



## AAUW-NM Winter Roadrunner

**Mission: to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**



### From our President:

To all our AAUW NM members,

Welcome, very soon now on to Spring! And, with that approaching change of seasons (including more daylight!) our Governor announced at the close of the 30-day legislative session that masks are no longer required inside buildings in our state. I'm not sure about you, but yesterday I, along with many others, wore my mask in the shops and grocery store. Please make smart choices and stay healthy during this seemingly interim Covid time. AAUW NM needs your strong dedicated voices and activism as we pursue gender equality and female empowerment in our state and indeed in all 50 states.

On February 11th, in the House Chamber, New Mexico House of Representatives, I had the distinct honor to join the Speaker of the House Pro Tem, **Representative Pamela Herndon**, to honor Black History Month and the great contributions of African Americans to the history of New Mexico. Two guest speakers were featured: Dr. Finnie Coleman, President, Faculty Senate, UNM, and **Dr. Julia Brown**, Board Chair of AAUW. Julia Brown's keynote speech was outstanding. She told those present how Black people have been forever "interwoven with all of the groups that have contributed throughout New Mexico's history long before it was a state." Among the many historical facts and remembrances, Julia noted February was designated *Black History Month* by former President Gerald Ford in 1976. The session concluded with a special performance of the Gospel ballad "I Feel Like Going On" sung a capella by the "Songbird of the Southwest," Albuquerque school principal Rayetta Baty, who received a standing ovation. Representative Herndon then recognized several in attendance in the gallery including myself as president of AAUW NM and Dr. Vickie Bannerman, NM PED's Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity, and Transformation.

The legislative session did end with several bills passed that AAUW NM had advocated for and in many cases, in collaboration with, other organizations in our state like the LWVNM and NOWSF. You will remember representatives from these organizations also attended our Mini Rally on Advocacy Day after our winter Leadership Team Meeting. Raising teachers' salaries by \$10,000 at all levels, reducing the predatory lending rate from 175% to 36%, and the compromise reached on eliminating the state's taxes on Social Security were all welcomed. House Bill 60 also passed and now requires that all school districts pay Native language and culture teachers the same salaries as all level 1 teachers. Those teachers' fights for equal pay have been won!

On March 15, 2022, the nation will call attention to **Equal Pay Day** for women who continue to earn approximately \$.84 to a man's dollar. This statistic has remained relatively the same for the last 15 years. The two years+ pandemic has magnified this because stay-at-home orders have disproportionately affected women, especially single moms, and minorities.

This is where AAUW's Start Smart/Work Smart programs come into play now more than ever. Forbes reported in January this year, "Studies have shown that the pay gap is perpetuated by the ask gap. Women typically do not ask for the same amount as men when negotiating salaries. On average, women ask for 6% less. That same study found that women doctors in residency are happy with starting salaries that are 92% of that which their male peers request. As women, we need to be prepared and do our homework before entering wage negotiations. Together, women can make a difference and close the gap in gender inequality." **Dr. Becky Reiss**, president of the Socorro branch, is renewing their license to present these important and time-appropriate programs to members and students at New Mexico Tech. I encourage other branches to pursue these licenses so that we can help all women in our state to strengthen their confidence and self-worth in the marketplace.

And special thanks go to **Meredith Machen, Sonya Berg, Sylvia Fink**, and the **Public Policy Advocacy Team** for all the hard work and fast-paced long hours to advocate for the many bills and memorials on behalf of AAUW NM. As I'm sure the Songbird of the Southwest would say, "Halleluyah" to all of you.

Lynn Heffron

AAUW NM President



**AAUW TECH TREK**  
**NEW MEXICO**



AAUW-NM's STEM camp, Tech Trek, will provide the opportunity for up to 60 NM girls to spend a summer week experiencing hands-on science projects and workshops led by women.

Campers will stay on campus at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, NM, from June 19-25, 2022, at a cost of only \$50 to families of participating girls. Tech Trek is a 501c3 corp. Most camp expenses are covered with grants and donations. Typically, AAUW NM members donate 30% of the total cost of Tech Trek each year.

