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CFW Summit: President's Briefing

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Women's Summit, 2020

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21-22

Sharing
TRUTHS



sponsored by the Council for IWU Women

President's Briefing Friday, February 21, 2020

DATE: February 18, 2020

TO: Georgia Nugent

FROM: Rosetta L. Clay (and Adriane Powell)

CC: Steve Seibring, Julie Anderson

RE: Council for IWU Women (CFW) - Women's Summit 2020

- Council Member Meeting - Brief Remarks (See Info and Talking Points below)
- Luncheon - Keynote Speaker (See details below)

PURPOSE: The Women's Summit is an annual event that provides history about the role of women at IWU, shape perspective for future plans for CFW and the Summit.

HISTORICAL

INFO: The CFW was founded in 2006 by a group including alumnae Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78, Linda Tracy Wych '77 (deceased), Marilyn Neis '71, and Beth Raboin-Gettman, along with Pat Wilson and IWU staff (men and women). This group discussed research at Illinois Wesleyan and other higher education institutions which found that women students showed diminished self-esteem and declining participation in leadership roles in campus programs. The studies also concluded that at a time when university women appeared to be equally, if not more, academically prepared than their male peers at the point of admission and/or graduation, they exhibited low self-esteem and decreased confidence in their own abilities. IWU women students were not immune from these statistics. The group set its Mission:

The Council for IWU Women advances the involvement and leadership of women students, faculty, staff, friends, and alumnae. The Council is committed to strengthening the experiences of all those affiliated with Illinois Wesleyan. The Council for IWU Women exists to promote democratic citizenship and life in a global society, and it works to support the intellectual and personal growth of women while emphasizing the spirit of inquiry and intergenerational exchange among campus constituents. We do this by offering guidance and role models to the extended university community.

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At the time of its founding, the group based the organizational structure of CFW from benchmarking studies of alumnae groups at other universities such as Cornell, Northwestern, Radcliffe and Harvard. All of those groups were membership based with a priority focus on philanthropy.

MEMBERSHIP

STRUCTURE: Initially, a membership structure was best to galvanize the group to meet intended mission and goal to fundraise for endowment and scholarships. There is no membership fee, but there is an application and approval required by current members. The application and approval process has not always been clear to non-members and others. This has created a feeling of exclusivity and can be viewed as exclusionary. In addition, by having this membership model, it has inhibited broad promotion of the CFW and the Summit. Currently, 114 members (including six students).

As Illinois Wesleyan continues to evolve and needs to engage a larger community to be more inclusive, there has been discussion with CFW leadership to forego the 'membership' model as it has seemed to become a barrier for participation. It would be best for the CFW (and the University) to remove the membership structure which will provide greater opportunity for more alumnae to be engaged with the group without feeling excluded from programming.

FINANCIAL

INFO: The CFW has done extremely well with fundraising efforts from members and other supporters:

- Endowment Fund = \$50,100 (2019)
- Operating Fund = \$27,292 (as of January 2019)
- Summit expenses = \$8,000 (paid out of the CFW operating fund)
- Scholarships - four awarded annually since 2008 (one for each class year)
 - Started at \$250; now \$1,000/each = \$4K awarded at Summit

EVENT INFO: Council Member Meeting 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Location: Memorial Center, Turfler Room
Arrival time: 10:30 a.m. Brief remarks: 11 a.m. (10 minutes); Q&A (10 minutes)
Audience: Council Members only; approximately 40-50 members

AGENDA:

10-10:30 a.m. Meet & Greet
10:30 a.m. Welcome, Mission of the Council and 2019 Year in Review - Marilynn Graves '79
10:35 a.m. New Member Report and Introductions - Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78
10:45 a.m. Moving into 2020 - Kim Bankston '96
10:50 a.m. Alumni Engagement Report and Goals - Adriane Powell
11:00 a.m. Remarks and Welcome from President S. Georgia Nugent
11:20 a.m. Closing Remarks - Marilynn Graves

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Georgia Talking Points:

- Commend the group for their foresight to start this group; addressing the need of students and alumnae; the success of their sustainable philanthropic efforts and supporting students with scholarships
- Continue with condensed version of the 'I With U' presentation with a focus on CFW being a part of 'One Community, One Purpose'
- Address the goal for IWU to be a more inclusive community and the focus on inclusivity with all constituent groups
- Close with Q&A (Adriane or a CFW member will assist)

EVENT INFO: Summit Luncheon 12 - 1 p.m.

Location: Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge
Arrival Time: Depart Council Member meeting and go directly to luncheon;
Keynote 15 minutes; followed by 15 minute Q&A
Audience: Total = 98; Council Members (33), Alumnae (8), Students (26),
Faculty and Staff (28), Friends (3) (*Women Only*)

AGENDA:

11:45 a.m. Guests arrive
12:15 p.m. Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Anna Reed '00
- Marilynn Graves '79, CFW President
12:17 p.m. Julie Abraham Tribute - Anna Reed '00
Note: Julie was an active CFW member who was killed in a car accident along with her son Nicholas in October 2019. Anna is a close friend of hers.
12:20 p.m. Titan Trailblazers, the history of women at Illinois Wesleyan and Introduction of
President Nugent - Marilynn Graves '79
12:25 p.m. Keynote Presentation - President S. Georgia Nugent
- "Steps to Leadership for Women (and Everyone)"
12:40 p.m. Q&A for Georgia
12:55 p.m. Closing Remarks - reflecting on the future of the Council - *Kim Bankston '96*

Luncheon Table Assignments

Table 1: Georgia Nugent, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78, Founding Member; Gianina Baker '04,
Co-Chair, Summit; Marilynn Graves '79, President; Kim Bankston '96, President-Elect;
Students/Former Scholarship Award Winners (three names pending)
Table 2: Adriane Powell, Anna Reed '00, Molly Rollings '99, Nell Eckley, Students/Former
Scholarship Award Winners (four names pending)

Profiles for CFW leadership to be provided in a separate document:

Gianina Baker '04, Chair, CFW Summit; Kim Bankston '96, CFW President-elect;
Marilynn Graves '79, CFW President; Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78, CFW Founder

TOTAL SUMMIT ATTENDEES (as of 2.16.2020): 89; 42 Alumni, 23 Faculty/Staff, 21 Students