



WITH HOPES OF HEALTH, DREAMS OF JOY...  
 WITH UNDERSTANDING OF CONTINUING NEEDS,  
 CHALLENGES AND EXISTING INEQUITIES.  
 WITH THE WONDER OF WHAT LAYS BEFORE US...  
 MAY IT BE KIND.....MAY WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

## The AAUW AZ Fall Forum 2020

More than 100 members from 11 branches joined the 2020 AAUW AZ Fall Forum on Saturday, November 7, 2020. The forum was titled *Taking our Trailblazing Advocacy to the Next level: Becoming a Better Champion for Women and Girls* with a focus on addressing systemic racism within AAUW branches. We hope that the reflections and suggestions (reported on page 3) will spur continued education, investigation, and critical conversation so that all women can find a place for community and growth within our branches.

There were three goals for the Fall Forum:

1. Better understand (1) systemic racism, (2) how it operates in everyday life, and (3) how it intersects with AAUW;
2. Better self-awareness, understanding, and acknowledgement of our own autonomic responses that support and perpetuate systemic racism; and
3. Through small group discussions, brainstorm action items that challenge the impact of systemic racism within our own branches.

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We are excited to share the link to the recording of the Fall Forum and encourage you to listen.  
[https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/j3QqgwK5xXaX4ULLRQ2tSKWQi3jLFSWlydTt8RSTKT6p3vyBEAEgQZr\\_3LbMG3st.5TVTLYSWcrNkQI39?startTime=1604762779000](https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/j3QqgwK5xXaX4ULLRQ2tSKWQi3jLFSWlydTt8RSTKT6p3vyBEAEgQZr_3LbMG3st.5TVTLYSWcrNkQI39?startTime=1604762779000)

The recording covers the first part of the forum, including the four speakers. The small group discussions in the afternoon were not recorded in order to foster a safe space for sharing thoughts and ideas. However, the facilitators of each group captured notes which have been provided to branch presidents.

Continued on page 3.

**"In these challenging times, we are doubling down on our efforts to fight for the economic security of American women and their families, as we have done for the past 140 years."**

**Kim Churches. AAUW CEO**

# President's Message

## An Engaging and Inspiring Fall Forum

Hope you had happy holidays and are staying healthy and safe.

The Fall Forum was a great success, thank you to Michelle Higgins and her committee for a highly informative and thought-provoking Fall Forum. The breakout sessions were well run, and many thoughts and experiences were shared. We are working on another Zoom statewide session for Legislative Day, where we will continue our conversation into systemic racism.

I am happy to hear that several of our branches are following up our Fall Forum by having programs addressing systemic racism and possible new direction towards change at each of our branches.

I would like to remind you that our board meetings are open to the members and I invite you to attend. The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, we meet on ZOOM, let me know if you would like to attend and I will send you the link.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the coming months.



Ana Nygren

## AAUW AZ Legislative Day

**Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> @10:00 am-12:00 noon**

**A virtual event to be held by ZOOM**

**See cover sheet - more info coming soon!  
(link will be sent closer to date)**

## Next Steps for Schools and Advocacy Efforts for AZ Students

With the 2020 Election wrapped up, it is time to focus on advocacy for AZ students. Join the AAUW Prescott Public Policy Committee, Co-founder & Director Beth Lewis of Save Our Schools AZ Network, Northern Arizona Outreach Coordinator Kari Hull of Save Our Schools AZ Network, and Nicky Indicavitch of the Arizona Center for Economic Progress to discuss **election results, wins and losses, next steps and the upcoming legislative session 2021.**  
**When: January 19 7:00 pm**

### Zoom Registration Link below:

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAuf-ugqjsoGdOK9d0aQstlEghOfaUsp930>

Victoria Sweet, AAUW Prescott Public Policy Ch.