Please write checks and mail to: **AAUW Tech Trek NM, Inc. PO Box 90322,**

**The Equity Advancement Title V  
Endowment Fund  
at Santa Fe Community College**



**BACKGROUND**

- Santa Fe Community College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, was awarded a five-year \$3,000,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Title V program. Before the grant ends in 2023, we have a special opportunity.
- An Equity Advancement Title V Endowment Fund that will benefit deserving low-income Hispanic students has been started up with a \$1500 gift. If other gifts are made to the Fund so that it reaches \$5,000 by the end of November 2022, a one-time federal match will double the fund to \$10,000.
- The Equity Advancement Title V Endowment Fund will grow through interest and subsequent contributions.
- Approximately 5% of the principal will be distributed to one or more recipients each year to help with tuition and fees, books, or related expenses.

**MANAGEMENT**

- All scholarship and endowment funds are professionally managed through the SFCC Foundation, which administers disbursements to qualified individuals.
- The SFCC Scholarship Committee reviews all applicants to establish financial need, academic qualifications, and personal statements to determine which recipients receive which scholarships and awards.
- SFCC staff provide oversight of each recipient's academic performance to make sure that the recipient is making adequate academic progress.

Contributions to the *Equity Advancement Title V Endowment Fund* can be made by check or credit card. Checks should indicate "Equity Advancement" in the memo line. Credit card donors can designate the Equity Advancement Fund at <https://www.sfcc.edu/give-now/>. Qualified Charitable Distributions made from retirement accounts directly to the SFCC Foundation can have tax advantages. See <https://www.sfcc.edu/foundation/ways-to-give/>.

SFCC Foundation, 6401 Richards Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87508. For more information, contact Kelly Marquez, Director of Annual Giving at (505) 428-1175 or [kelly.marquez@sfcc.edu](mailto:kelly.marquez@sfcc.edu).

**Public Policy  
Report**



It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. In 30 days, New Mexico legislators approved funding and policy measures that will transform our state, advance equity, and improve our economy and quality of life. The governor is expected to sign most if not all of our top priority bills and the nearly \$8.5B budget, the largest in the state's history. Thanks to record oil and gas revenues and flush with federal relief dollars, NM lawmakers had the resources to make significant investments and finally did so, but it was a truly grueling session. These investments will help us address some of the long-term effects of poverty, low educational achievement, housing instability, food insecurity, insufficient behavioral healthcare, substance abuse, domestic violence, other crime victims, and public safety.

Marathon floor sessions with tense, divisive partisan arguments were almost impossible to endure. The biggest loser was the voting rights protection and election reform legislation that was obstructed by endless debating, excessive amending, and shameful filibustering. We need to advocate for and implement better legislative processes, or fewer people will want to serve in our unpaid legislature.

Our planned advocacy efforts changed mid-session when we witnessed major pushback when urging legislators to support certain legislation. For instance, the more we and our coalition partners asked legislators to support a memorial to study Paid Family and Medical Leave, the more the measure was debated and stalled. The House version passed the committees but was never heard on the floor. Senator Stewart fought back silly amendments and efforts to table during hours of debate on the floor. We were more successful in our advocacy to end predatory lending, but setting the interest cap at 36% barely made it through the process, even after Rep. Herrera showed charts demonstrating the effects of compounding. It took heart-breaking testimonies from borrowers who described the devastating impact on their lives when they couldn't repay loans at 175% and the escalated rates pushed them deeper in debt. Personal financial management instruction failed to get traction, but PED's new Social Studies Standards do include some principles.

