



News Release

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“Connecticut Women: Be the Change You Want to See”

Summit of Government, Corporate, Non-Profit, and Community Leaders

WHAT: Conference for Women’s Empowerment

WHERE: Legislative Office Building, Hartford

WHEN: Sat., Sept. 15; 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FROM: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
with Vision 2020

HARTFORD – Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro leads off a non-partisan roster of speakers at a statewide conference for women this Saturday, Sept. 15. More than 200 people have registered for “Connecticut Women: Be the Change You Want to See,” to be held in the Legislative Office Building, Hartford.

As part of a national initiative called *Vision2020*, the PCSW is presenting this conference to convene allies and women leaders from across Connecticut with the purpose of advancing women’s equality by the year 2020 (the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote).

In addition to hearing from a distinguished panel of speakers, including State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, Sen. Toni Harp, Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield, Catherine Marx, Connecticut Republicans; and PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger, participants will attend break-put panels on:

Economic Security & Women’s Power, with panelists Alice Pritchard, CT Women’s Education & Legal Fund; Sen. Toni Harp, State Senator and Co-Chair of the General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee; Debra Clark, Hornor, Townsend & Kent; and Jacqueline Cooke, U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau Region One.

Messaging Women’s Issues to Engage All Constituencies, with panelists Julia Evans Starr, CT Commission on Aging; Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield, State Representative; Sylvia

Cooper, Mothers for Justice; Tanya Meck, The Global Strategy Group; and Sharon Cappetta, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

Organizing to Build the Power of Women in Connecticut, with panelists Cheryl Dunson, CT League of Women Voters; Yanil Teron, The Center for Latino Progress; Carol Buckheit, The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; and Valarie Gelb, The CT Women's Forum.

Increasing Women in Leadership, with panelists Patricia Russo, Women's Campaign School at Yale; Karen Wiltsie, Deloitte; Nancy May, Board Bench Companies; and Suzanne Brown Peters, Fairfield County Community Fund for Women & Girls.

“As PCSW enters its 40th year of transforming public policy on behalf of women and their families, it's fitting that we present an in-depth opportunity for women to become empowered to engage more fully in representative government, economic security initiatives and leadership development,” said PCSW Executive Director Teresa C. Younger.

Vision2020 is a national project working to achieve the following five goals by the year 2020, the 100th anniversary of women's gaining the right to vote:

1. Increase the number of women in senior leadership positions in American life to reflect the workforce talent pool and demographics.
2. Achieve pay equity, so that equal pay for equal work will be the norm in the United States.
3. Educate employers about the value of policies and practices that enable men and women to share fairly their family responsibilities.
4. Educate new generations of girls and boys to respect their differences and to act on the belief that the nation is at its best when leadership is shared and opportunities are open to all.
5. Mobilize women to vote, with particular emphasis on a record-setting turnout in 2020, the centennial of the 19th Amendment.

Attached is a program booklet with speakers' bios and the day's agenda.

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state's women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women's issues.