

VOICES

THE FALL ISSUE



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Letter from the Director

by Kathleen Holgerson

In my May 2021 letter, we were in week 60 of working remotely. As I start to write this, we are in week 16 of being back in person. It has been great to welcome our student staff to the physical space of the Women's Center. Yet, we are still navigating masks, cleaning, and social distancing – which means no more meals at staff meeting, a big disappointment for them. It also means seeing people IRL as opposed to in a box on the screen. So many people, myself included, have commented on having to navigate social interactions after being isolated for many months and finding it hard to recognize people, even colleagues we have worked with for years. Finally, we are navigating geographies, as Caitlin writes about, that elicit a range of memories and emotional responses.

We are also exploring what hybrid work looks like. While we have in-person staff on site every day, we are trying to retain some of the flexibility we experienced during our remote work to help accommodate our multiple commitments and responsibilities. It has been interesting to be back in person only to be in virtual meetings most of the day, which I hear is a trend for many who came back to the office this semester. For our student staff, hybrid options are helpful when navigating exposures and/or waiting for tests results.

We are doing all of this because our sense of community matters. We had new student staff this semester and returning staff who had never actually worked in the Center space. Our affinity groups are creating community among staff and faculty who are looking for connection and resource sharing. Our support groups are holding space to explore identities and shared experiences.

Beginning in 2022, the Women's Center will begin celebrating our 50th anniversary. We look forward to highlighting the Center's herstory and cele-

brating the activists who have shaped the Center from the beginning to now. We are looking to extend our community building to alums of our various programs, so stay tuned for more information about those plans. UConn will also be recognizing the 50th anniversaries of the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center and Title IX, so we are in discussions about collaborations and intentional ways to use an intersectional framework in how we honor these. Much more to come.

In the meantime, I am finishing this on the heels of our last student staff meeting of the semester. We reflected on the semester, honored our December graduates, struggled in teams to finish escape room activities, and put together care packages for finals week. And mostly we laughed and were in community on the last day of classes. My wish for all, as we wrap up 2021, is that you have the opportunity to find laughter and community to finish out another challenging year.

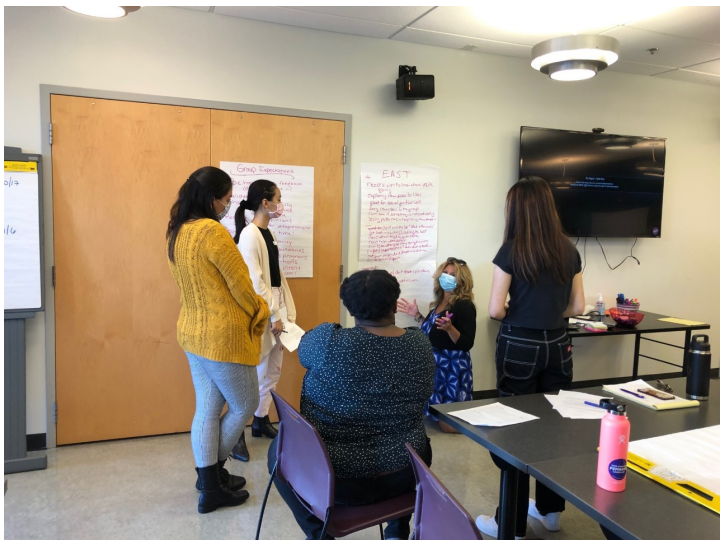


Photo credit to Kathy Fischer. Above is an image from the fall student staff retreat with three members of the professional staff discussing collaborative work strategies with two student staff members.

Letter from the Editor

by Caitlin Rich

Geographies are inextricably tied to memory. Being back to the setting where I locate many of my own painful experiences has allowed me to feel the extent of my healing—or at least what I perceive to be healing. On one side, I have greater self-awareness when experiencing people and places that would have formerly seized my nervous system. Yet, there are still edges that I am sensitive to—stories and places that nauseate and anger me. I try to love those feelings. Although healing is important, no one will ever be able to restore a past version of themselves. Experiences reshape us; healing smooths the edges.

