

Iowa New Choices RFP Released

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for grant awards to fund programs with pre-employment services to Iowa New Choices, formerly known as Iowans in Transition. Awards are contingent upon receipt of funding from the State of Iowa as appropriated by the 2008 Session of the 82nd General Assembly and signed by Governor Culver.

For these grant funds Iowa New Choices must meet the definition of displaced homemaker, single parent, or female offender. The deadline for receipt of proposals in the office of the Division on the Status of Women in the Department of Human Rights is no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 2008.

The RFP is available on the website at www.women.iowa.gov or by calling the office at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

Newsletter Changes

It's time for a new name! The *IoWoman* is being reformatted. Do you have a clever title for the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women's newsletter? If so, please e-mail your suggestions to lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.

Beginning with the October 2008 edition, the newsletter will primarily be sent electronically. To ensure you continue to receive the newsletter and other updates from the ICSW, please give us your e-mail address: chr.icsw@iowa.gov. You may opt to still receive it by mail by calling the office: 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

Students Celebrate *Write Women Back Into History*

Each year the month of March is observed as Women's History Month.



It is a celebration that is affirmed and supported by Governor Culver and by a concurrent resolution of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives. It is a time to celebrate the achievements of women in the nation and Iowa.

Women's History Month is an excellent opportunity to highlight the contributions, concerns, and importance of women in our society. In order to bring the accomplishments of women to the forefront, the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, the Iowa Department of Education, and the State Historical Society cosponsor an essay contest, *Write Women Back Into History*.

This year's theme, Women's Art: Women's Vision celebrates and recognizes the vision of women artists.

The winners will be honored on Tuesday, March 4 at a 1 p.m. ceremony by Lt. Governor Judge in the Kennedy Conference Room (G-9) of the State Capitol. The awards ceremony is free and open to the public. Students will also be introduced in the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives and have the opportunity to meet with their legislators. They will also tour the Capitol.

To view all winning essays, go to www.women.iowa.gov/wom_history/.

2008 *Write Women Back Into History* Essay Contest Winners

6-7 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Tyler Hupp, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- 2nd Place: Meghan Busswitz, College Community Schools/Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids
- 3rd Place: Connor Drahos, Prairie Middle School, Cedar Rapids

8-9 Grade Category

- 1st Place: Ryan Watters, Vernon Middle School, Marion
- 2nd Place: Jordan Schill, Urbandale Middle School
- 3rd Place: Kaitlin Moews, Indianola Middle School

Best Essays on Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for 6-7 Grades

- 1st Place: Madison Noble, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny
- 2nd Place: Lauren M. Cepelcha, Parkview Middle School, Ankeny

Best Essay on Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for 8-9 Grades

- 1st Place: Rachel Henning, Central-Clinton Community High School, DeWitt

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 34th Annual Iowa Women's Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women until **May 1, 2008** (postmarked).

Any group or person may submit a nomination by sending the completed form and six copies to the Commission office. Nominations remain current for three years and then may be resubmitted.

Forms can be obtained on the ICSW website at www.women.iowa.gov or by contacting the ICSW office at 515/281-4470, 800/558-4427 or lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

During April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, anti-sexual violence advocates and organizations focus their efforts on raising awareness nationwide. They hold special events and campaigns to draw attention to sexual violence as a major public health issue.

The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IowaCASA), along with the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans will be hosting A Call To Men, featuring Tony Porter. The event will be held on April 16 in Central Iowa. As specifics become available, you can find more information at www.iowacasa.org or www.women.iowa.gov.

IowaCASA unites people and organizations to promote a society free from sexual violence and to meet the diverse needs of survivors of sexual assault. To find sexual assault resources in your community, visit www.iowacasa.org or call the Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline at 800/284-7821.



creating an audience for girl's voices

Chapter 12: Sisterhood

May 22 - 23, 2008
The Hotel at Gateway Center
Ames

Keynote speakers, workshops, exhibitors, art, entertainment, door prizes, fun and learning for all.

To learn more, go to www.women.iowa.gov/girls/whisper_screams.html or call 515/281-6915 or 800/558-4427.

Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet

For the past nine years, an eclectic group of fascinating women have gathered to enjoy a glass of wine and to delight in the pleasure of each other's company. Community activists, business professionals, political veterans, and a political novice or two have found their ways to Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet and had the pure pleasure of great conversation.

The next Women You Know, Women You Want to Meet will be on Thursday, March 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center in Des Moines.

This annual gathering is a fundraising event for the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, helping support the commission's projects. Friends, through events like this, helps support ICSW's noble and honorable mandates. Cost for the event is a tax-deductible charitable contribution of \$35. To register, go to www.friendsoficsw.org or mail the form below with your check to Friends of ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines 50319. Checks should be made payable to Friends of ICSW.

