AAUW Illinois

2019 College and University Relations Survey

Final Report – June 2019

Compiled by Ruth Holst, IL Director of C/U Relations

As of April 1, 2019, there were 23 College and University (C/U) Partner members of AAUW in Illinois, two more than there were in July 2018. With the encouragement of the AAUW-IL Board at its February 2019 meeting, a committee headed by Ruth Holst was formed to develop a survey of Illinois AAUW branches to investigate the level of involvement between branches and their local C/U institutions. Barbara Simon (Rockford branch) and Laura Desmarais (Wheaton-Glen Ellyn branch) volunteered to be on the committee and assisted with constructing the survey.

**Methods**: A six-question survey was sent to all branches in Illinois in early March 2019 using a free version of Survey Monkey software. An introductory email message was sent to branch presidents and to twelve individuals who are designated in the Member Services Directory (MSD) as the C/U Relations officer for their respective branches. One follow-up reminder email message was sent to non-responders on March 25, 2019.

Twenty-one responses were returned by April 24, 2019 representing 18 of the 36 Illinois branches.

**Results of Questions 1, 2, 3 and 6:**

1. Nine of the 18 responding branches reported activities with an AAUW C/U partner institution within the past three years
2. Three branches reported activities with colleges that are **not** C/U partner institutions within the past three year
3. At least four branches (Decatur, Morton, Rockford, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn) have partnered with colleges to present AAUW-developed programs such as Elect Her, StartSmart, Gender Pay Gap, and Barriers and Bias
4. Other typical activities include setting up an information table at orientations, activity fairs or Equal Pay Day rallies to promote AAUW and using campus speakers for branch programs
5. One branch (Chicago, Inc.) co-sponsored on-campus programs using AAUW-funded Fellows or Grantees as speakers
6. Two branches (Northwest Suburban, Palos-Orland Area) sponsored/partnered on a STEM conference
7. Four branches (Decatur, Rockford, Springfield, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn) have co-sponsored StartSmart workshops with a local college
8. Several branches cited high cost as a barrier to getting colleges to partner on StartSmart workshops
9. Two branches (Palos-Orland and Springfield) sponsored scholarships for students
10. One branch (Champaign-Urbana) provides at least one scholarship per year for a student to attend NCCWSL
11. Nine branches have one or more people designated as C/U officers
12. Reasons cited for not working with local colleges included (1) distance away from closest college, (2) unresponsiveness of campus contacts, and (3) lack of interest on the part of branch members.

**Results of Questions 4 and 5:**

Questions 4 and 5 asked for ideas about what the Illinois C/U Director can do to help branches and what the national and state organizations can do to promote relationships between branches and C/U Partner institutions. Since there was some overlap, these responses have been combined.

1. Communicate with C/U Partners about the benefits of AAUW membership
2. Use the state newsletters (Link, Connections) to update members
3. Share experiences and strategies from other branches (state and national) that have been effective
4. Create guidelines for how to approach colleges and universities
5. Investigate why non-partner institutions are not AAUW C/U partners
6. Ask National to lower the fees for StartSmart
7. One branch wanted us to find out who is paying the dues at their local C/U partner institutions
8. Send C/U partner information to branches and encourage branches to get familiar with them
9. Tell us (branches) what communications (from national) are being sent to C/U partners
10. Host a StartSmart workshop and invite 12 members from each branch (including local students). Videotape “mock interviews” from each participating branch segment and send it to the members of that branch.
11. Continue to bring awareness about C/U partners to branch members.

**Appendix 1: List of 18 Branches that Replied to Survey**

Alton-Wood River

Aurora Area

Champaign-Urbana

Chicago Inc.

Decatur (2 replies)

Deerfield Area

Elmhurst Area

Lombard Area

Monmouth Area (3 replies)

Morton

Northwest Suburban

Ottawa

Palos-Orland Area

Rockford Area

Salt Creek Area

Springfield

Waukegan Area

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn

**Appendix 2: Text of Survey Questions**

The AAUW-IL Director of College & University Relations seeks input on how to foster productive relationships between Branches and College/University Partners.

1. Is your Branch currently working with one or more AAUW college/university partner institutions? If yes, which institutions?

2. If your branch has worked with a C/U partner within the past three years, briefly describe the activities and the scope of involvement of the C/U partner.

3. Have you ever contacted a local C/U partner about the AAUW StartSmart salary negotiation workshops designed for college students?  If not, why not?  If yes, please elaborate.

4. In what ways can the Director of College/University Relations assist your branch in developing or continuing a relationship with a C/U Partner institution?

5. Is there anything that the state or national AAUW organizations should be doing to foster mutual relationships between Branches and C/U Partners?

6. Do you have a designated C/U officer in your Branch?  If yes, please supply the name and email address.  If no, please supply the name and email address for the individual who can be contacted about C/U Partner activities.

7. Please add any additional comments that you wish to make.

8. Please indicate the individual (include Branch) who completed the survey.

Name  / Branch / Email Address / Phone Number