Now that those latter feelings are no longer a constant, I can appreciate them as signals of the things to be rightfully angry about. Not everyone has been able to gain this distance during COVID-19, which has been a trauma in and of itself. However, everyone has had to return to campus. Now, we manage struggles from the pandemic that have not fully taken form along with the problems that never disappeared. Many of the Women's Center employees have discussed how difficult it is for students who are experiencing a crisis or, to use a less inflammatory word, decline in their mental health, to advocate for themselves within UConn's system of health and wellness, especially given the larger inequities of healthcare. As for the problems that have never disappeared, sexual assault and harassment are particularly salient ones. Social media accounts consistently share survivors' stories from UConn. Although sexual assault is happening presently, many of these stories are from the past. This could be for the reason that it takes time for survivors to feel enough agency to share their experiences with others. Another is that while on campus, survivors are at risk of seeing the peer who abused them anywhere—in the library, in class, at a party, or in their home. Or maybe they have not seen them at all; perhaps they have only heard

about how their former friends, partners, or acquaintances are thriving. This issue is just one of many. I would never be able to sufficiently describe or understand the multitude of harm and unique precarities that UConn's community—of workers, parents, leaders, BIPOC, and queer groups—face.

Fortunately, the Women's Center (and its whole 30 student staff members) is connected to various parts of the community, and therefore has the power to raise awareness and advocate for students' concerns. Each piece of this newsletter, written by mostly new staff members, is intended to inform readers of the various avenues that have been designed and constantly updated to support students, staff, and faculty. These supports may have felt more urgent during the height of the pandemic—and they undeniably were—but the pandemic itself and the traumas it has caused are not disappearing. These support systems recognize various identities and accompanying experiences as a place of both harm and healing. Although sexual assault is deeply harmful, you will read how students empower survivors. And even though a person's mental health, physical body, capability, and who they love are often questioned and stigmatized, the Women's Center aims to recenter marginalized folk and the narratives around those targeted identities.



See a virtual tour of the Women's Center created by our Graduate Assistant, Tania Flores, and meet some of the Center's student staff employees.

New Staff Introductions

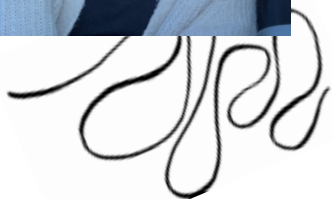


AJAY ARCHANA (she/her), Class of 2022
VAWPP Facilitator

Major in psychology & sociology; minor in English
Beloved Activist: Malala Yousafzai

Archana will be “leading facilitations on consent in FYE classes” and enjoys “being part of a great community!”

welcome



JULIA CARANGELO (she/her), Class of 2023
VAWPP Facilitator

Major in marketing; minor in women’s,
gender, and sexuality studies
Beloved Activist: Malala Yousafzai

Julia is most excited “to foster a greater sense of community within our campus and carry everything that we discuss at the Center into the future.” She says, “I hope to enact a positive change on our campus and leave every workshop knowing that I positively influenced someone.”



JENNY CHALLAGUNDLA (she/her), Class of 2021
VAWPP Facilitator

Major in biology; minor in statistics
Beloved Activist: Mahatma Gandhi

“I am proud to be a part of a Center that advocates for and empowers women and men, as well as survivors, and provides a safe space for students. I hope to spread all that I have learned through the Women's Center to as many students as I can. I also want to destigmatize talking about sensitive topics and invite people into an open and honest conversation.”



QIANQIAN CHEN (she/her), Class of 2021
VAWPP Facilitator

Major in psychology; minor in human
development and family sciences

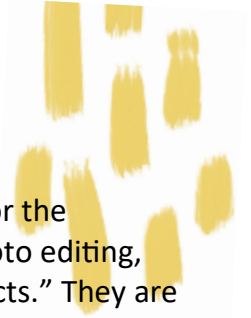
Qianqian says, “I love this warm and lovely space. I am excited for educating first year students about consent, sexual assault and gender based violence.” At the Center, she would like to “work on culturally competent program planning and create a safe environment for international students to share their stories.”





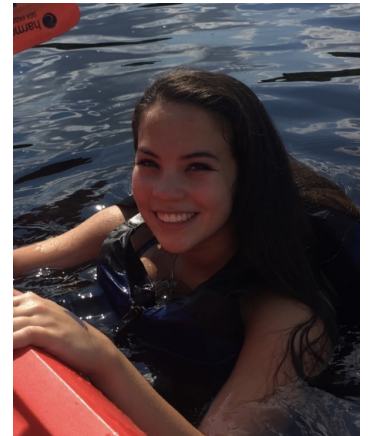
ALICIA CHIU (she/they), Class of 2025
Graphic Designer & Website Specialist
 Major in computer science & art
 Beloved Activist: Mahogany L. Browne

In their role, Alicia will be “designing marketing material for the Women's Center programs and services, assisting with photo editing, and creating concepts and layouts for web and print projects.” They are “excited to learn more about feminism through an intersectional lens” and hope “to build a respectable portfolio.”