_____ I can hardly wait for March 27! Spending an evening with a group of wonderful women sounds grand to me. Cost of the event is \$35. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

_____ This sounds like so much fun, I want to bring guests! Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Name of guest(s): _____

_____ I would love to attend, but am unable. Have fun! Enclosed is my gift of \$_____.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Calendar of Events

March

Women's History Month

- 3 Women at the Well. 7 p.m. Simpson College, Indianola. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 515/961-1606 or go to www.simpson.edu/artsforum/forum/index.html.
- 4 *Write Women Back Into History* Essay Contest Celebration Day. 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. State Capitol, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Lori ScharderBachar, ICSW, 515/281-4470, 800/558-4427, or lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.
- 5 Iowa Planned Parenthood Affiliate League Lobby Day. 9:30a.m. - 4:30p.m., Des Moines Botanical Center, Des Moines. \$15. Suzi Alexander, PPGI, 515/235-0441 or salexander@ppgi.org.
- 6 Dynamic Women. 4 - 5:30 p.m. Forest Avenue Library, Des Moines 515/283-4152.
- 6 Defining Feminism: Women's History Month panel discussion. 12:45 p.m., Simpson College, Indianola. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 515/961-1606 or go to www.simpson.edu/artsforum/forum/index.html.
- 6 Searching for Angela Shelton. 7 p.m., Simpson College, Indianola. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 515/961-1606 or go to www.simpson.edu/artsforum/forum/index.html.
- 7 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force. 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.
- 7 Restorative Justice: Turning Hope into Action In Schools, Correctional settings & Communities 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Polk County Convention Complex, Des Moines. \$35. Featuring Howard Zehr. Erica Hill, Employee & Family Resources, ehill@efr.org, or 515/244-2297.
- 13 Iowa Legal Aid's Equal Justice After Hours 2008. 6 - 8 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Monies, Des Moines. \$50. Honoring Roxanne Barton Conlin. For more information, contact Mark Elliott, 515/243.2980 x1617, or melliott@iowalaw.org.
- 14 ICSW Policy Lunch and Learn. 12 noon - 1 p.m., Legislative Dining Room, State Capitol, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. ICSW, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 19 Women in America Lecture, Simpson College, Indianola. 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Speaker: Filmmaker and activist, Angela Shelton. Contact Jennifer Ross Nostrala at 515/961-1649 or jennifer.nostrala@simpson.edu for more information.

- 25 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting. 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Location TBD. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 25 Women of Excellence Recognition Ceremony and Banquet. 5:30 p.m. Sioux City Convention Center, Sioux City. Silent auction included. Tickets are \$35. Help honor the contributions and accomplishments of outstanding Siouxland women by nominating an awesome woman in your life. Nominations due March 4. Contact Women Aware at 712/258-4174 or 800/465-6165 or visit www.womenawarescia.org.
- 25 Tuesday Talks at the YWCA: Women & Immigration. 6 - 7:30 p.m. Black Hawk County YWCA, Waterloo. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 319/234-7589, e-mail ywca@ywcabhc.org or visit www.ywcabhc.org.
- 27 Women You Know Women You Want to Meet.
- 29 Emma Rocks! 2nd Annual musical benefit for the Emma Goldman Clinic. Show begins at 7 p.m. Englert Theatre, Iowa City. For tickets or more information, call Toni at 319/337-2112 or ec_egc@yahoo.com.

April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 4 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force. 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.
- 5 Money Smart Women Conference, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Drake University, Des Moines. Free, but reservations are required. Visit www.womenandmoneyconference.com to learn more.
- 8 One Iowa Day, State Capitol, Des Moines. For more information, contact Syeta Glanton, 515/281-0176 or syeta.glanton@iowa.gov.
- 12 Young African American Women's Health Summit, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Des Moines Botanical Center. Janice Edmunds-Wells, Iowa Department of Public Health, 515/281-4904 or jwells@idph.state.ia.us.
- 16 22nd Annual Symposium: Celebrating 40 years of Fair Housing, Civil and Human Rights for All, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. Rudy Simms, 515/283-4284 or rusimms@dmgov.org.
- 25 Choosing to Lead: Meeting Challenges with Grace and Humor, Iowa's Leadership Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Coralville Marriott Hotel, Coralville. Fee varies. www.iowawomensconference.com.

Bits and Pieces

In collaboration with the State Data Center of Iowa, the ICSW has released *Women's History Month March 2008: Women in Iowa*, which details statistics on Iowa women. The four-page publication is available at www.iowadatacenter.org and www.women.iowa.gov.



The **2007 Annual Report**, (February 2008, 36th Edition) is available. The annual report details the activities of the ICSW during calendar year 2007. If you wish to receive a report, contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427, or e-mail hdr.icsw@iowa.gov. The publication is also available online at www.women.iowa.gov.



On Tuesday, April 22, 2008 thousands of women from across the United States will join in a national day of action against unfair pay called **Equal**

Pay Day. April 22nd is symbolic of the point into the new year that a woman must work in order to earn the wages paid to a man in the previous year. On a national level, women are paid only 77 cents for every dollar a man is paid, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. So, because women earn less, we must work longer for the same pay. Economist Evelyn Murphy, president and founder of The WAGE Project, estimates that the wage gap costs the average American full-time woman worker between \$700,000 and \$2 million over the course of her lifetime.



The United Nations Foundation has announced that it will donate \$1 dollar for each of the first 100,000 signatures to an online petition aimed at battling violence against women. The campaign is run by the UN Development Fund for Women

(UNIFEM). To find out more about the campaign, and to sign on, visit www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/.



The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women holds Lunch and Learns on the second Friday of each month during the legislative session. These informative events are held at the State Capitol Legislative Dining Room from 12 noon - 1 p.m. Upcoming dates are March 14, April 11 and May 9. Join us!



"Women should have equal pay for equal work and they should be considered equally eligible to the offices of principal and superintendent, professor and president. So you must insist that qualifications, not sex, shall govern appointments and salaries."

~ Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)



Help save printing/postage costs!
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please write or call the ICSW office. You may also send your e-mail address. Thank you!

Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
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Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW or by the ICSW. All information must be mailed or faxed to the ICSW no later than the 15th day of all even numbered months. The use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the editor. The *Iowa Woman* is mailed six times per year to 8,400 persons or organizations.

Julie Graden, President • Rachel Scott, ICSW Division Administrator • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor

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Iowa commission on the status of women

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