Building Rocky Mountain Communities." Concurrent sessions in three tracks will feature workshops that explore different factors contributing to success in collaboration. Participants have many opportunities to network with others and share experiences.

Women have traditionally been very active in the nonprofit sector.

WCWI supports efforts to decrease wage disparity on Equal Pay Day

CHEYENNE - The WCWI observed Equal Pay Day, a national observance that recognizes the wage gap between working women and men on April 24.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that women receive on average 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts are paid, a gap of 23 cents. According to the Wyoming Department of Employment, Wyoming women receive even less than the national average; 57 cents for every dollar their male counterparts are paid.

The WCWI supports the effort to eliminate the gender wage gap. The WCWI offers busi-

nesses and Wyoming women four options to begin to close the gender wage gap:

First, affirmative action programs should be in place to make sure education, jobs and promotion opportunities are open and offered to qualified women.

Second, employers should examine and correct their pay practices. Employers can get help in examining their pay practices through equal pay self-audit guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Third, women should stand up for equal pay and for themselves. Prospective employers

They have established organizations to encourage political or social reform, hospitals and clinics to serve women and enable female doctors to practice, schools to ensure women access to higher education, and Junior Leagues and YWCAs. These organizations set out to provide information, health-care, education, social opportunities, recreational opportunities or living quarters for those in need.

Scholarships are available. The deadline for consideration is June 1. E-mail srni@uwyo.edu for an application and information. Updates, the institute agenda, and online registration are available on the web site at www.srni.org.



should be able to show that women and men are being paid equally for jobs. Positive signs include a hiring process that seeks diversity through affirmative action, written pay and benefit policies, job descriptions and evaluation procedures.

Fourth, women should explore opportunities available in what are considered to be "nontraditional" fields, such as construction, truck driving, and science, technology, engineering and math occupations. Many employers in these "nontraditional" areas are searching for workers and are offering family friendly workplace strategies to attract and retain highly-qualified, dedicated workers.

Chair's column: WCWI chair attends international women's conference

On March 8-9, 2007, I had the pleasure of attending and presenting at an international conference called *Women of the Mountains* in Orem, Utah. This conference was organized as a continuation of efforts focusing on mountain communities, beginning with the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (2000) and following with the *Celebrating Mountain Women* conference in Bhutan (2002) and the *Bishkek Global Mountain Summit* (2002). According to conference organizers, the recommendations and report from the *Women of the Mountains* conference will constitute a major section of the United Nations' Second Global Mountain Summit in Kyrgyzstan, *Bishkek+5*, in October 2007.

People from the countries of India, Nepal, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Bolivia, Ghana, Canada, Chile, the U.S. and more, came together to share experiences, knowledge and program efforts on behalf of women and children in mountainous communities. The Dali Lama, Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch,

Utah Rep. Chris Cannon, Wyoming Gov. Freudenthal, Utah Gov. Huntsman, Arizona Gov. Jane Hull, and Montana Senate Majority Leader Carol Williams sent letters of recognition and encouragement. Her Excellency Ana Vilma de Escobar, Vice President of El Salvador, his Excellency Joe Shirley, President, Navajo Nation, and Ambassadors from Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Turkmenistan, and Mongolia addressed the conference.

You can visit the conference Web site (www.womenofthemountains.org) for more info about the conference, including obtaining the final document of the conference the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women.

The variety of issues described and the efforts to improve the lives of women and children in various parts of the world presented at this conference was amazing—heartening and heart-wrenching at the same time. Heartening because of the dedication and caring shown by so many

people and heart-wrenching because of the desperate situation in which women and children still find themselves in many parts of the world.

My presentation, on behalf of the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues, covered the top women's issues in Wyoming, as indicated by the survey commissioned by the Council in 2004. The paper written for the conference, Wage Disparity and Women's Issues in Wyoming, the basis for the presentation, can be found on the WCWI web site, as can the Wyoming Women's Issues Survey itself. The Council is interested in sharing this information about women's issues in Wyoming as much as possible. We would like to make a presentation similar to that made at the conference to interested groups in Wyoming. Please contact us if a public service group in your area would be interested in this presentation.

-Teresa de Groh, WCWI Chair