## AAUW Arizona Officers

President	- Ana Nygren
Program VP	- Michelle Higgins
Membership VP	- Sharon Phelps
Recording Secretary	- Cathy Corbin Mannino
Corresponding Sec.	- Sara Schmitt
Treasurer	- Gail Garrison

## AZ State and Branch Online Links

AAUW Arizona - <https://www.aauwarizona.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1709537599207878>

East Mesa - <https://eastmesa-az.aauw.net/>

Flagstaff -

Glendale - <https://www.facebook.com/glendaleaz.aauw>

Green Valley - <https://greenvalley-az.aauw.net/>

NW Tucson - <https://northwesttucson-az.aauw.net/>

NW Valley - <https://northwestvalley-az.aauw.net/>

Phoenix - <https://phoenix-az.aauw.net/>

Prescott - <https://www.aauwprescott.net/>

Safford -

Scottsdale - <https://scottsdale-az.aauw.net/>

SE Valley - <https://southeastvalley-az.aauw.net/>

Sun City/Peoria -

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW85373?fref=ts>

Tucson - <https://tucson-az.aauw.net/>

West Valley - <http://aauwwestvalleyvine.weebly.com/>

The AAUW AZ Fall Forum 2020 continued from page 1.



The day was split into two parts. The morning session was opened by President Ana Nygren with a welcome and announcements, and the introduction of our four guest experts: Dr. Stephanie Troutman Robbins from UArizona, Liane Hernandez from YWCA Tucson, Kristen Garcia-Hernandez from Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, and Kimberly Churches from AAUW. Each provided personal insights into issues of race and systemic racism.

The afternoon session included small group discussions focused on challenging systemic racism in our own branches. The discussions were facilitated by eight branch members: Ana Nygren, Linda Alepin, Jane Russ, Sharon Phelps, Joye Kohl, Janet Larkin, Sandy Williams, and Mary Humecke. They all did a wonderful job leading the discussions and taking notes. All notes have been identified and coalesced into a separate PDF document, titled: “ForDistribution-AAUWFallForum2020\_SmallGroupNotes.pdf.” We hope that these reflections and suggestions will spur continued education, investigation, and critical conversation so that all women can find a place for community and growth within our branches.

Attendees were asked to provide feedback by completing a short, online survey. The majority of responses indicated that the four guest experts and the small group discussions gave them a better understanding of systemic racism in general, and systemic racism in AAUW in particular. The majority of responses *somewhat* or *strongly* agreed that the topic was appropriate, adequate time was allotted for the break, and the Reflection Worksheet helped to prepare them for the Fall Forum.

When asked what they liked best:

- “The speakers were excellent, including the leadership of Ana and Michelle, the break out session for additional discussion, and the topic of systemic racism that will advance us while working on becoming a more inclusive AAUW in the future.”
- “It was run smoothly and on time AND the discussion with the Speakers were illuminating.”
- “Seeing the participants and hearing everyone’s voices.”
- “Opportunity to learn about and discuss an important topic.”
- “I liked the dive into one topic and felt it was productive.”
- “Under COVID-19 circumstances, this forum was excellent. In fact, it was easier “being there” than traveling a long distance.”

Here are a few other comments:

- “unless we as the white culture revisit our history, rename our heritage and recognize what our race has negatively done as a normal practice in our society toward other cultures, we will not move forward.”
- “Never thought about the barrier that exists in Retirement facilities. People of color are less likely to live in a Retirement village.”
- What impacted you the most? “The commitment of AAUW members to learn, challenge ourselves, and make advanced changes for the betterment of self, our branches, state, national, and the world culture.

Some suggestions included:

- “Two additional (5 minute?) psychological breaks – one in the morning and one in the afternoon.”
- “Keep the interactive activities that allow participants to get to know one another.”
- “I want to suggest strongly that we address ourselves as women. Younger feminist do not identify with ladies or other ways of addressing women.”

# Public Policy

Let's hope the coming year brings improvement to many of our lives and to our country. Despite being under strict isolation these past months, AAUW-Az Branches have learned to ZOOM, led by our Fall Forum ZOOM meister Michelle Higgins. She assembled a panel of University of Arizona panelists with different backgrounds that included systemic discrimination and racism. It opened eyes and stimulated research in other parts of the state.

At least three of our branches have programmed meetings to dig deeper into the prevalence and nature of systemic racism with speakers from local communities. In Flagstaff, we invited Supervisor Lena Fowler of the Navajo Nation to discuss *how welcoming Flagstaff is to indigenous neighbors*. She moved us all with her combination of academic insight and personal observations. We're going to continue this exchange in the spring.

