WPC Grants: Helping women lead the way

Through scholarship awards, grants for research, study abroad opportunities, and financial assistance to participate and present at national conferences, young women leaders at Edinboro University are enjoying transformational educational experiences.

Salem Trip

EU students visit the Battle of Concord site during the annual trip to Salem, Mass. During the trip, the students learned about the obstacles women faced by visiting important sites in colonial and Revolutionary War history.

“Seeing how the women suffered and couldn’t defend themselves has inspired me to speak out. As one of the few women in the field of computer science, I can relate to being ignored or looked down upon. I hope that even when faced with nearly impossible situations, I can continue to fight for a voice, just as these women did.” Rachel Bennett – Computer Science

Didem Mert and Ashley Bevington – Master of Fine Arts

MFA students Didem Mert and Ashley Bevington were awarded funding to attend the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Conference in Kansas City, Mo., and the Wooster Functional Ceramics Workshop in Wooster, Ohio, where they engaged with professionals in the ceramics field, learned new techniques and displayed their work.

Crystal Glover – Nursing

Crystal Glover holds a young resident of Neema House orphanage, a rescue center for abandoned and orphaned babies that she visited several times during her recent travel-learning experience in Tanzania.

Crystal received a scholarship from the Women’s Philanthropy Council to volunteer in the intensive care unit treating critically ill patients in Tanzania, Africa, with the Work the World Organization.

WPC Internship News: Kate Chasar

WPC student representative Kate Chasar has been selected from among hundreds of applicants to participate in the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Summer Internship Program in Washington, D.C.

This exciting opportunity will allow Kate to work closely with AAPD leaders, funders, partner agencies and members of the disability community to support the organization and serve the needs of the broader community.
WPC Sponsored Events

The Women’s Philanthropy Council continues to empower women by hosting educational programs and social events regionally and nationally.

Abbie von Schlegell

Joining keynote speaker Abbie von Schlegell, center, are, from left, Janet Peters of the Women’s Fund and Julie Chacona of the Women’s Philanthropy Council.

The EU Women’s Philanthropy Council and the Erie Women’s Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Erie Community Foundation, hosted a lunch and keynote with Abbie J. von Schlegell. Abbie, who has been in the development field for more than 40 years as a consultant and senior development officer, shared her expertise in campaigns, major gifts and women’s philanthropy.

Women’s Lunch with Jessie Stehle

From left: EU students Cassondra Enterline, Rebecca Leonard, Fawn Martz, Charity Patterson, Lauren Parent, speaker Jessie Stehle, and students Megan Weise and Connie Rossiter.

EU alumna and current Associate User Experience Researcher and Senior Recruiter at Fitbit, Jessie Stehle, returned to campus in November to speak with students about the challenges women face during the hiring process.

The Politics of Women in Politics Panel

Held in March, panelists Margie Omero, managing director of Purple Insights; Susan Woodland, president of the northwestern Pennsylvania chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and vice president of the American Civil Liberties Union’s regional chapter; and Tina Mengine, vice president for Advancement at EU, spoke to students about the challenges and obstacles women face when deciding to run for political office, when campaigning for election, and when winning a race.

"Women in Politics' was not a hot topic at the Boro when I attended from 1968-1972. I felt like a college student again sitting in Compton Hall, although I must say that I only remember one female professor, Miss Mary Ditz, from the Special Education Department. Seeing two female history professors in one classroom made my heart happy. Thank you for keeping the dream alive." WPC member Laura Leete

Women to Women: An Authentic Mentoring Discussion

Panelists are, from left, Melissa Sulkowski, Owner, Nurturinse Counseling and Wellness; Courtney Steding, Associate Director of Career Services, Penn State Behrend; Kristi Bailey, Director of Business Development and Services, Erie Federal Credit Union; Joelyn Bush, Marketing and Communications Manager, United Way of Erie County; Jo Alsbaugh, Attorney, Quinn Law Firm; and Chanel Cook, Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the WPC hosted a panel discussion and mentoring event featuring Athena Circle of Trust members and professional women from the community. Following the panel discussion, students had the opportunity to meet with the panelists and other professional women in attendance. More than 50 students attended the event, which was co-organized by WPC Student Representative Lauren Parent.
LaToya Ruby Frasier

From left: Jan Buba, wife of EU alumnus Tony Buba; Donna Nicholas, Professor Emeritus, Art Department; Suzanne Winterberger, Professor Emeritus, Art Department; LaToya Ruby Frazier, Tony Buba, and Art Department faculty member Brigette Davitt.

EU alumna LaToya Ruby Frazier, who was named a 2015 MacArthur Fellow for her extraordinary work in documenting the devastation of deindustrialization in her hometown of Braddock, Pa., was the keynote speaker at the 2015 Crossroads Conference for Women in Pittsburgh.

Member Highlight: Donna Nicholas
Professor Emeritus, Art Department, Edinboro University, and Founding Member of WPC

“My commitment to the Women’s Philanthropy Council is based on my thirty years of experience as a college professor. One of our graduates’ biggest challenges is negotiating the transition between the classroom and the professional world they aspire to enter. WPC grants support overseas travel, conference attendance, research projects and the support of mentors; all of which apply, amplify and advance the knowledge they receive in the classroom. When I listen to the recipients’ reports, I know that my investment is both well spent and greatly appreciated.”

Student Highlight: Megan Weise
Master of Social Work

Megan Weise, left, was awarded a WPC Research Grant to attend the U.S. Autism & Asperger Association’s Annual Conference in Tucson, Ariz., where she met world renowned autism educator Temple Grandin, right. Grandin was diagnosed as autistic at the age of 2.

“While at the conference, my knowledge of Autism and Asperger disorders was greatly enhanced. I am beyond grateful for the support and encouragement I have received and am blessed to have been able to attend this conference. I look forward to using the knowledge I gained at my internship and in my future career goals. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

Faculty Research Grant: Sue Amendolara

EU art professor Sue Amendolara was awarded a WPC research grant to travel to Senegal, West Africa, with the Toolbox Travel organization. The program allows jewelers to carry and distribute tools and materials donated by artists and companies in the U.S. to jewelers in Western Africa.

Jewelers in the region have only a handful of makeshift tools, but are able to create beautiful and sophisticated pieces of jewelry. Providing the jewelers with commercial tools allows them to improve their technique and provide for themselves and their families for generations to come. During her visit, Sue visited the Centre de Formation Artisanal, which is the only place in the region that women are permitted to learn metalworking.

Student Research Grant: Erin McCue

Erin McCue, who is pursuing a bachelor of fine arts with a concentration in woodworking and furniture design, received a WPC research grant that allowed her to combine two of her passions: woodworking and biology. After extensive research, Erin used colors, structures, textures and compositions of biology to create fascinating and unique furniture and jewelry.
A gift to WPC is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Making a planned gift is simple and doesn’t have to cost you anything today.

1. Bequest: Remember the Women's Philanthropy Council in your will.
2. IRA: Name the Women's Philanthropy Council as a beneficiary on your retirement account.
3. Charitable Remainder Trust: Create an income stream for your life while also making a gift to the WPC.

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 that you will join us by paying it forward today!

Please visit www.edinboro.edu/donate to make your online donation.

For more information about the EU Women’s Philanthropy Council, contact Julie Chacona at jchacona@edinboro.edu or 814-732-1779.