JORDAN CONNOLLY (she/her), Class of 2023
Body Project Coordinator
 Major in social work & Spanish
 Beloved Activist: Glennon Doyle

“As an aspiring social worker, my experiences at the Women's Center will provide me with valuable knowledge for my career. I'm especially passionate about body acceptance, and I am grateful to be an active participant in the programs which promote self-love and women’s empowerment. I hope to break down some of the myths and narratives that impede women from accepting our bodies. I believe that open dialogues are the best way to promote change, and it is my goal to get more students engaged with our body acceptance programs at the Women's Center.”



NATALIE (TINGTING) CUNNINGHAM (she/her), Class of 2023
Between Women Facilitator
 Major in human development and family sciences; minor in English
 Beloved Activist: Yuri Kochiyama

“I run a discussion group for queer and questioning women where we talk about fun topics such as movies, representation, music and more! I hope to help other people find a place on campus where they can be completely comfortable. I am most excited about being part of a welcoming and diverse community here at the Center.”

ALLY FANNON (she/her), Class of 2022
VAWPP Facilitator
 Major in sociology
 Beloved Activist: Tarana Burke

“My hope is that I influence the students in each of the classes I facilitate. I want to get students thinking about how gender norms and expectations are at play everyday in their own lives and the ways in which they affect gender based violence.” Ally also shares that she is a “community service chair for Hearts Over Latin America, which is a service group that raises money to donate to projects in Latin America that will have sustainable impacts on underprivileged communities.”





KIARA GAMBUZZA (she/they), Class of 2022
In-Power Co-Facilitator
Major in psychology
Beloved Activist: Blair Imani

“At the Women's Center, I hope to provide a confidential support system for victim-survivors of sexual assault, stalking, and/or intimate partner violence and to help them to feel heard and validated. I hope that I can assist those who need it in their healing journey and provide the resources to aid them no matter where they are in this journey.”



HEIDI PINEDA (she/her/ella), Class of 2023
VAWPP Facilitator

Major in political science & psychology; minor in Latino studies
Beloved Activist: B Diaz

“As the Event Coordinator for the Central American Student Association, I am excited to collaborate with the Center to create inclusive and intentional programming that tackles important topics in the Latinx community.” Additionally, Heidi shares, “I am a state-certified sexual assault advocate, and through that role I have supported survivors/victims in crisis and hope to continue work dismantling the systems of oppression that perpetuate gender-based violence.”



NATALIE PLEBANK (she/her), Class of 2022
Programming Committee Co-Chair
Major in molecular and cell biology
Beloved Activist: Amanda Gorman

“I am most excited to meet and reach many students from all around campus and hope that our programs can be impactful and maybe even inspirational in their own life journeys. I hope to build an inclusive and welcoming community where anyone can come and feel free to be their truest selves! Something that I am really passionate about is mental health. Through this position, I want to work to destigmatize mental illness.”



KELLIE SARTORIS (she/her), Class of 2023
Programming Committee Co-Chair
Major in political science; minor in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies & geography
Beloved Activist: Patrisse Cullors

“I am most excited to meet new people and learn more about feminist issues. At the Women's Center, I hope to organize events that spread awareness of our mission and provide all UConn students a safe place to express themselves.”





SARAH VAZQUEZ (she/her), Class of 2021
VAWPP Facilitator
 Major in human development and family
 sciences & psychology
 Beloved Activist: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Sarah will be “bringing awareness to and preventing gender-based sexual violence across the UConn campus community through advocacy efforts.” She says, “I hope to integrate the social justice framework efforts of the Women's Center into my professional and personal life, particularly on my path to working in the social work field after graduation.” In her personal life, she says, she loves “cooking Puerto Rican dishes to be more connected with my culture.”



ZEHUI WANG (she/her), Class of 2023
VAWPP Facilitator
 Major in actuarial science
 Beloved Activist: Roxane Gay

“My main job is to facilitate Consent 201 workshops in FYE [first-year experience] classes. I’m most excited to meet people and make friends. I hope to become more educated about feminism and help more people realize the importance of consent.”



