

2010 annual report

Women's Commission Annual Report, 2009-2010

The 2009-10 academic year, marked another growth opportunity for the commission. In the summer of 2009, five women volunteered and were asked to serve as the leadership team for the commission.

The Women's Commission leadership team draws from the ranks administrative/professional and clerical/office/technical staff.

They are

Takeelia Garrett-Lynn, Housing and Residence Life
Ashley Nickels, Women's Center
Gricelda Estrada, Office of Multicultural Affairs
Chaunte Rodgers, Human Resources
Martha Moore, Accounting Business Office

The commission, which met biweekly beginning in August, draws on the resources of more than 30 people interested in helping with various activities.

The commission continued a strong and positive relationship with the Women's Center. The Center offered administrative support for programs and was a collaborative partner of programs such as HerStory and Fireside Chats.

Activities:

In September, the commission teamed with the Women's Center, Positive Black Women, and Women and Gender Studies to host the Women's Commission Fall Welcome. More than 100 people attended the evening reception and learned about various women's groups on campus.

The commission worked with the Women's Center to continue co-sponsoring the "HerStory" series in the fall and winter semester. The following women shared their personal journeys and their path to leadership roles: Cheryl Boudreaux, Cassonya Carter-Pugh, Connie Dang and Michelle Coffil.

The commission also continued to partner with the Women's Center and Positive Black Women to host Fireside Chats. The chats were held monthly and facilitated by representatives from the Women's Center.

In April, the commission worked with the Women's Center, Positive Black Women, and Women and Gender Studies to sponsor the Celebrating Women Awards ceremony. More than 100 people attended the event. Awards were presented to students and faculty. The commission presented the Maxine Swanson award to Erin Busscher, Academic Advisor in the Kirkhof College of Nursing. The Women's Impact Award was given to Ramya Ramanath, Assistant Professor in the

school of Public, Nonprofit, and Health Administration; and Barbara Bivens, Custodial Staff, Facilities Services.

The commission was also involved in a number of other activities across campus, including:

- The Office of Inclusion and Equity Discussion Forum (co-hosted by Women's Center)
- Co-Sponsor of the Month of the Young Child
- Provided a scholarship and transportation to the Michigan ACE Conference. 5 people were transported to the conference and one person was sponsored to attend.

Issues researched:

The commission continues its rich history in research and advocating on behalf of women on campus. This past year we have had great success with our sub-committee projects, including:

- Flexible Scheduling subcommittee, coordinated by Sue Sloop
- Coaching and Mentoring subcommittee, coordinated by Jo Ann Wassenaar

The commission also constituted a new subcommittee, Early Care and Education, coordinated by Sharalle Arnold, to assess the needs of improving resources for families on campus. The subcommittee has conducted benchmarking research and is working collaboratively with the Children's Enrichment Center Advisory Board to determine next steps.