East Mesa Branch advertised the Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> Zoom presentation by Jennifer Jermaine on "*Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*". This topic has received national attention and raised questions about how such a widespread crime could be almost unknown.

Scottsdale Branch is preparing a panel discussion on Jan. 27 "Getting Ready for Legislature Day." They will Zoom for their branch, but will be able to accommodate a few viewers from other branches. There is a notice going out to the state with directions. Branch policy leaders Janet Larkin and Alice Buck will join your Public Policy Chair Harriet Young (may I add the Dr.? after the Jill Biden thing, I'm getting pushy) to discuss specific areas of systemic racism in Arizona. We will close with a discussion of how AAUW will oppose actions by the Arizona Legislature that exacerbate that racism. We will focus on a bill sponsored by Rep. Athena Salman the past two years to repeal the most egregious anti-abortion bills on the books. We will oppose the attempt to overturn the voters' initiative, Prop. 208, which proposed to raise taxes to restore funding to public education. And finally, we shall oppose the grandmother of all racial discrimination, bills to stifle voter participation.

We decided to focus on these legislative issues for the 2021 session, to be more effective. Taking the lead in organizing that focus will be the Scottsdale Branch which is signing up for Request to Speak and will encourage all the branches to do the same. This approach will allow us to reach out to our own legislators and register our support or opposition to what he/she is doing. We hope to have some expert leadership in identifying the bills, the sponsors of the legislation we target, and possible allies in our cause. This leads up to Spring Forum which will focus on practices or legal mandates that lead to systemic racism. We'll dig deeper into customs, practices and laws that shade equality.

Dr. Harriet H. Young, AAUW Arizona Public Policy Chair

(NOTE: I'm going to use that "Dr." title until hell freezes over after the Dr. Jill Biden fracas)

## Explore the Issues

Together, we can reach gender equality in education, economic security, and leadership. Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to learn more about AAUW priority issues and how we work to achieve our mission: Equity for all.





## **College Connections:** **Supporting the Education of Women and Girls**

### **NCCWSL – Big Changes this Year: Date, by Zoom and Cost**

"My name is Blossom Brown. I'm the activist you may have seen on *I Am Cait* and the *Ellen DeGeneres Show*. I am sharing my story so you know why your students can't miss AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this May and because the scholarship deadline is coming up quickly.

When I attended NCCWSL, I was greeted by some of the nicest and most encouraging people I've ever met. Best of all, I became more empowered to fight for trans women's rights. Since attending NCCWSL, I have been afforded opportunities to speak all over the country, and recently, I had a chance to speak at the White House about the health of trans women in my home state of Mississippi. I would never have had the courage to speak up if I had not applied for a NCCWSL scholarship. Encourage the students you know to attend NCCWSL."

From a NCCWSL article on the AAUW website

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held by Zoom. Early Bird registration (\$95 each) opens on Jan. 15 and available for five weeks.

For more information about Early Bird registration and national NCCWSL scholarships, visit "Attend NCCWSL - AAUW." This is a great opportunity for more students to become involved. Let's publicize this new opportunity for college women.

Ann Mitchell, Chair - College Relations



## **Spotlight on College Member Scottsdale Community College**

Scottsdale Community College was opened in 1970 and serves close to 9,000 students. "Artie the Artichoke" is their mascot.

The campus is located on 160 acres of land leased from the Salt River Pima - Maricopa Indian Community. It primarily attracts students from the surrounding communities. However, increasing numbers of students commute from other locations due to signature programs like culinary, film & theatre, DJ/Turntablism and CIS.

A degree program unique to Scottsdale Community College is the Associate of Applied Science in Sustaining and Advancing Indigenous Nations. The program is designed for students who plan to work directly within an Indigenous Nation. Students are provided with instruction and academic support in courses in the political, legal, economic and social status of indigenous peoples and their respective communities.

Information provided by the Scottsdale Community College website.  
Ann Mitchell, Chair - College Relations



## Working on Behalf of Public Education

At a time when education across the state is severely struggling as a result of COVID-19, AAUW branches can be proud of our initiatives that have greatly enhanced Arizona educational opportunities. East Mesa, Green Valley, Northwest Tucson, Prescott, Safford and Southeast Valley Branches have all initiated quality projects with their school districts. We encourage additional branches to take advantage of this \$500.00 from AAUW State so collectively we can tell the success story of AAUW 4 AZ Public Education!