ASHAUREAH WILLIAMS (she/her), Class of 2024
VAWPP Facilitator
 Major in psychology & neurobiology
 Beloved Activist: Angela Davis

“I educate and encourage consensual and healthy actions to prevent sexual assault/harassment on college campus. I am most excited to be able to work with such a welcoming and collaborative community on various projects. I hope to help college students when it comes to resources such as reporting. I also hope to leave students feeling safer and welcome on campus.”



NAYARA ZAINADINE (she/her), Class of 2022
GASA Co-Facilitator
 Major in biomedical engineering
 Beloved Activist: The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“My position allows me to educate the Greek community at UConn about sexual assault and all of the factors that contribute to and perpetuate it, specifically on college campuses. Along with my Co-Facilitator, Sarah, we can have these difficult (and often taboo) conversations that will ultimately make our campus safer and more educated. I hope to truly impact everyone that joins our GASA cohort and extend the reach of the Center's values while creating a safe, welcoming environment for everyone that visits the Center.”



The Body Project

by Jordan Connolly



The UConn Body Project is a program that emphasizes creating and reaffirming positive and healthy body image through student-led workshops in which participating students can critique beauty ideals, discuss their personal experiences with body image, and identify ways to resist sociocultural pressures. These workshops are led by women-identified leaders who are passionate about promoting positive body image and confidence on campus.

At UConn, our Body Project workshops follow a national curriculum which involves a set of two, two-hour sessions capped at fifteen participants and led by three peer facilitators. During the workshops, peer facilitators introduce powerful dialogues about what the “appearance ideal” is and the costs of pursuing it. Participants work collaboratively on structured activities during the workshop and then independently work on activities after each session. The purpose is to critically analyze societal pressures relating to our bodies. Those involved are encouraged to leave the Body Project sessions with a sense of empowerment and a drive for body-positive activism.

During the past year of virtual education, the UConn Body Project unfortunately lost our critical mass of peer facilitators. Consequently, our team of body activists, including my own position as the Body Project Coordinator, is entirely new this semester. As such, the brunt of my work at the start of this school year has consisted of outreach to young women who are interested in leading our program. Following the first application period, our program hosted its first facilitator training on

October 1st and 3rd, and we are now equipped with a fresh cohort of eager facilitators.

In addition to the specific Body Project programming, I hope to introduce a wave of body-acceptance oriented events and seminars through the Women’s Center. Students who wish to get involved with the Body Project, see updates on body acceptance events, and be notified on our next facilitator application period can follow the [Women’s Center Instagram](#) and the [Women’s Center Weekly](#) email. Student organizations and individuals who are interested in attending our program can visit “request a workshop” through our “programs and services” tab on the Women’s Center website.

Even if your organization exceeds fifteen members, we are able to split the group into multiple workshops in order to provide our service. Additionally, participants do not have to be affiliated with an organization in order to experience the Body Project and can join an unaffiliated cohort to attend the workshops. For more information, contact a facilitator at bodyproject@uconn.edu.



Image courtesy of *Black Rose Anarchist Federation*. It reads, “You’re beautiful. It’s society that’s f@#!ed.”

Suicide Awareness Week

by Kellie Sartoris

As a new Co-Chair of the Programming Committee at the Women's Center, I often get asked "What do you even do?" Ignoring the hint of mockery embedded within the question, I respond to them with pride. The official mission of the Women's Center is to "educate, advocate, and provide support services for the achievement of women's equity at the university and within the community at large." To me, this means working towards a better life for future generations of students and is nothing to be ashamed of.

This past September, the Programming Committee held two events to raise awareness

for the 46th National Suicide Prevention Week. The first event was centered around practicing mindfulness and other ways in which an individual can check in with themselves. Students were supplied with a journal to decorate while listening to a presentation on de-escalation techniques. The purpose of the event was to provide a safe and fun environment for students to learn about the importance of mental health. The second event included an installation of the Kindness Rocks Project. Students gathered to paint nice, uplifting messages on rocks that were dispersed around campus with the intent to lift the spirits of students walking by.



A student union staff member holds a red painted kindness rock that reads, "you are loved."

priority. It is the goal of the Programming Committee to provide safe spaces for anyone who wants to participate.

As another example of this, we brought attention to domestic violence with a Silent Witness Exhibit. This display took place in the Women's Center Multipurpose Room and featured stories of women in Connecticut who lost their lives to domestic violence, to honor the women who were murdered, and encourage action to create change in our community.