In contrast to the rancor on many issues, the legislature made monumental, transformative investments in **education**, early childhood through post-secondary. We testified at virtually every committee hearing that discussed education funding, which constitutes approximately half of New Mexico's budget in normal times. The Yazzie-Martinez court orders stopped the usual arguments against spending any more money on K-12, ranked dead last nationally in outcomes. Legislators unanimously passed **SB1**, sponsored by Sen. Stewart, increasing starting salaries for Level 1, 2, and 3 teachers to \$50,000, \$60,000, and \$70,000 respectively. This investment should incentivize people to go into teaching as well as help address our severe teacher shortage. In addition to the 1100 plus teacher vacancies, impending teacher retirements add to the urgency to recruit and retain more teachers. Current teachers will have their salaries adjusted to address compaction, and all educational employees will receive a long-overdue 7% salary increase. Millions more will go into Indian Education, teacher residencies, and retirement funds.

The biggest game-changer for NM and core to our mission is **SB140- Opportunity Scholarships Act** sponsored by Sen. Liz Stefanics and Rep. Joy Garratt. Qualified NM residents without bachelor's or associate degrees can receive free tuition and fees at any of NM's public post-secondary institutions if they meet and maintain eligibility requirements, including completing at least 6 credits a semester (fall and spring) with a 2.5 GPA. The program starts this fall and will cover tuition and fees for undergraduate NM residents wishing to pursue credit-bearing certificates in workforce shortage and high-need fields, such as health care, public safety, and technology; associate degrees (up to 90 credits); and/or bachelor's degrees (up to 160 credits). We need to get the word out to the approximately 35,000 adults who never completed college as well as to students who are struggling to afford college. There are no income eligibility requirements, and these scholarships can be used in summer semesters. Imagine the enhanced career opportunities and quality of life improvements that will result in higher graduation rates, workforce improvements, and more economic prosperity. NM is first-in-the-nation to offer free college!

Space limitations prevent me from elaborating on other successes, but here are a few notables from this session. The status of all of the bills we supported is in our shared **MyRoundhouse**, legislation tracker. We advocated successfully for the expansion of the Working Families Tax Credit, a new state-level Child Tax Credit, the NM Housing Trust, smart criminal justice and public safety measures, food programs to reduce hunger and health disparities, infrastructure spending, and more.

The pandemic is far from over, and our economy is still a bit uncertain, but we see great possibilities for the future. The partisan divide should improve after the general election in time for the 60-day legislative session in 2023. We will have a slew of new lawmakers from newly drawn districts setting new policies and deciding what to fund and sustain. Legislators will undertake major tax reform, and we will advocate for fairer and more equitable policies. Having more money in the pockets of low-income individuals benefits families, communities, small businesses, and the state's economy. We will look back to

the 55<sup>th</sup> legislature with tremendous gratitude for their remarkable accomplishments working under extreme uncertainty and unprecedented challenges.

Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, [mermachen@cybermesa.com](mailto:mermachen@cybermesa.com), 505 577-6337.



Amy Lewis



Stephanie Moraga-McHaley



Crystal Tulley-Cordova



Caiti Steele



Phoebe Suina

In honor of Women's History Month, AAUW-Socorro and the New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series (PAS) Proudly Presents

## Voices of Women (VOW): Our Climate, Our Community

On **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1-2:30 pm MDT**, a distinguished panel of five NM women will discuss climate change in New Mexico.

This event will be in **Socorro** at the Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech (NMT) campus and will also be live-streamed. Pre-registration is required for virtual participants, to receive a **Zoom** link to the meeting go to this website: [VOW Climate](#).

**Amy Lewis** is an independent consultant hydrologist and water resource planner. Her experience working at the NM Environment Department, Office of the State Engineer, and the City of Santa Fe gives her a strong background in water quality and water rights issues. She is working with the Interstate Stream Commission on evaluating the resilience of public water systems and irrigated agriculture to pending climate changes for the State's 50-Year Water Plan

**Caiti Steele** is coordinator and deputy director of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Southwest Climate Hub, responsible for stakeholder outreach and regional and national partnerships. She is interested in how climate adaptation priorities vary across the Southwest region and how socio-economic factors affect the adaptive capacity of farmers and ranchers.

