



PCSW
 equality for women

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
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PCSW News—September 2007

September 2007
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Just Released!

Directory of Women's Organizations en Español

We are excited to release the first edition of our popular Directory of Women's Organizations in Connecticut in Spanish. The updated guide contains contact information for over 300 organizations throughout the state as well as a brief description of each organization's mission.



View [Guía de Organizaciones de Mujeres en Connecticut](#) Request Copies

View the [English](#) version. [Request Copies](#)

2nd Annual Essay Contest for 9th Grade Students



Why are men paid more than women? Are there consequences for women when they are paid less? How can we work towards ensuring equal pay for men and women?

The Young Women's Leadership Program of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is pleased to announce its 2nd Annual Essay Contest for Ninth Grade Students. This year's topic is focused on the wage gap and any 9th grade student is encouraged to participate. The deadline for registration is **Friday, October 5, 2007**.

[Download the Registration Form](#)

[Download the Contest Rules and Guidelines](#)

[Download the Essay Submission Form](#)

Wage Gap Facts

- The wage gap is defined as the difference between the wages of women and men.
- On average, women in Connecticut earn 71.5 cents for every dollar men earn; national data shows that women make 76.5 cents for every dollar men make.
- The Connecticut median annual earnings by gender in 2002 reveal that a woman who is employed full time and works year round earns \$35,000 as opposed to a man under the same circumstances who earns \$50,100.
- According to the Connecticut Department of Labor women make up 51% of Connecticut's population and 47.7% of Connecticut's labor force.
- In the last 25 years there has been a slow but steady improvement in the wage gap between men and women. In 1979 the wage gap was approximately 34% and in 2004 it was approximately 25%.
- If we continue at the current rate of change, Connecticut women will not receive equal pay for equal work until the year 2086.

Meet Our New Commissioners

The PCSW is required by statute to have seventeen Commissioners to direct the work of the Commission. Each Commission member is appointed for a five-year term by either the Governor, the Speaker of the House, or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The PCSW has recently welcomed three new Commissioners, highlighted below. You can read about all our Commissioners on our [website](#).



Yvonne R. Davis was appointed in 2007 by Governor M. Jodi Rell. She owns and operates DAVISCommunications in Connecticut. She is also a freelance writer, expert lecturer, and political analyst. She has been recognized throughout her career for her efforts in civil rights and television production. Ms. Davis is on the board of directors for the J.C. and Frankie Watts Foundation. She served as a Presidential Appointee by George W. Bush to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 2001-2005, as an Ambassador of the Arts. She has an M.S. in Leadership and Business Ethics (Summa Cum Laude) and an M.A. in Political Science. She has a B.A. in Mass Communications and Political Science (Magna Cum Laude). She is expected to complete her doctorate in Leadership and Mastery of Change in 2009 from the Thierry Graduate School of Leadership in Brussels, Belgium.



Elizabeth Donohue was appointed in 2007 by Speaker of the House James Amann. The Deputy Policy Director for the Connecticut House Democrats, Ms. Donohue specializes in transportation infrastructure, education and finance policy. She helped to update the state's early childhood education policy, coordinate the historic campaign finance reform package, and negotiate the \$2.5 billion transportation package in 2006. In addition, she has worked on several grassroots political campaigns and headed up the House Democrat Caucus Campaign's direct mail effort in 2006. Ms. Donohue is a Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude graduate of George Washington University where she majored in International Relations.

Cecilia J. Woods, was appointed in 2007 by President Pro Tempore Donald Williams. She was most recently Deputy Chief of Staff and Research Director for the Senate Democrats, a position she held for 23 years. She previously served as Chief of Staff for Congressman Adam Benjamin of Gary, Indiana and was a Carter White House Aide in the late 1970s. Ms. Woods, a graduate of Drew University, holds a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Occidental College and was a National Urban Fellow at Yale University. In addition to the PCSW she is currently devoting her time to the Parents' Association at The Independent Day School, and the Greater Hartford Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Trafficking in Persons Council

The Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, established by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2004, is now the Trafficking in Persons Council. The original mission of the task force was to research the extent of trafficking in Connecticut as well as determine what services are available to victims and how well equipped Connecticut law enforcement agencies are to deal with the problem.

In the 2007 legislative session, the General Assembly passed **PA 07-107, AA Establishing a Trafficking in Persons Council**, tasking the new group with determining what services are available to victims and how to best coordinate a response. Additionally, funding was provided to develop a coordinated response system to trafficking of persons. The council includes law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, and community-based advocates and service providers.

2nd Congressional District Event

Former PCSW Commissioner Pat Hendel and Catherine Young-Sebastian, CDAC 2 co-chair hosted a gathering on September 6, 2007 at the home of Pat Hendel to introduce PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger to members of the 2nd Congressional District. Pat and Teresa were joined by approximately 30 guests, including State Representatives Elizabeth Ritter, Kevin Ryan, and Elissa Wright; Ellen Paul from Representative Joe Courtney's office; Jane Glover from the New London City Council; Tricia Cunningham from the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; Catherine Zeiner, Executive Director of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut; and local women business owners. Also present were former PCSW Commissioners Pat Russo and Gerri Roberts; Suzanne Taylor, one of PCSW's founding mothers; and CeeCee Woods, a current PCSW Commissioner.

A few pictures from the event are to the left. You can view a complete gallery on our [website](#).

PCSW Welcomes Guests from Indonesia

Last month, PCSW welcomed special visitors from Indonesia. Three women, accompanied by an interpreter, were visiting Connecticut as part of an international program. Our visitors are women business owners in their country and made a stop at the PCSW to learn about our work regarding women owned business. Also pictured are Teresa Younger, Barbara Potopowitz, PCSW staff and Sonila Aliaj and Alissa Haight, interns.



Women Business Owner Directory

It's not too late to be listed in our directory of women business owners in Connecticut!

The PCSW is putting together a directory of women business owners which will list your name, the name of your business, your contact information and what you do. We will publish this in print and on our website for all to use when they are looking to buy or utilize services. This is not a certification program, just a service to women business owners and people who want to do business with them.

If you are a woman business owner looking for more exposure for your business, or if you would like to do business with a woman owned business but don't know where to find one, this directory is for you!

To be included, please email [Christa Homola](mailto:Christa.Homola@cga.ct.gov) and she will email you the request for information needed.

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Events

October 10, 2007	Where Connecticut Stands Press Conference
October 11, 2007	12th Annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education
October 12 & 13, 2007	Small and Minority Business Conference
October 17 & 18, 2007	Connecticut Women's Business Conference
October 20, 2007	Chronic Illness: Living Life to the Fullest
October 24, 2007	Getting to a Better Tomorrow Public Hearing
October 25, 2007	CT Women's Hall of Fame Annual Dinner
October 27, 2007	Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Gala
November 3, 2007	Money Conference for Women

PCSW Commissioners

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 Project Assistant



Former PCSW Commissioner Pat Hendel



Tricia Cunningham and Catherine Young-Sebastian



PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger



Representative Kevin Ryan

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.