Johnathon the Husky Statue with a kindness rock to the right.

"One message at just the right moment can change someone's entire day, outlook, life"
- The Kindness Rock Project

Events like these reduce the stigmas associated with mental health and help bring awareness to topics that are often hard to discuss. As a member of the Women's Center, creating comfortable environments for all types of individuals is my

The Clothesline Project



About

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For this, the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) hosted the Clothesline Project, a visual display of t-shirts, to honor the survivors of sexual and relationship violence. The Clothesline Project was created in 1990 by the Cape Cod Women's Agenda in Massachusetts. For almost a decade, VAWPP has facilitated this project with students who are either survivors or secondary-survivors of gender-based violence. Survivors were first given the opportunity to write messages on displayed t-shirts. Campus members who stopped at the table were able to write supportive messages to survivors on small paper t-shirts and talk to VAWPP Facilitators about how to prevent gender-based violence.

All photos are credited to Qianqian Chen.



To the left is a picture of one of the new VAWPP facilitators, Qianqian Chen. Reflecting on the project, she says, "Sometimes people say they really needed these handouts to know how to support friends who have experienced gender-based violence... I feel really honored when someone thanks me for doing this, telling me this is what happened to them."



Students are hanging t-shirts outside of McHugh Hall.



Members of the UConn community wrote messages to survivors of gender-based violence on small paper t-shirts.



VAWPP facilitator Ash Williams is at the Clothesline Project information table. Behind her are the clotheslined t-shirts.

In-Power

by Kiara Gambuzza & Lindsay Chapman

In-Power is a student led support group that focuses on empowering victim-survivors of sexual assault, stalking, and/or intimate partner violence. Our group has a focus on healing and resilience, aiming to help participants claim agency over their own stories and experiences. Students of all gender identities are welcome to join the group regardless of whether their experiences have occurred at UConn, and it is even open to those who are unsure of how to label their experiences.

This semester, In-Power focuses on a wide range of topics including: self-care, romance and dating, establishing boundaries, victim-blaming, stereotypes, and more. We take a psychoeducational approach that centers introspection, self-exploration, and group discussions. The main focus of all of our activities and discussions is to guide participants through their healing process and allow them to get in touch with themselves. For example, we have worked with participants to help them establish what healthy boundaries with people in their lives would look like, discuss common forms of victim blaming and how to combat those statements, and recognize behaviors present in healthy and unhealthy relationships. For our self-care session, we had members of the group paint positive self-affirmations that they could take with them as a reminder of their strength and resilience. Later in the semester, we will be discussing how media representations and stereotypes can affect victim-survivors, as well as the impacts of toxic masculinity.

As facilitators, our job is to listen and validate victim-survivors and provide them with resources that can best help them. This is an important resource to UConn students, as it allows them to process their experiences in a safe environment. For some, it can be challenging or intimidating to

get involved with mental health services, so our support-group is a great space to feel supported by peers while finding ways to process their trauma. We also are the only support group at UConn for victim-survivors following the discontinuation of SHaW's Stronger program.

We encourage victim-survivors to get involved with In-Power at any stage of their recovery. Participants are invited to share as little or as much of their personal experiences as they are comfortable with. There is no formal process for getting involved in the group; participants are welcome to come to as many or as few sessions as they are able. Each week, we send an email with the topic as well as reflection questions from the week prior so participants can feel prepared for the conversations.

In-Power meets weekly on Tuesdays from 5-7 PM. If you have any questions, comments or concerns or would like to be added to our email list, please feel free to reach out to us at in-power@uconn.edu.



Image courtesy of Hana Shafii. It reads, "healing is not linear."

BETWEEN WOMEN

by Tingting Cunningham

Between Women is a discussion group for queer and questioning women to talk about their experiences. Our goal is to provide WLW (women-loving-women) with a safe space where they can be surrounded by those with similar feelings and experiences. Privacy is a key aspect of this group, as we recognize there are many people who want to feel part of a community without being outed or put in uncomfortable situations. I understand how difficult it can be to find a community for WLW that is safe but also discreet for those who may be closeted. As a first-time facilitator of the group, I hope to provide WLW with a place on campus where they feel comfortable and accepted.

campus and spreading anti-LGBTQ+ values. Being targeted on campus can be a stressful and othering experience, which is why we aim to provide a space where such communities can talk through their experiences and feel secure. I encourage all WLW to attend, even if it is only once, so that they know they are not alone on campus.