**Phoebe Suina**, the owner and president of High Water Mark, works on environmental engineering problems in Pueblo communities and throughout New Mexico. She works to communicate water issues, including climate change, to Pueblo communities and government leaders.

**Stephanie Moraga-McHaley** is the program manager of the New Mexico Environmental Public Health Tracking Department of the New Mexico Department of Health and a co-author on the 2020 report [Climate Change and Heat-Related Morbidity in New Mexico in 2030](#), which predicts a doubling of heat-related illnesses in the next decade.

**Crystal Tulley-Cordova** is a Principal Hydrologist in the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources – Water Management Branch. She has worked collaboratively with Navajo Nation partners on water-related research since 2013. Her work pre-pandemic focused on protecting and managing water resources in the Navajo Nation; since the start of the pandemic, her work has shifted to providing access to safe water for Navajo residents.

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## Announcements

**Save the Date: June 3-5, Socorro NM**

**The Socorro Branch is pleased to host the return to in-person conventions. We look**

forward to seeing you!

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Please see below for the updated AAUW NM Public Policy Priorities adopted at the last Leadership Team Meeting.

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## Branch News

### Las Cruces

Our branch is working hard to continue our *Girls Can!* program for 6th-grade girls in individual schools in Dona Ana County. Two issues caused us to reschedule our January presentations: one, an upsurge in Covid and, two, presenters' change of schedules. Our coordinator, Laura Bemis, persevered, as always, scheduling a presentation in February which we were finally able to have! Dr. Juie Sheyte, associate professor and researcher of astronomy at NMSU, introduced the students to the use of telescopes to locate and observe sunspots.

We are proud of the members of our board, who are hardworking and dedicated individuals. Yet, to be more effective in achieving our goals as they relate to our mission, we held a board training session led by **Kay Brilliant**, our parliamentarian. Kay has had years of experience in effective board training.

Finally, we have been able to gain new and potential new members, primarily through the enthusiasm of members who are spreading the word about our projects and programs. We have increased our membership to 110. It's not where it was two years ago, before Covid, but we still celebrate this improvement.

Submitted by *Anne Chase* and *Marsha Hokkanen*, Co-Presidents

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### Santa Fe

#### A MATINEE WITH WINE & JEWELS

3 to 6 PM Saturday, April 30, 2022,  
HERVÉ Wine Bar

139 West San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501



Join us for a delightful afternoon of wine-sipping and jewelry shopping! Previously loved rings, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, brooches & pins, as well as men's jewelry, will be on sale to benefit the Operating Account of the American Association of University Women, Santa Fe Branch. Purchase a new treasure for yourself or a gift for a loved one.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served and beverages will be available for your purchase.

Proof of COVID Vaccinations will be required. The event fee is \$15 for early registration or \$20 at the door. Please contact Enid Tidwell: [etidwell01@gmail.com](mailto:etidwell01@gmail.com) for more information and to RSVP. Checks may be mailed to Enid Tidwell, 10 East Sunflower Circle, Santa Fe, NM 87506

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**From National AAUW**

## 2022-2023 Fellowships and Grants for Women

AAUW is now accepting applications for women pursuing academic work or leading community projects. Here is the link: [aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/](https://aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/)

### AAUW NM Public Policy Priorities 2021-2023

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW's Public Policy Priorities provide a basis for members' participation in governmental decision-making. We are firmly nonpartisan, committed to being fact-based, and act with integrity in the public interest.

We believe that gender, socio-economic, and ethnic/racial equality is fundamental to our democracy and the key to improving the quality of life for all. We respect the civil and human rights of all individuals in our diverse, global society. We strive to be inclusive, and we collaborate with other like-minded, non-partisan organizations.

#### **In society at large, we advocate for**

\*Protection of the civil, constitutional, and equal rights laws guaranteed by the U.S. and New Mexico Constitutions and statutes.

\*Separation of church and state.

\*A fair, balanced, and independent judiciary.

\*Expansion of voting rights and fair, accessible elections; campaign finance reform; and an Independent Redistricting Commission.

