

AAUW Gives Thanks

As Thanksgiving approaches, AAUW reflects back on the many things we have to be thankful for this year. Here are just a few of them [*Some links require AAUW membership login; 11/24/08*]:

- # We're thankful for coaches in [California](#) and [Florida](#), [students in Colorado](#), and moms in [Michigan](#) who insist on holding colleges and high schools accountable on [Title IX](#).
- # We're thankful for [NCAA President Myles Brand](#) who recently told colleges and universities not to blame cuts to athletic programs on Title IX.
- # We're thankful that the [House of Representatives](#) recognized the importance of women in the [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics](#) fields, and that AAUW is undertaking a [major research](#) project on the topic.
- # We're thankful for AAUW state and branch affiliates nationwide that registered new voters, held candidate nights and issues forums, advocated on statewide ballot initiatives, and generally [ensured that women's voices were heard](#) in this year's election.
- # We're thankful for states that heed the [research](#) on [comprehensive sex education](#) and choose to [reject federal abstinence-only funding](#).
- # We're thankful for [presidential debates](#) that bring issues like [school vouchers](#) and [pay equity](#) into the spotlight.
- # We're thankful for AAUW's good friend Lilly Ledbetter, the [Face of Pay Equity](#), for putting pay equity issues on the national stage at the [Democratic National Convention](#), in [congressional hearings](#), and on [Capitol Hill](#).
- # We're thankful for [cities](#) and [states](#) that show their support for working families by passing [paid family leave and paid sick days](#) legislation before the federal government gets around to it.
- # We're thankful that AAUW [gained special consultative status](#) at the United Nations with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- # We're thankful for [30 years](#) of civil rights law that helps women to fight the "Motherhood Penalty."
- # We're thankful that [Roe v. Wade](#) has survived [35 years](#) of Supreme Court ups and downs.
- # We're thankful for the [AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps](#), whose persistent and thoughtful volunteer advocacy helped pass bills on [pay equity](#) and [higher education](#), and [held lawmakers accountable](#) on their votes.
- # We're thankful for a new federal law that ensures health plans provide the same [coverage](#) for mental illness as they would for any other health condition.
- # We're thankful for AAUW's merry band of bloggers and all those contributing to the fruitful public discourse on [AAUW Dialog](#).
- # We're thankful that Americans who were previously deemed "[not disabled enough](#)" will benefit once again from protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- # We're thankful the [Florida Supreme Court](#) rejected school vouchers in the Sunshine State, ensuring precious taxpayer dollars go only to public schools.
- # We're thankful for improved federal aid programs that help students -- including our [honored veterans](#) -- make the dream of a college education a reality.
- # We're thankful for [girls](#) who see themselves as advocates, and [college students](#) working to make the world a better place.
- # We're thankful for courageous women who break through the [brass ceiling](#), the [glass ceiling](#), and the [marble ceiling](#).
- # We're thankful for AAUW members and supporters who put their money where their mouth is, generously giving time and resources to [help women get their degrees](#) and develop [leadership skills](#).

And of course, we're thankful for you, the [AAUW Action Network](#), for your spirited advocacy to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

From all of us at AAUW, best wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving and a joyful beginning to your holiday season..