Image courtesy of Lisa Congdon Art & Illustration. It reads, "peace to all who enter here."

With recent disturbances on campus that have targeted the LGBTQ+ community, the need for groups like Between Women is more important than ever. As you may have heard, there have been recent instances of preachers coming to

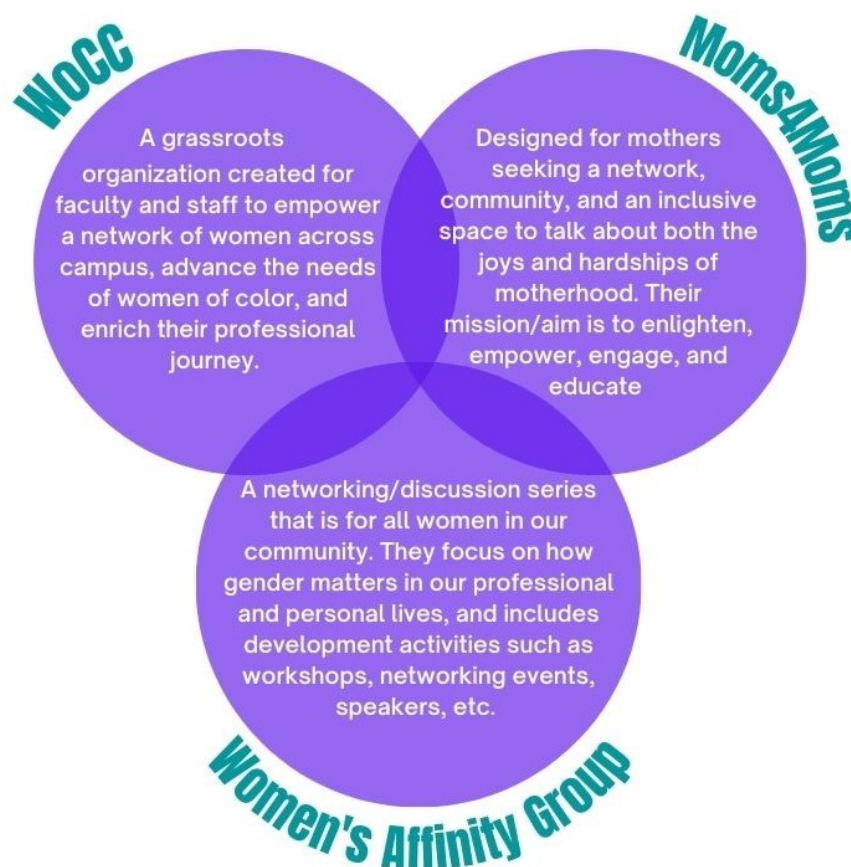


Although we have a list of scheduled topics, we are open to anything participants may want to discuss! Participants are free to attend whichever topics they feel more comfortable discussing. Our subjects range from coming out to navigating the dating scene as a queer woman. Although some lean towards the more serious side, we still leave room for fun! For example, we have movie nights planned with a wide range of WLW movies to choose from. Currently, the group meets on Wednesdays from 7-9 PM and is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in the LGBTQ+ community. For more information, contact us at BetweenWomen@uconn.edu.

The Women of Color Collective

Q&A with Judy Lopez

In addition to hosting Between Women and In-Power for undergraduate students on campus, the Women's Center has three groups for staff and faculty—Moms4Moms, Women's Affinity Group, and the Women of Color Collective. Professional women are often involved in more than one, as while each group's respective mission is distinct, the inequities that women face are interrelated. The empowerment that comes from organizing across differences and seeing similarities is described by Women's Center Assistant, Judy Lopez.



Why do women-identified faculty and staff of color need this kind of group?

Women of color need that space for them to feel that sense of belonging where they can get together and kind of share stories and feel that they are understood. I think that space of understanding each other and being able to bounce things is very helpful.

You say the collective follows the mantra of, “empowered women empower women.” Can you speak more on how this mantra influences the intention of the group?

Since we all come from very different walks of life, and we all work in very different departments, it's kind of powerful when... we have people with various degrees; we have people with PhDs, faculty that join, we have staff, we've had all sorts of different levels whether you're a director,

associate, leader, so I think that when all of us come together it empowers us knowing that we have people like us in that status, and that we can get there. Whether it's coming together and just having a very authentic talk, it shows the importance of being in community with each other.

Everyone comes from different areas, but, there are similarities in your experiences?

