



PCSW News—March 2008

March 2008

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 - PCSW 35th Anniversary Dinner
 - Making Women Visible Reception



PCSW Chair Jean L. Rexford with Making Women Visible Day Keynote speaker, Stacey Tisdale.



PCSW Executive Director Teresa C. Younger is joined by state leaders and officials at Making Women Visible Day.



Grace Hirshorn, first place winner of the Young Women's Leadership Program, had the support of her family and Representative Floren at Making Women Visible Day. Grace read her winning essay as part of the press conference.



Kaitlyn Schneider, who placed second in the Young Women's Leadership Program's essay contest, reads her essay at Making Women Visible Day.

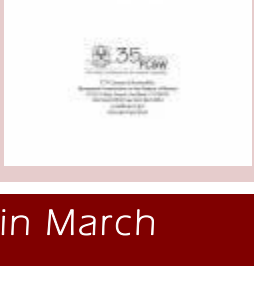
PCSW Celebrates Women's History Month

The PCSW was recently featured in the New Haven Register in an article celebrating our history. You can [read the article here](#).



In recognition of Women's History Month, celebrated in March, we are excited to pay tribute to women in Connecticut's history who have made contributions towards the advancement of all women in our state. [Visit our website](#) to see a new woman featured each week.

You can find these women and more in our latest publication, **Selected Highlights of Women's History, United States and Connecticut, 1773 to the Present**. We have published the collection to commemorate Women's History Month and the contribution of many women as leaders, entrepreneurs, inventors and activists. [Read Selected Highlights of Women's History](#).



PCSW's 35th Anniversary Continues in March

PCSW History Display

The PCSW continues to celebrate 35 years as the State's leading force for women's equality. In February, we brought a piece of our history to the Capitol with a display in the Legislative Office Building. It offered a timeline of our successes and showcased our legislative agenda for 2008.

The exhibit is available on loan to libraries and other public spaces. Please [contact our office](#) if you wish to borrow the display. To see a complete timeline of PCSW's accomplishments, please download the special 35th anniversary edition of [Continuing Progress for Connecticut Women](#).

Register to Vote Campaign

In honor of our 35th anniversary and the upcoming presidential election we are setting out to register 3500 women to vote in Connecticut. Please join us in our campaign and encourage women to register to vote. Below are the links to three websites where you can register to vote electronically and where there is information on deadlines, candidates, identification requirements and more. Let's get out there and get 3500 more women registered to vote so that their voices can be heard!

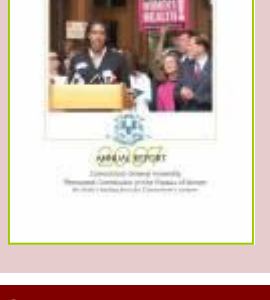
American Association of University Women
<http://capwiz.com/aauw/e4/>

League of Women Voters
<http://vote411.org/>

Secretary of the State website
<http://www.sots.ct.gov/>

PCSW's 2007 Annual Report

The PCSW is pleased to announce the release of our **2007 Annual Report**. It covers our activities from July 2006 to December 2007 and focuses on our priority areas: economic and financial security, discrimination, and women's health and safety.



[Read PCSW's 2007 Annual Report](#)

Making Women Visible Day 2008

On February 21, 2008, the PCSW presented our annual **Making Women Visible Day** where we released our **2008 legislative priorities** and highlighted our latest report, **Getting to a Better Tomorrow: A Women's Economic Security Package**.



Michelle Bussolotti addresses the audience at Making Women Visible Day

The PCSW was joined by state leaders and officials at our press conference. Michelle Bussolotti, a single parent and student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, shared her personal experiences with financial insecurity.

The PCSW's Young Women's Leadership Program also awarded their winners of their **2nd Essay Contest for Ninth Grade Students**. Grace Hirshorn of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich won first place with her essay *Closing the Gap*, and Kaitlyn Schneider of Danbury High School won second place with her essay *Men vs. Women: A Fight for Equal Pay in the Workplace*.



Grace Hirshorn shares her winning essay

Stacey Tisdale, on air financial journalist and author, rounded out the morning's activities with a keynote address based on her book *The True Cost of Happiness: The Real Story Behind Managing Your Money*. An expert on the financial issues facing women, Ms. Tisdale brought her expertise to a workshop for attendees and challenged everyone in the room to think out their finances and futures a little differently.



Keynote Stacey Tisdale offered a workshop for Making Women Visible Day participants

Thank you to all who joined us!

[Read PCSW's 2008 Legislative Priorities](#).

[Read Getting to a Better Tomorrow: A Women's Economic Security Package](#).

[Learn more about Stacey Tisdale's book, The True Cost of Happiness](#).

[Read the press release for Making Women Visible Day](#).

[View pictures from the event](#).

[Read the winning essays](#).

[Join the Young Women's Leadership Program](#).

