

2007 - 2008 AAUW NC Advocacy Skills Training Project

Getting Started Questions & Answers for Branches

Q Why is AAUW NC supporting this project?

A AAUW has learned that grass-roots advocacy is one of the most effective methods of bringing about policy change. We also know that people do not feel comfortable being advocates without some training. Our mission statement says advocacy is a way to advance equity for women and girls.

Q What are branches supposed to do?

A (1) Contact and set up a meeting with the college C/U Rep or the director of student affairs or community outreach. Invite the president of the Student Government Association to this meeting. Ask for 30 minutes of their time.

(2) Take one or two copies of the Young Advocates Toolkit and the Advocacy Project brochure with you. be prepared to present the project in a concise and factual manner, e.g. "Research has shown young people are interested in making changes in their world, but often lack the knowledge and skills for doing so. This toolkit opens the door for learning how to become an effective advocate. AAUW NC would like to share this information with the students. We feel your the student government leaders would be a good place to start a dialogue. That's why we're talking with you today."

(3) Have the student government leaders and a branch committee work together to set up meetings. Students would make the arrangements for the advocacy activity. Branch leaders would be the resource people. If the branch wants to donate money for soft drinks, cookies etc. that is fine.

(4) If a community issue should arise during the year, you could work in coalition with the students on the issue.

Q How does it connect to Association and AAUW NC priorities?

A The Association has stated Impact Grant expectations. The three that best fit our project are:

Increase awareness of AAUW's Public Policy program and ways for members to get involved.

Create a plan for increased activism on public policy priorities. Education issues, access to healthcare, social justice issues, voter education and Get-Out-The-Vote are priorities of both the Association and AAUW NC.

Provide educational programming on AAUW's public policy issues at the branch and state level.

Q How do you find a C/U rep from a college if you have no contacts there?

A You should contact the Director of Student Affairs.

Q How would you approach a university that has turned down C/U Partnership membership to participate in the Advocacy Skills Training Project?

A Colleges and universities do not have to be C/U Partners to take advantage of the Young Advocates Toolkit.

Q What is the advantage of being in a C/U Partnership?

A You gain information on scholarships, grants, leadership opportunities and research publications, just to name a few benefits.

Q What if students feel they do not have the time to devote to this project?

A Students will participate if they see the value to themselves as future professionals and citizens in a national and global sense.

Q I read more training will be provided. When and where?

A Come to the AAUW NC fall meeting in High Point. Bring as many branch members as possible – at least those who will be leaders in the project.



authors

YOUNG ADVOCATES TOOLKIT
A Guide to Being a
Champion for Children



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

Helps College Students
Learn to Use
Advocacy Skills

AAUW NC also contributed
to publication costs

North Carolina Civic
Education Consortium
contributed to publication costs

AAUW's mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research

Contact Information

Mary Peterson

mapeterson2@yahoo.com

Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo

bassoppomoyo@hotmail.com

866-525-2155

2007-2009 AAUW NC Public Policy

[www.aauw-nc.org/wp/category/
general/publicpolicy/](http://www.aauw-nc.org/wp/category/general/publicpolicy/)

Advocacy Project

<http://astp.aauwnc.org>
astp@aauwnc.org

State and Branch Updates

<http://news.aauwnc.org>

Download extra toolkits at

<http://www.ncchild.org/>