Right, we all come from very different departments, race, culture, ethnicity. We all come very different, but we all come with that common value. It is a goal for us to continue to raise women of color. Women in general have been oppressed, but women of color even more. We make sure there is that space for us to continue to grow and feel empowering and feel that freedom. That's why that space is important. If you feel like you want to say something, you know that space is safe for us to talk and vent.

What are some of the situations that you try to navigate together?

I think how do you deal with COVID, how do you deal with being home with children? There was talk when George Floyd was killed; we had a lot of parents, a lot of moms, Black moms come out and speak about how does that feel when you have Black child, and especially a son, how important and... just being in community and supporting each other and hearing, listening, and understanding—wow that is very different for a lighter person. Just navigating, giving that space, that voice, that is needed at times. Sometimes you just need someone to listen.

2020 PROFESSIONALS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Representation of Women, Racial/Ethnic Minorities, and Black/Hispanic Women in Leadership Positions by Professional Area

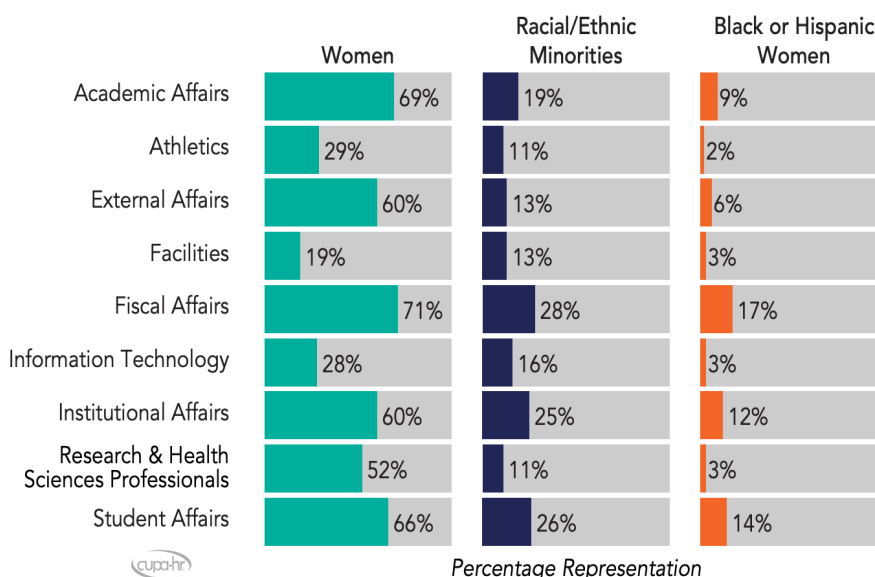


Figure 9

Image Courtesy of CUPA-HR. Above is a diagram showing the percentage of women, people of racial/ethnic minorities, and Black or Hispanic women with leadership positions in higher education.

Even now coming back there are still people navigating through that, like how do you navigate doing hybrid or coming to work and exposing yourself and having children at home and having elderly parents you might get sick. The importance of recognizing that we have the space... knowing that we are here, we have a connection.

EMPLOYEE AFFINITY GROUPS

AFRICAN AMERICAN FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION (AAFSA)

The African American Faculty Staff Association (AAFSA) of University of Connecticut seeks to support the quality of campus life for faculty, students and staff of the African Diaspora. Recognizing the challenges that the campus environment poses, the AAFSA seeks to provide a safe space where members of the black community can explore their concerns. The Association uses insights from these conversations to create programming and to lobby for policies. Through service on University committees, engagement with the broader community and hosting responsive events, AAFSA members demonstrate that they are enthusiastic partners in the University of Connecticut's commitment to be recognized as a top public University in United States.

ASIAN AMERICAN FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION (AAFSA)

The UConn Asian American Faculty & Staff Association (AAFSA) promotes the welfare of Asian and Asian Americans at the University of Connecticut, promotes intellectual and cultural understanding among people of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and fosters a sense of community by sponsoring social and professional activities among UConn faculty and staff. Membership is open to Asian, Asian American and other UConn faculty and staff members interested in Asian and Asian American affairs.

