

# Legal Advocacy Fund Challenges the System, Offers Incentive Award

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## What is LAF?

LAF stands for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. It is the part of the Educational Foundation that helps individuals in higher education with funding, support and technical assistance while challenging the system in sex discrimination issues. This is taken from the LAF mission statement.

However, there is another piece that does not get as much attention but is equally important. It is the PIE award. No, it does not have anything to do with a bake sale; hopefully we have come beyond that. It stands for Progress In Equity award. This aspect of LAF fulfills many of our goals. Progress and equity are constant dreams of AAUW. It also is a coalition effort, where a college or university connects with people in the community.

This quote from the LAF/Update is a fine example of the functions of this program. Northeastern University in Boston received the 2005 Progress in Equity Award, with a \$5,000 stipend, for their program *Connections*.

*Connections, supported by Northeastern's College of Engineering, strengthens the pathways for women and girls to pursue careers in engineering and science through mentoring support, educational development programming, and scholarships. A collaboration between*

*Northeastern University and the Patriot's Girl Scout Council, Connections was initially funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). In addition to the programming offered to middle- and high-school-aged girls and college women, Connections recently began working with Simmons College on a survey that examines why some women choose to stay home rather than work when they have children.*

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The PIE award is another example of how LAF furthers the education and works toward equity for women and girls. Is there a program that you know of that might be a candidate for this award? The criteria listed below are from the LAF web site under Progress in Equity Award.

- Program has resulted in significant progress toward equity for women faculty, staff, and/or students. It must:
- Be innovative and/or exemplary
- Address the needs of diverse groups of women in terms of race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class
- Be replicable or adaptable at other institutions.

The PIE Award has recognized efforts in:

- Women's athletics
- Tenure and promotion for women faculty
- Child care for faculty, staff, and/or students
- Family leave for employees
- Programs and policies to combat sexual harassment

## 100 Club: Time to Turn in Donations, Paper Work!

As the year is drawing to a close, do make a note to remember the AAUW NC 100 Club. You can join with a check (of at least \$100 payable to AAUW NC) sent to Treasurer Millie Hoffer-Foushee, 7068 Lanier Rd., Summerfield NC 27358. If you'd like to designate your contribution "in honor" or "in memory" of someone else, please be sure to include the appropriate contact information. Branches (or groups in the name of a branch) can also make contributions, so if there's

someone in your community that you want to honor in this way, just contact Millie.

Remember, too, that those who have contributed 100 hours during 2005 to AAUW at any level are also eligible for membership. So jot down the hours you've spent on AAUW projects and submit the form you'll find on [www.aauwnc.org](http://www.aauwnc.org). In particular, those of you from Asheville who put on such a great convention last year – please send in the forms so we can thank you formally in New Bern!

**100 CLUB**

### AAUW NC 100 Club 2005 Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

A contribution in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is being made (minimum amount is \$100):

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please include contact information for honor or memory donations, so an acknowledgment can be sent:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Strategies to mentor women students or junior faculty
- Recruitment of women into nontraditional fields
- Integration of women's history or other women's issues into the curriculum
- special initiatives for women

Perhaps a university or college in your area is eligible for this award. Take a look at their programs to see if North Carolina has a possible nominee. Some recipients have been from the South Atlantic Region (SAR), but none from North Carolina. Would this be something your branch would like to pursue? The deadline for application is March 15, 2006. This is wonderful way to connect with a university or college and help promote education for women and girls.

## Getting Ready for Convention

We received a Plaintiff Travel Grant for the convention, which means that we will have a plaintiff speaking at the LAF breakfast. It will take place on Saturday, April 1 7:30-8:45. This breakfast is an educational opportunity for all attendees and a chance for you to start the new LAF contributing year in a positive way. This fund-raiser is a wonderful way to connect with the Legal Advocacy Fund and help AAUW on a larger scale. We are all part of the larger organization and contributing to LAF and EF make us all feel that we are doing something to help raise consciousness about equity.

See page 7 to contribute and become a sponsor of the breakfast. Sign up on the registration to come to the breakfast. One spot assures you a seat at the breakfast and the other is a chance to contribute to LAF. You may support the breakfast even if you are not at it or even at the convention. Please give this some thought. We would love to have a large group of supporters. Thanks you also to all who contribute to this cause.

## EF Releases New Report

When the newest AAUW Educational Foundation report was released this morning, it was an instant hit with the media. CNN was the first to pick it up, and others followed.

The report, *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*, analyzes findings from a nationally representative survey of undergraduate students and is the most comprehensive research to date on sexual harassment on college campuses.

A majority of U.S. college students encounter some type of sexual harassment. About a third say that they have been physically harassed while at college. Both male and female students encounter sexual harassment, but females who have been sexually harassed are more likely to say they feel self-conscious or embarrassed, angry, less sure of themselves or less confident, afraid or scared, confused or conflicted about who they are and disappointed in their college experience as a result of sexual harassment.

AAUW plans to follow up this research by helping colleges and universities forge solutions. It is funding programs on eleven campuses aimed at finding new ways to combat campus sexual harassment. The projects were selected to help students, faculty and administrators understand the scope of the problem, raise awareness of the issue, and implement projects that affect change in the campus climate.

Learn more at [www.aauw.org/dtl](http://www.aauw.org/dtl).

## MAL Corner

From January through April, small groups around the country will discuss AAUW values. While most of these discussions will occur in the context of branch-sponsored meetings, the at-large members are a key group whose opinions are important to the future of the organization. Any member-at-large who wishes to participate in a teleconference to discuss

*What are AAUW's core values?*

*What is important to AAUW?*

*What does AAUW stand for?*

is asked to contact Nancy Shoemaker, [shoemaker@acm.org](mailto:shoemaker@acm.org), 919.773.1340.

## Looking for Someone?

Do you want to find other Members-at-Large in your area? There may not be enough of you to sustain a "branch," but maybe you could exchange e-mail addresses and share local events of interest, start a book group with suggestions from the Adelanté list, or leverage your AAUW membership in other ways. If you'd like more information on how to get current contact information for other MALs, please call 919.773.1340 or write [info@aauwnc.org](mailto:info@aauwnc.org).

## Get Connected!

Expand your reach! Contact MALs in your area! Did you know that you can get contact information or mailing labels for nearby members-at-large directly from AAUW? All you need is a list of the zip codes that you want pulled. Then go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) > Member Center > Forms. You'll find a 'Label/List Order Form' on that page. There's a fee for this service, but it may be \$10 well spent! Besides USMail information, you can ask for phone numbers, e-mail addresses and expiration dates.

Nancy Shoemaker has a spreadsheet that makes it easy to find all the zip codes in a county, so if you need a list of zip codes, just send me the list of counties your branch 'serves'.

## What Are AAUW Values?

The Association is continuing its change process with outreach to the members through "values discussions." We're all encouraged to participate in small groups between now and April so that we can discern the AAUW values that we believe are most important to our organization and its future.

To prepare for this opportunity, think about AAUW with positive statements that begin with "I value ..." or "I care about ..." Then, recall a time when you were proud of AAUW:

- What were you most proud of?
- What contributed to the quality of that experience?
- Why are you a member of AAUW?
- Are there things you value that would require a change in AAUW?

Contact your branch president or [info@aauwnc.org](mailto:info@aauwnc.org) for specific opportunities to participate in these discussions.