

18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 • 860/240-8300 • pcsw@cga.ct.gov • www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw

CONTACT: Christine Palm, Communications Director at 860/240-8449; or 860/836-2145

For Immediate Release: March 1, 2012

WHAT: PCSW's Women's Day at the Capitol
WHEN: Wednesday, March 14; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
WHERE: Legislative Office Building, Room 2D

Women's Day at the Capitol: Focus is on Economic and Political Gender Inequity

HARTFORD – Dr. Mariko Chang, a nationally recognized expert in the wealth gap as it pertains to women and minorities, and Patricia Russo, president of the Women's Campaign School at Yale, will speak at Women's Day at the Capitol on March 14. Women's Day at the Capitol is an annual forum held by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) so that women and men from throughout Connecticut can learn about cutting-edge issues affecting women and families.

Chang is the author of several critical studies, including *Shortchanged: Why Women Have Less Wealth and What Can Be Done About It*, and is the lead author of the 2010 report, "Lifting As We Climb: Women of Color, Wealth, and America's Future." She is also co-author of *At Rope's End: Single Women Mothers, Wealth and Assets in the U.S.* Chang, who has a PhD in Sociology from Stanford University, was an Associate Professor of Sociology at Harvard University from 1998 to 2007, where she published work on occupational sex segregation and began her research on the gender wealth gap.

Patricia Russo, president of the Women's Campaign School, has spent more than 25 years in numerous leadership positions in public, private and not-for-profit sector arenas centered on women's rights. She has also held leadership positions in federal, state and local political campaigns. In addition to her work on behalf of the Women's Campaign School, she also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, and the Board of Directors of the National Association of Commissions for Women Foundation based in Washington, DC. She is Vice President of the Board of the Foundation for Connecticut Women, and the Advisory Council of Women's Health Research at Yale. She is commissioner emerita of the PCSW.

In addition to the speakers, Women's Day features messages from Legislative leadership and Constitutional Officers, and highlights the winners of the Young Women's Leadership Program's annual Essay Contest. This year's winners are Common Ground High School students James Beech of New Haven (1st place) and Samantha O'Brien of East Haven (2nd place).

(more)

Women's Day at the Capitol: Page 2 of 2

Women's Day at the Capitol: The Day's Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Networking – LOB 2nd Floor Atrium
- 10-11:00 a.m. Program- LOB Room 2D
- Introductions and Welcomes from Constitutional and Legislative Leaders
 - Recognition of YWLP Essay Winners
- 11:00 a.m. Keynote speaker - Dr. Mariko Chang
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon with speaker Patricia Russo, president,
Women's Campaign School at Yale (N.B. Registration is closed.)
- 2:00 p.m. Participants meet with legislators

Both Mariko Chang and Patricia Russo are available for media interviews before and after Women's Day. Please contact Christine Palm at 860/240-8449 or 860/836-2145 (Christine.palm@cga.ct.gov) to arrange.

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.