ASSOCIATION OF LATINA/O FACULTY AND STAFF (ALFAS)

An organization for faculty and professional staff devoted to representing, addressing the needs, and raising awareness about issues that pertain to UConn's Latinas/os. ALFAS seeks to advance educational and work opportunities that would enhance the status of Latinas/os within the University community. For more information, please see <https://alfas.uconn.edu/> or contact katerine.pais@uconn.edu

MOMS4MOMS (M4M)

Moms4Moms is a designed group for mothers employed or enrolled at the University of Connecticut. This group was created for mothers seeking a network, community, and an inclusive space to talk about both the joys and hardships of motherhood. The groups' mission/aim is to enlighten, empower, engage, and educate through shared experiences of M4M members, activities, and workshops. For more information, please contact Trisha.Hawthorne@uconn.edu

QUEER BIPOC FACULTY/STAFF AFFINITY GROUP

The Queer Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Faculty and Staff Affinity serves to provide a space for community dialogue as needed, opportunities to be in community with one another, and to intentionally prevent assimilation to structures that demand free labor from BIPOC. For more information go to <https://rainbowcenter.uconn.edu/uconnlgbtqiagroups/>

QUEER UCONN EMPLOYEES AFFINITY GROUP (QUE)

QUE facilitates opportunities for community building and support for queer-identifying and queer-connected staff and faculty at UConn and UConn Health. As the group grows in size and strength, opportunities for advocacy that arise organically will be welcome. For more information go to <https://rainbowcenter.uconn.edu/uconnlgbtqiagroups/>

WOMEN OF COLOR COLLECTIVE (WOCC)

A community created for faculty and staff to uplift and empower a network of women across the UConn campus. Following the mantra that "empowered women empower women", we strive to operate as a sisterhood through professional development, supportive networking, and emotional support. WoCC seeks to advance the needs of women of color and enrich their professional journey while at UConn. For more information, please contact Judy Lopez at Judy@uconn.edu.

WOMEN'S AFFINITY GROUP (WAG)

A networking/discussion series that is for all women in our community, across various identities (demographics, roles at the University, departments and disciplines, etc.). The focus will be on how gender matters in our professional and personal lives, and will include development activities such as workshops, networking events, speakers, etc. For more information, please contact womensaffinitygroup@uconn.edu

Apply Now!



The Men's Project Spring 2022 Application is [here!](#)

The goal of the Men's Project is to train students to positively influence their peers by challenging social norms that promote gender-based violence; understanding their connection to survivors of gender-based violence; and role modeling effective bystander interventions. The weekly meetings will focus on topics related to gender socialization, masculinities, social justice and gender-based violence.



Image Courtesy of *Next Gen Men*. It reads, "Masculine Norms and Violence Making the Connections"

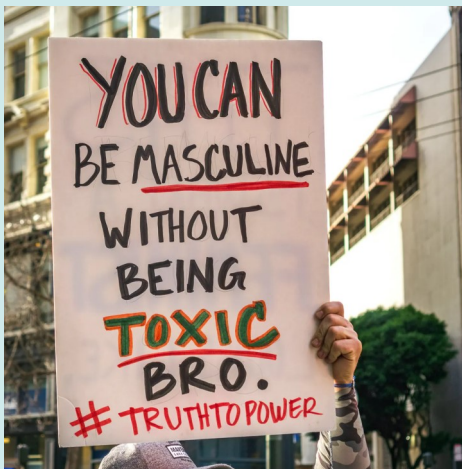


Image courtesy of Sundry Photography/Shutterstock. Above is a protest poster that reads, "You can be masculine without being toxic bro. #TruthToPower."

Previous year's participants shared that the program was transformative, challenging, and that after the program their implementation of bystander intervention strategies greatly increased.

We are looking for a diverse group of participants with unique experiences, perspectives and backgrounds. Ideal candidates are students who relate well to other's who identify as men; who are sensitive to issues of gender-based violence; and are open to collective and collaborative learning.



Upcoming Events

12/16 Empower Hour: Reflecting on the Fall & Preparing for Spring 2022

As a follow up to the Empower Hour we hosted in July of this year, the Women's Affinity Group is excited to announce our next event on December 16, which will focus on reflecting back to the Fall 2021 semester and preparing for the Spring 2022 semester. A calendar invitation with a WebEx link and more details will be coming out shortly!

Spring 2022 Greek's Against Sexual Assault (GASA) commences with their select cohort

GASA is a group of Greek-affiliated students who come together to discuss issues of gender, sexuality, violence, and privilege in a safe space. Its mission is to analyze and understand how rape culture is manifested in our college campus setting as a result of the behaviors and attitudes of students both within and outside of the fraternity/sorority community and to work toward creating a safer campus environment for all.

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