2008 Legislative Update

As of this newsletter, PCSW's legislative team has testified on 77 bills before 17 committees, including the Commerce, Housing, and Higher Education committees.

When appropriate, PCSW's testimony has been accompanied by an additional fact sheet provided by the **Young Women's Leadership Program**. The fact sheets provide a young woman's perspective on issues such as affordable education and access to financial aid, and promoting initiatives to keep young professional women in Connecticut.

[Read PCSW's Testimony](#)

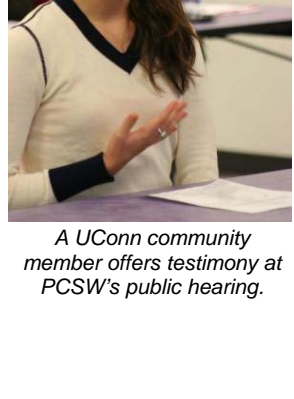
[Read Fact Sheet: Affordable Education and Young Women](#)

[Read Fact Sheet: Keeping Young Professional Women in the State of Connecticut](#)

Other Recent Events

The PCSW recently hosted two events for Connecticut residents.

On February 27, 2008 we held **Getting to a Better Tomorrow**, a public hearing at the University of Connecticut. This was the third in a series of hearings on the issue of economic and financial security held throughout the state. Testimony will be compiled into a report to be shared with legislators and released this year.



A UConn community member offers testimony at PCSW's public hearing.

[View pictures from our public hearing in Storrs](#).

[View pictures from our public hearing in Norwalk](#).

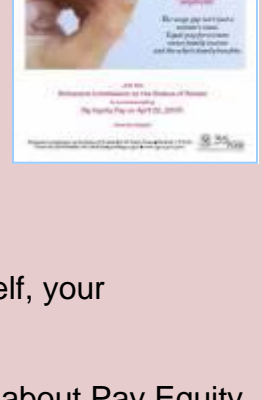
[View pictures from our public hearing in Enfield](#).

The PCSW also wrapped up the month of February with a **Women in the Trades Networking Exchange** on February 29, 2008. These periodic gatherings are to help tradeswomen support each other, share information about regional and national WIT events and organizations, talk about job retention and compliance issues, and look forward to mentoring younger tradeswomen.

[Learn more about the Women in the Trades Network](#).

The Wage Gap

Pay equity is a missing piece to economic security in Connecticut.



The wage gap...it's not just about women anymore! The wage gap isn't just a women's issue. Equal pay for women raises family income and the whole family benefits.

Equal Pay Day is April 22, 2008. Here's what you can do to educate yourself and others:

1. Wear a pink Equal Pay button. [Contact the PCSW](#) to request buttons for yourself, your organization, or your community!
2. Encourage your local schools to teach a lesson about Pay Equity. You can [view a sample lesson plan on our website](#).
3. Tell a friend about the wage gap. Send an E-card by going to www.aauw.org.
4. Pass a resolution on pay equity in your community. [Visit our website for a sample resolution](#).
5. Write a letter to the editor. [Visit our website for sample letters to the editor](#).
6. [Join us for an Equal Pay Day press conference](#). Legislative Office Building Room 1B April 22, 2008 at 10:00AM.

For more information, [visit our website](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

April 22, 2008 [Pay Equity Day Press Conference](#)

April 24, 2008 [Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day](#)

May 20, 2008 [Making Women Visible Reception](#)
 Saint Joseph College, Hartford
 5:00PM—7:00PM

November 6, 2008 [PCSW 35th Anniversary Dinner](#)
 Crown Plaza, Cromwell
 6:00PM—9:00PM

- PCSW Commissioners**
- Jean L. Rexford, Chair
 - Adrienne Farrar Houel, Vice-Chair
 - Carrie L. Gallagher, Secretary
 - Elizabeth Donohue, Treasurer
 - Yvonne R. Davis
 - Barbara DeBaptiste
 - Tanya Meck
 - Cindy R. Slane
 - Susan O. Storey
 - Patricia E.M. Whitcombe
 - Cecilia J. Woods
- Legislative Members**
- Senator John A. Kissel
 - Senator Andrew J. McDonald
 - Representative Michael P. Lawlor
 - Representative Arthur J. O'Neill
- Honorary Members**
- Connie Dice
 - Patricia Russo
- PCSW Staff**
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Executive Director
 - [Barbara Potopowicz](#)
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Legislative Director
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Research and Policy Director
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 - [Doreen Fredette](#)
Project Coordinator
 - [Christa Allard](#)
Communications Assistant
 - [Michelle Noehren](#)
Legislative and Outreach Associate
 - [Jeanne D. Miner](#)
Project Assistant
 - [Lisa Smith-Overton](#)
Project/Events Assistant

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was established by the State Legislature in 1973. Seventeen appointed volunteer Commissioners join a staff and volunteers to work to eliminate sex discrimination in Connecticut. They are to inform leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, to serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, to promote consideration of women for governmental positions, and to work with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.