

January 2017

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Happy New Year from the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls!

Thanks to the leadership and commitment of our Commissioners The Commission had a very successful year and we expanded our Policy leadership and partnerships. What follows is a recap of Commission priority initiatives and areas of significant impact. Please contact us to become involved in our 2017 program.

CA Pay Equity Task Force Commissioners Lauri Damrell and Julie Su provided invaluable guidance and insight in the creation of the Task Force. Without their dedication to pay equity the work of the Task Force would not be possible.

Engaging Women and Girls in STEM We initiated our pledge to increase the number of women and girls in STEM through our partnership with UC Davis and the California Department of Education focused on the Million Women Mentors California initiative and our continued co-sponsorship of the 2016 CA STEM Symposium.

Aging Women and Poverty The Commission co-sponsored the Aging Women and Poverty forum with the Commission on Aging and California Women's Law Center to shed light on the impact of poverty on aging women in California. A Policy Brief focused on needed action will be released next week.

Additionally, the Commission greatly expanded our social media and web presence, and provided ongoing support for implementation efforts of laws pertaining to women and girls. The Commission believes in power of collaborations, which is key to achieving equality for all, and we plan to continue to honor that value in 2017. It will be the year to strengthen the bonds we have made and create new ones.



Commission Staff pose with Commissioner and Assemblymember Cristina Garcia



Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Major Ofelia Alvarez-Willis, and Assemblymember Garcia.



Commissioner and Former Senator Carol Liu listens to students at the Girls Academic Leadership Academy

Commission Advancing Policy — 2016 Successes



Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá gives keynote address at the CA STEM Symposium



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia addresses the Task Force with Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, co-chairs Lauri Damrell and Labor Commissioner Julie Su



Student Intern Jonar Bocalbos describing his internship project to the Commission at a Commission Business Meeting



Commissioner and Senator Hannah Beth Jackson speakers at the Stronger California Press Conference alongside Senator Liu, and other legislators,

The Commission had a 2016 with the launch of successful partnerships and projects, including:

- ◆ greatly expanding the focus on STEM education for women and girls. Our partnership with University of California Davis to bring the Million Women Mentors movement to California launched on January 21, 2016 at PayPal's San Francisco headquarters. MWM-CA program has expanded across California, with a pilot program launched by the Southern California Leadership Committee. UC Davis was honored with a State Leadership Award at the at the 2016 Nation Million Women Mentors Summit in Washington D.C.
- ◆ co-sponsoring the 2016 California STEM Symposium in Los Angeles. The Commission traveled to sunny Southern California along with representatives from UC Davis and Careergirls.org who participated in our visibility and panel discussion Engaging Girls in STEM moderated by Commission Chair Lupita Cortez Alcalá. While in LA, the team visited students participating in the [Women's Institute for Young Girls](#), a program established by Senator Holly Mitchell, housed at the [Girls Academic Leadership Academy](#) (GALA). Commissioner and former State Senator Carol Liu led the meeting and group discussion focused on strategies to improve the number of girls in STEM.
- ◆ launching the CA Pay Equity Task Force to discuss meaningful implementation of the California Fair Pay Act, led by Commissioner co-chairs California Labor Commissioner Julie Su and Lauri Damrell employment attorney at Orrick. The Task Force members reflects the diverse interests of stakeholders and will release an interim report in April 2017.
- ◆ co-sponsoring the Aging, Women and Poverty in California Forum with the Commission on Aging and the California Women's Law Center to increase awareness of the impacted poverty has on older women and to develop a gender responsive agenda for older women. Commissioner Kafi Blumenfield participated as a panelist and Senator Carol Liu was honored for her dedication to improving the lives of Seniors in California.
- ◆ holding Legislative Committee Informational hearings on educating girls in STEM and computer science and the effect of the gender wage gap for women of color.

Women in the Workforce Conference



Nancy Kirshner Rodriguez moderates panel with Heather Robsahm, Kelly Jenkins Pultz, Jennifer Reisch, Elizabeth Newman, and Roberta Steele

The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, along with the Consulate Generals of Mexico and Israel, and the National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco Section held a Women in the Workforce Conference on November 16th at the Africa American Art & Cultural Center in San Francisco. Executive Director Nancy Kirshner Rodriguez moderated the morning panel “U.S. and California State Status of Women in the Workforce”, which featured Heather Robsahm, Senior Director of Talent Management GAP Inc.; Kelly Jenkins Pultz, US Department of Labor Women's Bureau; Roberta Steele, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Regional Attorney, San Francisco District Office; Jennifer Reisch, Legal Director of Equal Rights Advocates; Elizabeth Newman, Women's Policy Director, San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. The conference discussed current challenges that impact women all over the world and highlighted the importance of economic empowerment in the global pursuit of gender equity.

Commission Strategic Planning Retreat



Staff Counsel Marian Johnson listens to Strategic Planning Facilitator Scott

On December 13, Commission staff attended a three-day strategic planning retreat at Orrick's Sacramento office. The retreat was facilitated by Scott Daley of Daley Insight. Commission staff developed a strategic plan for 2017 and emerged with a clear vision for implementing equitable laws and change in California. Our focus will be discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting being held on January 9th, 2017 in the State Capitol, Room 125. For more information visit women.ca.gov.

JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Anniversary of CA Fair Pay Act	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Executive Committee Meeting	10	11 International Human Trafficking Day	12	13	14
15	16 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day	17	18	19 Pay Equity Task Force Meeting	20 Pay Equity Task Force Meeting Subcommittee	21 National Mentor Day
22 Anniversary of Roe V. Wade	23 Commission Business Meeting	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Announcements and Events

- **The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls is looking for a Policy Director!** The position is classified as an Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) and all individuals applying must pass the test for the AGPA classification To apply, visit jobs.ca.gov.
- **Million Women Mentors CA** is looking for mentors! MWM works to increase the number of women and girls in STEM through mentorships. All professionals are welcome! To register as a mentor visit their website mwm-ca.org

Interested in sharing your news with our supporters? Send an email to stephanie.flores@women.ca.gov to have your message featured in our newsletter.

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