

Dear Branch Presidents,

As you begin your 2011-2012 year, I am once again asking that you consider sponsoring a young woman to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The 2011 conference was a huge success! Students enjoyed inspiring presentations by five outstanding honorees at the Women of Distinction Awards ceremony, attended skill-building workshops, heard from motivating speakers, and participated in enjoyable, educational pre-conference activities. Over 500 women student leaders attended from all 50 states, Washington DC, Jamaica and Guam. Eighty-seven percent of attendees who completed a NCCWSL survey said that they would like to attend again and half of those wanted more information about AAUW. Minnesota was proud to have four representatives from our State this year. One of our attendees commented, she did not know there were so many different ways one could be a leader.

Once again the State Board will be offering a Grant of \$500 to each candidate. It is estimated the total cost would be approximately \$850 which includes registration, lodging, meals and a stipend for travel expenses. With a pre-conference workshop and an extra night of lodging, I was able to get all costs down to \$800. The cost to the branch was only \$300. I realize our budgets are tight, but perhaps a few branch members would consider underwriting the cost or one branch in lieu of a local scholarship sponsored a student for this conference.

I am assuming all of you must know a young woman who is an outstanding individual with drive and leadership skills. It could be a niece, a daughter of a friend; someone in your community you have read or heard about, maybe a former team captain, the list could be endless. Remember, these could be our future AAUW leaders. Encourage them to apply by getting them information and the attached application. Make this your 2011-2012 branch challenge.

If you have questions, please contact me. Information about the conference is also on the AAUW website.

Warmest regards,

Mary Parcheta, Minnesota NCCWSL Coordinator

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