\*Safe, livable, affordable housing and healthy, clean, and sustainable environments.

\*Universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services, including self-determination of one's reproductive and end-of-life decisions.

\*Freedom from harassment, bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes.

\*Recognition of gun violence as a health issue.

\*Guarantee of civil rights for all family structures, gender orientations, and identities.

\*Respect for the civil and human rights of all immigrants.

\*Guarantee of civil rights and equal treatment for all family structures, gender orientations, and identities.

\*Access to well-regulated, quality eldercare, childcare, and dependent care.

\* Federal adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.

\* Support at home and internationally of programs that address human rights; girls'/women's access to education and careers, and the full range of health care services without interference in personal reproductive decisions.

#### **In the workforce, we advocate for**

\*Pay equity, fair compensation, and policies that promote work-life balance and ensure economic security.

\*Equitable access to advancement in employment and freedom from sexual or gender harassment.

\*Workplaces free from personal and employment discrimination.

\*Leadership opportunities for women to close the

### AAUW NM Leadership Team 2020-2022

#### **Elected positions:**

##### **President:**

Lynn Heffron

[lgheffron@gmail.com](mailto:lgheffron@gmail.com)

##### **Co-VP Programs**

Roxanne Lara

[laralaw@windstream.net](mailto:laralaw@windstream.net)

Louise Yakey

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##### **VP-Membership**

Laura Bemis

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##### **Finance Chair**

Shelley Rossbach

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##### **Secretary**

Judy McGuire

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##### **Academic Chair**

Mary Sandford

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##### **Public Policy Chair**

Meredith Machen

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##### **Past President**

Sylvia Fink

[sjsfink@gmail.com](mailto:sjsfink@gmail.com)

##### **Nominations Chair**

Kathie Davis

[kadkathryn@gmail.com](mailto:kadkathryn@gmail.com)

#### **Appointed positions:**

##### **Branch Projects Grants Chair**

Sylvia Fink

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##### **Governance Chair**

Phyllis Ludi

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##### **Diversity/Inclusion Chair**

Kaarin Goncz

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##### **College/University Chair**

Rebecca Reiss

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##### **Newsletter Editor**

Judy McGuire

gender, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic gaps.

\*Greater access to benefits, including paid family, medical, and sick leave.

\*Strengthening retirement programs and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization and benefit cuts.

### **In PreK-12 education, we advocate for**

\*A well-funded, high quality, culturally and linguistically responsive, multicultural public education system that promotes gender and racial equality and addresses the barriers and biases that hinder the advancement

\*Policies and efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income; Black, Hispanic, Native American, and other students of color; girls; and students with disabilities.

\*Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to educational accountability.

\*Programs that meet the needs of girls including strong promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and career development skills.

\*Comprehensive health programs including effective sex education, social and emotional wellness, and prevention (teen pregnancy, substance abuse, dropout, bullying, harassment, gun violence, and suicide).

\*Programs to improve postsecondary access, civic participation, and job success.

\*Financial management to improve savings, earnings, and economic security.

### **In public post-secondary education, we advocate for**

\*High-quality academic programs that meet the needs and professional goals of women including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

\*Programs that support social-emotional and physical health; academic success; career preparation, training, and development.

\*Scholarships and grants to improve access to and completion of programs by women, impacted people of color, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

\*Programs that prepare women with skills and training for career success, including in non-traditional occupations, entrepreneurship, internship opportunities, and work experiences.

More information: <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/>  
Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair,  
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#### **Parliamentarian**

Phyllis Ludi

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#### **Website Manager**

Cheri Burch

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#### **AAUW NM Awards Chair**

Helena Whyte

[mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com)

#### **Vacant appointments:**

International Interest Chair

Media Relations Chair

AAUW Funds Chair

Historian

#### **AAUW**

Founded in 1923

#### **Mission:**

To advance gender equity  
for women and girls  
through research,  
education, and advocacy

#### **AAUW-NM Focus:**

"Empowering Women to  
change their lives"

AAUW NM

AAUW





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