

The Student Affairs Diversity Council (SADC) strives to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes the broad scope of diversity within the division.

Student Experiences a Gender-safe Space on Utah Campus



By Rose Jones

The Women's Resource Center at the U is a catalyst for releasing women from traditional Old English subservience to their platform of excellence and empowerment.

Beginning with a greeting exuding positive energy, the women from the WRC present themselves with confidence and strength. I went into the WRC out of curiosity, and came out knowing I wanted to feel like the women there feel. I also knew that I had found the perfect place for assistance and encouragement in gaining my full potential.

The WRC came into existence in 1971, and offers an array of services including helping women return to school, counseling on an independent basis, offering nontraditional scholarships and advancing career goals for single parents.

The graduation rate for women in Utah is the lowest in the nation. Women, especially women of color, are rendered invisible in the decision processes of our state Legislature.

Perhaps with the exceptional work and effort given at the WRC, we will someday see a woman in Utah take a national

Congressional seat.

Unlike the old-school "gentleman's clubs," which ostracize women by canonizing principles such as Freemasonry and religious hierarchy, the WRC does not reject men. Men can apply for the same services.

Being raised in Utah during the 1970s and '80s, I watched the rise in female power from a distance. The majority of Utah's young women, as with many across the nation, were saddled with the text "Fascinating Womanhood" and were forced to

take high school courses in home economics — in other words, women were given housewife instruction, and discouraged from pursuing professional careers.

But even in apron-clad times, the advances of heroes such as Gloria Steinem and her Ms. Magazine crept into our bedrooms. Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" guaranteed at least four months of girlfriend sleepovers reading about empowerment. The same book caused many fretful brows on male church leaders.

Moreover, we learned that there was a world beyond Utah from courageous publications written by women such as Maya Angelou, who worked closely and took many risks to get out the message of equality driven by Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. Oprah Winfrey's iconic vision has empowered women for decades.

A hundred years ago, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns began the fight for American women's voting rights, and in 1920 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ensured it. But it is nothing to celebrate, really, because the 12th Amendment

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ruled that the “electors,” gender neutral, should vote in their states for the president of the United States.

So women as a necessary part of “We the People” should have begun in 1803.

The dominant white man ruling culture in America has brought us to near collapse. We had a Revolutionary War to escape the royal ironhandedness, but it seems we failed to remove the queen Victorian women’s repressive policies from the New World.

For 200 years, such policies have spawned a battle against constitutional women’s rights such as abortion and birth control. Laws championed by brave women such as Margaret Sanger 90 years ago, and Jane Roe 40 years

ago, are being ridiculed fiercely.

Anti-women obstructionists such as Phyllis Schlafly and Gayle Ruzicka of the regressive Eagle Forum claim women rape themselves. This is the world in which we live, and people such as Schlafly and Ruzicka make the mission of the WRC even more important.

It is critical to support the WRC because it is vital for women’s academic success, from which empowerment proceeds.

We need more female law makers such as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who said, “Women are the most significant economic engine in the U.S.”

The WRC is producing such dynamics.

[This article was originally published on February 4, 2013 in the Daily Chronicle]

Top 10 Tips for Supporting Women



Image courtesy of the University of Utah

1. Provide welcoming space for all ages, cultures and backgrounds.
2. Create an environment that is sensitive to the presence of a woman (e.g. family friendly spaces, breastfeeding, childcare, health needs).
3. Develop an awareness of the lack of economic parity that continues to exist for women.
4. Don’t make assumptions nor limit opportunities founded on gender-based stereotypes.
5. Recognize and be sensitive to the minority status and subtle, hostile environment that women in STEM fields navigate.
6. Help educate yourself and others about resources available to women (e.g. policies, campus departments, where to go to get help with

sexual assault, domestic violence, assistance when walking to their vehicles late at night).

7. Create a safer environment on campus (e.g. increased lighting, timely response to calls from women in need).
8. Recognize that culturally women assume more life and family responsibilities. Educate yourself to the different cultural morays for women globally.
9. When a student comes to you with academic concerns don’t be afraid to ask about abuse, trauma, depression or suicidal thoughts. Please take the time to listen to their whole story.
10. Pay attention when creating policies – political is personal.



MARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Current Women’s Health Issues & Policy



Heather Stringfellow
VP of Policy
Planned Parenthood of Utah

Heather Stringfellow serves as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Planned Parenthood Association of Utah. In this position she works with local, state, and federal officials to ensure that women and men have access to accurate reproductive information and healthcare. She will share with us her view on present policy debates ranging from the Affordable Care Act, attempts to eliminate family planning funding, to the issues faced at this year’s Utah Legislative session. Additionally, she will provide information about the Planned Parenthood clinics in Utah and the services they do and do not provide.

MARCH 20, 2013
12:00 PM—1:30 PM
PARLOR A

March Events & Women's Week 2013

Present through Sunday, March 31

Lionesses: Women in Service

North and South Lab Wall, Level 1, Marriott Library

Women veterans make up a small but significant portion of the U.S. military. Women veterans serve in peacetime and in war, in the U.S. and overseas, and even in combat. This exhibit features photographs of University of Utah-affiliated women veterans.

Monday, March 25, 7:30pm

Sibyl of the Rhine: Art, Music, & Poetry of Hildegard von Bingen

Gardner Hall, Dumke Recital Room

Music, lecture, and dance transport listeners to Medieval Germany with works by Hildegard von Bingen. Come and experience the fascinating life of this remarkable 12th century woman, presented in a rich multi-media performance.

Tuesday, March 26

Mentoring Matters: Paving the Path for Young Women in Utah Politics

10:45am—12:05pm, Orson Spencer Hall Room 253

Panel discussion by local women who have made mentoring other women a priority during their careers. Moderated by Professor Ella Myers, Assistant Professor of Political Science

A Perspective on Race, Class, and Gender in Contemporary Film

6:00pm-9:00pm, Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Bldg, Rm 109

Film screening of the award winning film *The Help*, followed by a discussion with faculty.

Wednesday, March 27

Mentor Match: Connecting Passion with Resources

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Student Union, Saltair Room

A mentoring dialogue aimed at undergraduate students. A wide-range of community activists and partners will be available to help undergraduates find mentoring opportunities that fit their career paths. Lunch will be served.

"Makers: Voices of Utah Women" film directed by Nancy Green

4:00 - 6:00 PM, College of Social Work, Room 155

"Makers" is a national campaign about trailblazing women from all walks of life who fight for something bigger than themselves.

Voices of Utah Women features the women who make Utah what it is today. Profiles include Karen Shephard Hughes, Josie Valdez, Esther Landa, Christine Durham and many more.

"Women Redefined," a Spy Hop production

5:00 - 6:00 PM, College of Social Work, Room 155

The film chronicles young women in Utah facing very different life experiences. You will hear the journey of a young man transitioning to live life as a woman, a young woman questioning the value of going to college and a young woman confronting violence against women and much more.

Thursday, March 28

Women's Week Keynote Address: "It Opened My Eyes", by Dr. Edith "Winx" Lawrence, Professor at University of Virginia

12:00-1:00pm, Union Saltair Room

Take Back the Night, 7pm at Stilwell Field, Fort Douglas Housing

"Take Back the Night" is an internationally recognized event created as a way for women to take a stand against sexual violence and increase awareness about crimes against women.

Join us for a community march to make our campus and community safe for women. A reception after the march will take place at the Student Union, Crimson View Room

Friday, March 29

Edie Kochenour Memorial Lecture and Symposium with

Maria Klawe, President of Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California

Symposium, 8:00-11:15am

Gould Auditorium, Marriott Library

"How Do I Get There from Here?" Strategies for Women's Success on the University Campus

Memorial Lecture, 12:00-1:15pm

Social & Behavioral Science Auditorium

"Strategies for Leveraging Women's Success in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math"



For more information and to register, visit:

<http://uofutrainig.wufoo.com/forms/z7x3p3/>



Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development
Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Kajsa Berlin-Kaufusi, Center for Learning Abroad
Arlyn Bradshaw, Dean of Students Office
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Nelly Divricean, International Center
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For more information and
recourses, please visit:
sadc.utah.edu