Thanks to all for your hard work. Let's make 2021 a fabulous year together!

Sharon Rezac Andersen Co-Chair AAUW 4 AZ Public Education



## AAUW-NWV Addresses Two New State Curriculum Requirement Needs



The AAUW NWV Branch is very pleased to announce participation in the State AAUWAZ 4 Public Education Project in conjunction with the Dysart School District.

AAUW NWV has worked on multiple projects with the Dysart Schools and we look forward to this new opportunity to support two projects as required by the State of Arizona.

The \$500 state seed grant will be supporting the following projects:

Holocaust Instruction: Using the book "Living among the Dead: My Grandmother's Holocaust Survival Story of Love and Strength," will provide teachers with a cross curricular option to support reading as the social studies standards. This project is in support of the Oct. 2020 new State Board of Education requirement.

STEM/Vernier Science Project: The Vernier Sensors will provide students with the opportunities to use science probe ware to study science as it is done in the field, a new curriculum standard.

The grant was initiated with state seed money and efforts are being made to enhance that grant so that both projects can be fully funded, primarily through the AZ Tax Credit for Schools and direct donations to the Dysart Schools Vernier Project.

At this time, because of generous member donations, and several AZ Tax Credits designating the Vernier project, we are already more than 40 percent to the goal of funding both projects!!

The AAUW NWV Branch 4 Public Education Committee members are: Gail Peterson and Cindy Ferguson, Co Chairs, Joye Kohl, Betty Merwin, Sue Knippen, Gail Petters, Jane Trok and Barbara Saussen.

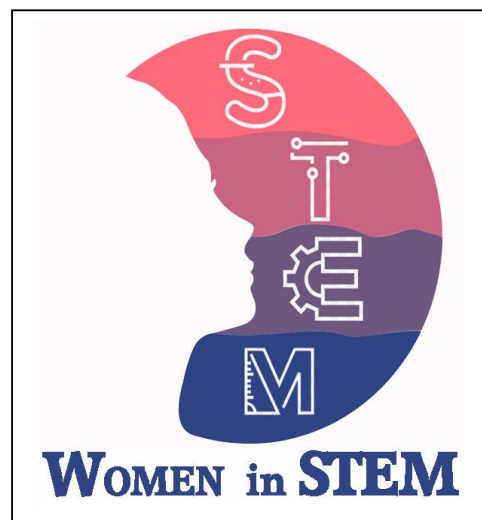
Cindy Ferguson, AAUW-LWV 4 Public Education Co-Chair

I recently came across an archived website from the Obama Administration that highlighted the leadership and achievements of STEM (s)heroes. Key Whitehouse women recorded a brief audio history of some of their favorite women scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians. They are truly inspirational and worth sharing! Below is a link to the website, but please note that as an archived website, we cannot add content to the website.

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/women-in-stem>

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you are searching for STEM resources or partners.

Michelle Higgins,



## NEWS FROM GREEN VALLEY

Susan Peterson, Green Valley Co-President

I should have more aptly titled this piece “News About Green Valley” as I am not in Green Valley at all. Like many other snowbirds, my husband and I left our Green Valley home in May and have not returned. I write to you from Madison, Wisconsin, our northern home. We were reluctant to travel back to Arizona as the covid-19 statistics have been staggering (though bad in Wisconsin as well). Like a lot of you, we anticipate receiving the vaccine, and then observing the reactions and efficacy. We have been happy being here in Madison because part of our family lives here. With isolating and self-distancing we have been able to enjoy the company of our son and daughter and her family. We also have a daughter, son-in-law and three grands in Durango, Co. So, for those of you who have been missing family visits, I do know how heart-tugging it is. Zoom visits have become the connection for many of us.

And speaking of Zoom---what a great way to continue our AAUW mission! We in Green Valley have had a great time exploring ways of using Zoom for Board Meetings, Membership Meetings (including those hosting guest speakers), Special Interest Groups, and most importantly, keeping in touch with each other. At this point we engage members in Washington, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maine and Nantucket Island!

