

## National Education for Women's Leadership



NEW Leadership™ New England

*Educating and Empowering the Next Generation of Women Leaders in New England*

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In 2007, California Democrat Nancy Pelosi was appointed to Speaker of the United States House of Representatives—the first woman ever to hold that title. While women have been present in United States politics for decades, the road to elected office isn't as easy as it is for men seeking public office. And even though women make up the majority of the United States population and registered voters and graduate college at higher rates than men, women continue to be only a fraction of our elected leaders.

The statistics are staggering:

- Women hold only 17% of the seats in Congress<sup>1</sup>.
- Only 6 out of 50 states have a female governor<sup>2</sup>.
- 50% fewer women than men **consider** running for office. Of those who considered running, women were 30% less likely than men to actually run<sup>3</sup>.
- The United States trails behind much of the world, ranking 90<sup>th</sup> in the number of women in our national legislature compared to other industrialized nations<sup>4</sup>.

**Saint Anselm College is working toward improving those statistics.**

### Our Need

Each summer, The New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College, offers young women from New England a five-day residential leadership program where undergraduate women connect with women leaders, acquire and practice leadership skills for a diverse society, and learn about women's historical and contemporary participation in public service. Through workshops, guest speakers and hands-on activities, students learn how they can influence politics and public policy through their careers, develop leadership skills and break down the barriers that have traditionally kept women from achieving their political aspirations.

Started by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University in 1991, NEW Leadership™ (National Education for Women) has 19 programs at universities and colleges across the United States. Now in its fourth year here at Saint Anselm College, NEW Leadership™ New England will again host 20-25 women from schools across New England for its summer institute this June. This program is open to undergraduate female students who live in New England, or attend colleges in New England.

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<sup>1</sup> Center for American Women in Politics, Rutgers University

<sup>2</sup> Center for American Women in Politics, Rutgers University

<sup>3</sup> Lawless, Jennifer and Richard L. Fox. *It Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office*. 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Women in Parliament [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

**As outlined in the attached sponsorship menu, support for this program is critically needed if we are to continue to provide this nationally renowned educational experience to young women here in New England.**

## **The Program**

Since 2008, NEW Leadership™ New England has hosted 56 young women from institutions throughout New England including Stonehill College, University of Connecticut, Sacred Heart University, Quinnipiac University, and Saint Anselm College. Speakers have included former New Hampshire Governor, and current U.S. Senator, Jeanne Shaheen, Former Massachusetts Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, WGBH Radio Host Arnie Arnesen, and Rockingham County (NH) Commissioner Maureen Barrows.

The cost of this program is \$20,000 annually, which pays for the young women's lodging and meals, educational field trips, modest stipends for the speakers/presenters, faculty-in-residence (FIRS) and program materials. The FIRS, who are women connected to the political process and volunteer their time, stay on campus with the women, providing mentoring opportunities that last long beyond the five-day program. To ensure that financial situations do not affect a student's ability to attend the program, there is only a minimal fee (\$500) which is covered by the students' attended institution.

Each day is structured around networking meals, group work, guest speakers and field trips. The program is not just geared toward women who want to run for political office. Through workshops such as public speaking, conflict resolution, networking and media relations, young women who have an aptitude in journalism, sociology, philosophy, law, theology, etc., have enjoyed this program. Young women, regardless of their chosen course of study, can use the knowledge gained from NEW Leadership™ New England throughout their college career and beyond.

It is our hope that through NEW Leadership™, more women will become more involved in the political process and play integral roles in the future of politics at the local, regional, state and national levels.

## **Why Support NEW Leadership**

In a survey of all NEW national partner programs, more than 85 percent of alumni reported the program increased their understanding of and desire to participate in politics, motivated them to pursue social change, increased leadership capabilities and self-confidence, and taught them how to work with people with different views. In addition:

- Four out of the five students involved in the program reported an increased interest in politics and felt increased confidence in their ability to interact with political institutions
- Students who participated in NEW Leadership™ went on to become involved in political activities on and off campus, including running for student government and volunteering for political campaigns.

In a male-dominated political arena, the fact that a five-day workshop empowered women to be more politically active cannot be ignored.

**We implore you to continue to make this experience a reality for deserving and motivated young women—and tomorrow's leaders.**