

Scholarship Administration

The Women's Center administers two privately funded scholarships:

Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship


Alumnae Society Scholarship

Applicants for these scholarships must be 28 years of age, have had at least a five-year break in their postsecondary education, be Minnesota residents, and be admissible or admitted to a University of Minnesota degree program (including all colleges and campuses). Application forms are available each January, with an early April deadline. Scholarships are awarded in May for the following academic year.

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Please call the Minnesota Women's Center at 612-625-9837.

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A Brief History of the MWC

The history of the Minnesota Women's Center documents ground-breaking work in the women's movement. In 1960, the Minnesota Plan for Continuing Education (as the program was called at the time) opened its doors after two years of preparation. Supported by an astonishing quarter of a million dollars from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the plan was the first continuing education program for women in the United States; Radcliffe was the second.

The program's success was the result of the women who masterminded the project, Virginia Senders, a psychologist, and Elizabeth Cless, a philosopher. Their program utilized existing university resources and consisted of counseling and career planning services, and community-based education. Senders, responsible for the counseling, was under Continuing Education and Extension (CEE) administration. Cless was in charge of community-based education and reported to Student Affairs.

The counseling service, available to any woman, was considered by some to be the cornerstone of the Minnesota Plan. The seminars were refresher courses for women who had educations, but who had been inactive in their chosen fields. After completing the seminars, which could be up to one year in length, participants would have the updated skills and knowledge needed to enter the work force.

After Senders and then Cless left, Vera Schletzer managed the entire program until 1965. At that time the program split into two parts. The counseling and career-planning service became a part of Continuing Education and Extension. The community-based education component became a part of Student Affairs, and was re-named Minnesota Planning and Counseling Center for Women. Schletzer joined CEE and Kathryn Randolph, who had been a high-ranking officer in the Marine Corps, was hired to head the center. On May 16, 1969, Anne Thoreson Truax became director of the center, a position she held until 1991. Soon after Truax's appointment, the center's name was changed from Minnesota Planning and Counseling Center for Women to the Minnesota Women's Center (MWC).

The MWC continued its original mission until 1990 when, for a number of reasons, it was not operational. Becky Swanson Kroll was hired in the summer of 1992 to be the new director, and the center reopened in April 1993 with a renewed commitment to women and women's issues.

—Adele Hoglin

Minnesota Women's Center

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Student Affairs

Twin Cities

Minnesota Women's Center

Established in 1959

Reestablished in 1993

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The Minnesota Women's Center . . .

was rededicated in 1993 with the mission to provide leadership in issues and activities affecting all women, emphasizing services to women students, including women of color, women with disabilities, lesbians, and re-entry women. Collaboration and cooperation with all University units providing services to women is a primary concern.

What follows are the central activities and services that the Minnesota Women's Center (MWC) provides for the University community. The programs and activities of the MWC will continue to develop in 1993-94.

Resource Room

The Resource Room provides a comfortable atmosphere where those interested in women's issues can investigate available resources. Print resources include books, periodicals, directories, and references. In addition, the collection includes metro-area newspapers and an up-to-date job book. Groups working on women's issues may schedule meetings in the Resource Room by calling the MWC.

Information and Referral Database

Developed jointly with Academic Personnel, the MWC has developed the Information and Referral Database (IRD), available through the University's Gopher server. The database contains campus, metro, national, and international resources of interest to women, and to those interested in women's issues. For materials explaining the database, contact us at the MWC.

Leadership Development

Leadership development is an important part of the MWC's mission. Opportunities for leadership are offered through the following programs of **Minnesota Plan II Student Initiative**, the students' component of the Minnesota Plan II, a campus-wide plan to improve the climate for all University women.

Campus Safety Audit

Students interested in safety and security on campus will be recruited for fall 1993 to conduct an audit of campus space. Students will join with other students and staff to identify problem areas and recommend changes to improve campus safety.

Small Grant Program

Financial support is awarded to group or individual applicants for activities that improve the climate for women students.

Women's Center Internships

During winter quarter 1994, 15 student internship positions are available to students interested in leadership development and advocacy on campus women's issues. Interns will attend group sessions and design and complete projects to improve the campus climate for women students.

NAWE College Women Student Leaders Conference

The Minnesota Women's Center cosponsored women student leaders who attended the spring 1993 conference sponsored by the National Association of Women in Education. These students are planning activities for the coming year to share their knowledge from the conference and to recruit the student delegation who will attend in spring 1994.

Mentoring

Jointly with the Commission on Women, the MWC cosponsors mentoring activities for target groups of students. Examples include:

Gathering of Women's Communities

This event welcomes and recognizes graduate student women from traditionally marginalized groups, bringing together members of the campus and metro communities of color, of lesbians, and of women with disabilities, to provide information and support to graduate student women in those communities.

Women in Science and Engineering

The Commission on Women and MWC provide support for University-wide activities promoting women in science and engineering. College-based teams identify priorities and conduct both college-based and University-wide activities to improve the climate and opportunities for women in science and engineering.

Coalition of Women Graduate Students

The Minnesota Women's Center provides meeting space for this group, dedicated to improving the mentoring that graduate students (men and women) need and deserve to receive. This group's activities (a conference on mentoring and a departmental guide to mentoring) has also been supported by small grants from the Commission on Women and the MWC.

"Noontimes"

"Noontimes" bag lunch programs feature University faculty and staff providing information, strategies, and concrete advice to promote the academic and professional success of graduate students. Past programs have included, for example, "Demystifying Publishing."

Internships

The Women's Center has information about internship opportunities, available through the Information and Referral Database and in the Job Book. In addition, three kinds of internships are sponsored or cosponsored by the Center.

Information and Referral Internships

Two students per quarters are selected to serve as information and referral interns. Each intern participates in training, holds office hours each week during the quarter, and completes a resource project identifying campus and community resources in a specific area (for example, resources for student parents).

Women's Center Internships

See description above under "Leadership Development."

Field Learning in Women's Studies

Jointly with the women's studies program, the MWC assists students in identifying community and campus internship opportunities and sponsors a field learning seminar for students applying classroom knowledge about women's issues in campus or community settings.