The major scholarship fund raiser for the Green Valley Branch has been the springtime sponsorship of Luna Fest, a wonderful day of shopping for gift baskets, enjoying cuisine donated by local chefs, and most importantly, viewing fantastic films whose themes touch on issues affecting women's lives. It has been a joyous day of fund raising and sisterhood. One of the highlights has been the attendance and introduction of the previous year's scholarship winners. It is truly a pleasure for our branch to celebrate the academic success of these women. 2021---no venue, no baskets, no nibbles, no buddies, no films, no guests---and worst of all no \$\$\$ for scholarships.

Well, Susan Kirk, our Luna Fest Chair and Fund Raising Wizard, along with her able committee has adapted the whole process using Zoom (and she is doing it from the outer reaches of Nantucket.

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Green Valley Branch news continued from page 6.

We'll have an on-line raffle auction and a showing of the films on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Members will need to provide their own refreshments and can be attired in loungewear of choice. *Creativity is the mother of invention*; a lot of contemporary technology also helps. We anticipate that the cost of the movie ticket and raffle items will increase our scholarship fund \$\$\$.

Another new addition to our meetings has been the use of Zoom breakout rooms. Members were placed in rooms with five or so other people by the tech host. All had about twelve minutes to see each other and chat before the official start of our December Membership Meeting. Attendees were delighted to reconnect. It could become a regular feature during these uncertain times.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE*

## **Tucson Teachers Feeling AAUW “LOVE”!**

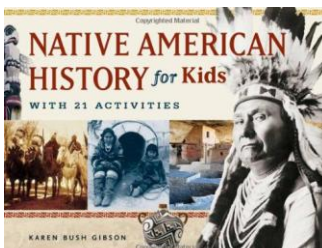
Linda Alepin, Tucson Branch President

The Tucson AAUW branch has launched a major public education-centered initiative to give some “love” to our local teachers. This consists of 1) creating a communications hub for them to exchange information using a tool called Mighty Networks, 2) supporting the efforts of the Tucson Regional Education Collaborative with a grant of \$5,000 and 3) granting \$5,000 of teachers’ wishes for school supplies during this holiday season.

The communications hub is called the **Tucson Teacher Trading Post**. You can join by going to <https://mightynetworks.com/find> and searching for that name. We made a “commercial” to advertise it: <https://youtu.be/qtMuunWzMQM>. It was featured during a 5-minute spot on a teacher holiday celebration. We offered up to \$100 per teacher for their classroom “wishlists”

The response was overwhelming! We received over 250 teachers wish lists. They ranged from basics such as hand sanitizer to some cute math and science building kits to special education materials to books like Native American History for Kids.

We have granted 50 of these with the \$5,000 approved for this project. Here are some pictures of some of our items:



Here are some teachers’ comments:

*“Thank you so much for offering a teacher wish list. I am a first-year teacher teaching first grade. Some items are for exploration and play, which is extremely important for students. Others are books that will help to enhance my own teaching of the curriculum. Thank you!”*

*“Thank you for this amazing opportunity to apply for some school supplies. I work at a low-income title one school in kindergarten. We go through lots of supplies and need to some support materials for writing. My students are currently learning how to write sentences. They need help with spacing and to illustrate pictures. I put some space man spacers to help them visualize and understand finger spacing. Thank you for your time.”*

If you want more information about our work, please contact Linda Alepin at [AAUWTucsonPresident@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTucsonPresident@gmail.com).



## Prescott Branch News

Tracy Smiles, Prescott Branch President

The AAUW Prescott Branch ended 2020 with a presentation by retired Colonel Felicia French who talked about her long career as a nurse and helicopter pilot serving in Honduras and Afghanistan. During this meeting women in the branch and community were recognized for their military service. Since the branch was unable to hold its annual Holiday Bruch that includes the Red Envelope fundraiser, a virtual meeting was held instead. The Red Envelope fundraiser was a notable success, and members heard a presentation from the director of the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) in conjunction with Community Action Chair Kelsey Wilkes on “Giving the Gift of Mentoring.” The branch is currently in the process of developing a mentoring program whereby members will work with women served by the shelter in GED preparation, support in applying for college, and finding employment. COVID has delayed this program, but both PASS and AAUW are excited about the potential this partnership holds for women in the Prescott area.

