The Mentoring Project Kicks Off

A series of student-driven mentoring programs titled The Mentoring Project: Start the Movement kicked off this past fall. In October, keynote speaker Deborah Peterson, founder of Getting to Clarity, spoke to nearly 60 students on confidence building, handling rejection, establishing rapport, learning how to network and other relevant information for women who are starting careers.

In November, the second mentoring program was held. These “book club” style discussion groups provided a casual, comfortable and welcoming atmosphere where students were able to have meaningful conversations with peers guided by professional women mentors Dr. Melissa Gibson, Professor, Department of Communications Studies, Fai Howard, Director of Academic Success and Student Retention and Kelly Cassella, Graphic Designer, University Communications and Marketing. The open forum included discussions on how to pay off student loans, how to know when to start a family, harassment/bullying in the workplace and how to network to find the first job out of college.

Meghan Findley, senior Journalism and Public Relations major, attended two of the three sessions. “The timing was ideal for these opportunities to present themselves. I found them valuable because I have a lot of decisions to make as a senior concerning my future with job searching and graduate school,” said Findley. The Mentoring Project series will continue in the spring of 2015.

Member Highlight: Colleen Moore-Mezler PRC, President and CEO, Moore Research

“The Women’s Philanthropy Council is a wonderful organization that helps to support the growth and empowerment of young women. In addition, this council is helping to encourage their ambition and strengthen their confidence, but most of all they are inspiring the entrepreneurial passions of the next generation.

“There is a lot of research regarding the importance of mentorship and a successful career. I think there are a few defining variables in distinguishing someone who is somewhat successful versus someone who is equally qualified and remarkably successful. One of those variables is access to a mentor. Clearly, it is important, yet people aren’t asking for mentorship.

“It is my hope that the Women’s Philanthropy Council will not only give young women access to a mentor but to also lead them to understand the importance of asking for one. This will provide a learning opportunity from someone who has been there and understands the setbacks as well as the triumphs.”

Student Highlight: Jordanna Wallace – Biology

“The Women’s Philanthropy Council has become a tremendous influence in my life. I have met many wonderful, intelligent women as a representative for the council. Through the generosity of these women, I have blossomed as a student and a woman. The research grant and the President Wollman scholarship have allowed me to focus on my research, studies and extra-curriculars. I am immensely grateful that the council has put stock into ensuring a bright future for me.”
Upcoming Events

Heather Arnet and Madame Presidentá: Why Not U.S.? Documentary and Panel Discussion

Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.
Cole Auditorium
Presented by the Women's Philanthropy Council
Free and Open to the Public
Reservations are appreciated
your.edinboro.edu/events/wpcmarch2015

Sponsored by:
Women's Studies Committee/Women's History Month Taskforce
Student Government Association

"Madame Presidentá: Why Not U.S.?" chronicles the journey of two women, one from the U.S. and one from Brazil, as they explore the key question of why so many other countries have elected female presidents before the United States. In the process they make important discoveries about new democracies, community, and women's rights. The film is a collaboration of the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania and ELAS: Women's Social Investment Fund in Rio de Janeiro.

Panel discussion to follow with former state Senator Jane Earll, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and Heather Arnet.

Heather Arnet: CEO
At Women and Girls Foundation (WGF), Arnet spearheads efforts to develop the female leaders of tomorrow while investing in better public policy today. Heather joined WGF as its first CEO in 2004. Prior to joining WGF, Heather worked in marketing, business development, and government affairs in the private and non-profit sectors. She is passionately committed to social justice and gender equity. While working for women's rights is her role at WGF, it is also her life's work. Arnet has been identified as one of Pittsburgh's "Top 40 under 40" by Pittsburgh Magazine, as one of the "Top Twelve Noteworthy Business Leaders" by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and received the Diamond Award for "Outstanding CEO Leadership" by the Pittsburgh Business Times. Arnet is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to her work with the Foundation, Arnet writes and directs feminist theatre throughout the country, serves as a board member of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and on the advisory boards of WQED Multimedia and The Forbes Funds.

Women to Women On the Road

The Women's Philanthropy Council is spreading the word of its work by hosting educational programs and social events regionally and nationally. The Women to Women Networking Series connects women leaders and those who aspire to lead so that, together, they can all achieve their full potential. The first Pittsburgh Women to Women event was held in November at The Frick Art and Historical Center. Nearly 60 women alumni and friends of Edinboro University were in attendance. More than half the attendees were the first generation in their families to attend EU, so the message of paying it forward resonated with the alumni present. Raising money for scholarships and grants for study away opportunities and research are a priority of the Women's Philanthropy Council. Thanks to the planning committee: Dr. Rita Bean, Lee Grace Jones, Allyn Berger, Laura Leete, Beth Fabiani-Scaggs and Stephanie Shields.

If you are interested in hosting a Women to Women event, please contact Julie Chacona, director of special initiatives, major gifts and grants, at jchacona@edinboro.edu or 814-732-1779.

Women and Education: Did You Know?

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, women's college enrollment has increased faster than men's to the point that women now outnumber men in undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. At Edinboro, our student population is 62% women. This is a good thing. For far too long men were the majority, and it was reflected in the workplace. Still, today there is a disparity once men and women leave school. For example, did you know:

- Women need more years of college to match men's earnings after graduation
- Women with a master's degree still earn substantially less each year than men with a bachelor's degree
- Women need a bachelor's degree to match the earnings of men with some college

Give today! Visit www.edinboro.edu/donate.

Your gift to the Women's Philanthropy Council is helping future female leaders develop their confidence and untapped potential through scholarship, research grants and study abroad opportunities. We hope you will join us by paying it forward today!