



Overview of AAUW History

Who We Are

For more than 140 years, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls.

Through its nationwide network, AAUW opens doors for women and girls and influences public debate on critical social issues such as education, civil rights, and workplace equity. AAUW sponsors community programs, publishes groundbreaking research on women and girls, is one of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women, and fights sex discrimination in all levels of education.

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity.
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

History

AAUW began in 1881, when Marion Talbot called a meeting of 17 women graduates—the first generation of alumnae. The purpose was unique: to support each other and future generations of women in higher education. The Association of Collegiate Alumnae was formally established in 1882, merging with the Southern Association of College Women and the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae in 1921 to create the American Association of University Women. For more complete information on AAUW's history, see the AAUW Online Museum at: <https://www.aauw.org/about/history/>

What AAUW Does

AAUW's 170,000 valued members and supporters, staff, and stakeholders celebrate and reflect on the organization's rich past and meaningful impact to ensure our future relevance in advancing equity for all women and girls.

The power of AAUW stems from its members, donors, and university partners nationwide. Members hold an associate's or equivalent, bachelors, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Members range from recent college graduates to women in a variety of professions. Student affiliates are working toward their first degree. Higher education institutions can join AAUW through the college/university partnership program. AAUW activities focus on several areas:

- Hosting programs that promote opportunities for women and girls in schools, at work, and in local communities. Training tomorrow's leaders through professional development conferences, workshops, and materials, including the AAUW National
- Mobilizing voters on issues of concern to women and their families through the AAUW Voter Education Campaign.
- Informing and influencing local, state, and federal policymakers on AAUW's policy priorities, including a strong system of public education; affordable, quality higher education; Title IX, reproductive rights, affirmative action, and other civil rights; a fair and balanced judiciary; work-place equity and equal pay; and retirement security
- Convening coalitions with diverse groups, educators, parents, and businesses
- Awarding about \$115 million each year in fellowships, grants, and awards to help women achieve their goals and to promote equity in schools and communities. More than 13,000 women and non-profits have received support from AAUW
- Conducting landmark research exploring issues concerning women, girls, and education. Including the annual publication of *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*.
- Providing financial support for sex discrimination lawsuits against colleges and universities

- Providing a network of volunteer attorneys and social scientists who consult with women on legal strategy, resources, and the strength of current or potential cases
- Reaching out to campuses and communities to raise awareness about sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace

Governance

The AAUW Board of Directors governs in accordance with its charter and bylaws.

The AAUW Board consists of two elected officers and thirteen directors-at-large. The AAUW executive director serves ex officio. The president and vice president and ten board members are elected by the membership. Three additional directors-at-large are appointed by the elected board. A financial officer and secretary are appointed from among the elected and appointed board members.

Professional Staff

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 Managing Director & Chief of Staff
 Executive Vice President & Chief of Program Staff
 Senior Director of Institutional Advancement
 Senior Director of Communications
 Senior Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy, & Research

Structure and Tax Status

AAUW includes both a section 501(c)(3) public charity, the primary membership organization, and the AAUW Action Fund, a smaller 501 (c)(4) social welfare organization that may engage in limited activities related to member activism and voter education.

Sources of Support

AAUW is supported by member dues, affinity and other non-dues revenue programs, and individuals committed to its work, as well as corporate and foundation gifts and grants.

AAUW Hierarchy As It Pertains To Texas

AAUW — the principal corporation

State — Texas

District — a geographical subdivision of AAUW TX which is represented on the AAUW TX Board of Directors by one or more district representatives

Branch — the local unit of AAUW Texas