In other news, Prescott AAUW was recently featured in the Yavapai College magazine for their community service and scholarship fund raising. Additionally, past AAUW Arizona and Prescott Branch president and current vice president of the Prescott Unified School District Governing Board, Deb Dillon, will present a program titled, “Let’s Talk About Charter Schools.” She will discuss the development, governance, and impact of charter schools in Arizona. Lastly, the Prescott Branch’s executive board awarded the \$500.00 AAUW State seed grant to Humboldt Unified School District for the purchase of standing desks to be used by students with special needs that require flexible movement at Glassford Middle School general education classes.



## News from Flagstaff

Sue Peters, Flagstaff Branch President

Welcome to the New Year! I know we are all trying to be careful by masking and remaining isolated as Covid continues to ravage our country. But how exciting to think that we'll be able to start defeating the virus soon as we all hope to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the Flagstaff Branch keeps in touch with our members via ZOOM.

Over the summer we held a number of ZOOM meetings. A local psychologist, Dr. Valerie Hannemann met with us on Zoom to talk about the psychological effects of isolation, uncertainty and stress, and that it's so important for us to continue interacting with our friends and relatives virtually. the possibility of outside tampering.

Continued on page 10.

In June, we hosted the Coconino County Recorder, Patty Hansen, who outlined for us the voting processes for the national elections. She reassured us of the security of voting by mail and of the vote tallying. In Arizona, the voting tabulation machines are not connected to the internet, eliminating the possibility of outside tampering.

In the late summer Harriet Young, our Public Policy chair, organized three Zoom candidate forums, hosting candidates for local and regional offices. We ZOOMed with Mayoral and City Council candidates to discuss issues important to the City and County. Local candidates for AZ House and Senate were invited to address many important regional and state-wide issues. We had tremendous help from our moderators, Dr. Steven Nuno, Chair, Politics and International Affairs Dept., NAU led a discussion of Justice for all in Flagstaff; Ms. Stephanie Berger, Berger Hirschberg Strategies ([https://www.bhstrategies.com/who\\_we\\_are.php](https://www.bhstrategies.com/who_we_are.php)) led a discussion on Housing access issues in the area; and Mr. Paul Kulpinski- Partnership Director, LAUNCH Flagstaff

(<http://launchflagstaff.org/paul-klupinski-named-partnership-director/>) handled questions about educational opportunities for all in Flagstaff.

As you can see, we have been emphasizing discussions to foster better understanding of racial/diversity issues, which AZ State and National AAUW are also fostering. Most recently, in early December we invited Coconino County District 5 Supervisor, Lena Fowler to talk about the Native American experiences in Flagstaff. Her District covers Page, Tuba City and much of the Navajo Nation. As a Native American herself, she helped us to understand many of their challenges. Her talk was illuminated both by her experiences representing Native Americans in her many political and community activities, and also from her personal experiences growing up on the Reservation. The meeting is posted on our Facebook page for those who wish to hear it.

In January we are looking forward to participating in the AZ AAUW push to learn about the Request to Speak process in Arizona. This is a program that AZ residents can register for to express our opinions about any measures that are coming before the Arizona State Legislature. So keep your eyes out for notices of these training sessions.



## **NWV Collaborates on “Know Your Worth”**

The AAAUW-NWV branch collaborated with the YWCA and the Maricopa County Community College Women Rising Program on a program for students entitled "Know Your Worth". The project facilitator was Michelle Ramos, Prosperity Programs Director, YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix

The program Introduction was by Donna Lopez Martinez, Student Services Director, Maricopa Community Colleges; An Overview of the Gender Pay Gap was provided by Dr. Joye Kohl, equity activist, retired educator and AAUW-NWV College Connections Co-Chair. Responding to student questions, the following speakers gave meaningful responses and shared personal experiences related to work, the pay gap, negotiating salaries, and dealing with challenges encountered in the work world.

- Lisa Cagnolatti, Executive-in-Residence, ASU W.P. Carey School of Business
- Sarah Tyree, MSW, Community Activist and a member of the AAUW-NWV branch.
- Alexis Hermosillo, Mayor of the City of El Mirage

The summary and closing was by Elsa Gebreyohanes of the YWCA.

Ann Mitchell, College Connections Co-chair, was instrumental in the planning of this collaborative project.

Joye Kohl, NWV College Connections Co-chair

