2008-2009 Annual Report: Women’s Resource Center

1. Executive Summary: The Academic Year 2008-2009 was the first year for the new director. The three primary goals were to increase the center’s visibility; establish wide-ranging connections; and to ensure the WRC and its programming are relevant to the needs and interests of the (campus) community. To meet these goals the director set the following main objectives: get to know campus and the people on it; offer programming to the Loyola community that will meet its interests and needs; begin some community outreach efforts; and try to secure a better physical space on campus.

2. Profile Summary:

2.1 Mission Statement: The mission of the Women’s Resource Center is to provide Loyola women and men with a positive college experience by responding to their needs as gendered human beings and by fostering an environment that is free of sexism and other forms of institutional and individual oppression.

2.2 General Statement: The Women’s Resource Center strives to create a supportive and inclusive campus environment through programming, services, and advocacy. The Center supports the educational mission of Women’s Studies through programming and services: it offers opportunities for students to explore questions and concerns and provides opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional development and empowerment through programming; it encourages and promotes the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge about women amongst faculty; and it seeks to include and respond to the needs of staff members.

2.2.1 Staff: One full time director, 2 part time work study students

3. Assessment

3.1 Methods of Assessment: discussion and feedback from Women’s Studies Committee; “exit” meetings at the end of programs with partners in the program; informal discussion with students, faculty, staff, and community partners about programming; and pre and post evaluation forms for workshops.

3.2 Program and Staff Goals for 2008-2009:

i. Provide relevant programs and events and respond to the educational needs of the campus community.

ii. Develop collaborative ties with student organizations and other campus organizations/offices/centers/academic departments/colleges through co-programming and providing support by the WRC.
iii. Make outreach efforts and community engagement activities both on-campus and off-campus.

iv. Work on publicity campaigns for programming and events.

4. Summary of Achievements

4.1 Unit as a whole:

Brown Bag Lunches:

Monday, September 29:
Karen Reichard, Director of the WRC will discuss the role of Women’s Resource Centers on College Campuses

Monday, October 6
Dale Standifer, Executive director of Metro will speak about the issue of domestic violence

Monday, November 10th
Prof. Jaita Talukdar presents: “What is on Your Plate? Social Class and Changing Food Preferences of Women in Urban India”

Monday, December 8th
Thomas Greene, SJ, Jesuit Center for Mission and Ministry
“Migration and Mujeres: the Impact of immigration on Latino Women”

Monday, February 2
Thomasine Bartlett, Department of Visual Arts
"Vintage Drag: New Orleans' My-O-My Club"

Monday, March 2
Georgia Gresham, Professor of Theater Arts, along with Fulbright Scholar and guest Director, Arben Kumbaro will discuss the season’s final production: “The Trojan Women”

Monday, March 9
Environmental Law Professor Rob Verchick will discuss “Women, Activism and Disaster Justice”

Monday, March 30
Gwendolyn George, DNP, FNP-BC from Loyola’s School of Nursing will present: “Women's Health - What every woman should know”
Women’s History month events:

Lindy Boggs Tribute (co-sponsored with the Boggs Center – organized through Fr. Wildes and Institutional Advancement)

A panel discussion with local environmental activists

A dinner with local women leaders of various faith traditions (muslim, jewish, Christian) and women student leaders to talk about faith and women’s leadership.

A dinner with local women leaders from government, media, academia and non-profits to meet with Marie Wilson, President of The White House Project

A series of events with Marie Wilson: panel discussion, coffee with faculty, lecture

Co-sponsored events:

October 19, 2008: “Team Loyola” in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure with Res Life and Athletics and Wellness

October 23, 2008: Jennifer Disney Book Talk: “Women’s Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua” with the College of Law’s National Lawyer’s Guild (40+ in attendance)

November 5, 2008: Take Back the Night with the Counseling Center and Tulane University

November 14-16, 2008: Women’s Weekend Away retreat for undergraduate women with University Ministry

January 29, 2009: “Ain’t I a Woman!” – Guest theatre troupe production celebrating African American History month with the Twomey Center, The Center for Intercultural Understanding, and LUCAP (70+ in attendance)

Other events/activities this academic year:

The WRC hosted a discussion with LUCAP students and a group of sociology students from St. Mary’s College in California who were in New Orleans to do service work and research for their class: “Race, Class and Gender in Post-Katrina New Orleans.”

Currently working with Reagan Sydney to establish a Women’s Learning Community in the residence halls.
Worked with campus police to offer RADS classes to students, faculty, staff

Continued to host the Loyola Women Read group once a month

Worked with Ilyse Goldberg of University Counseling, Angela Honora of LUPD, and Pan Hellenic to put together programming for sexual assault awareness week in April.

Worked with Allison Inman from ITVS community cinema to bring the documentary on Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai – “Taking Root” to campus

4.2 Achievements/Service of Director

Presentations:

- Spoke at LUCAP events this year, including a panel during social justice week on violence in our community.
- Gave a presentation at the SLI conference in January - "Young Women Leaders: Finding Your Voice and Making a Difference."
- Gave a presentation at the Staff Conference Day in April – “Navigating Challenges, Finding Success.”

Advising:

- Advisor to Women’s Initiatives Organization

Committee Service:

- Member of WS committee (and steering committee)
- Member of HEAL committee
- Member of Diversity committee
- Member of the Student Leadership Awards committee

Community Service:

- Board member of Metropolitan Center for Women and Children

Other:

Put together a luncheon in February with Provost Ed Kvet and various center/program heads to discuss ways we can collaborate and establish better lines of communication on campus.

Awards:

Received the Friend of LUCAP award at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year.
5. Budget

5.1 Budget for 2008-2009: $9,900.

5.1.1 The small budget and limited staff makes meeting goals and providing programming challenging.

5.2 The upcoming year’s expected budget: $9,900.

6. Planning and Goals for the upcoming year

6.1 General Statement:

6.2 The WRC support of the strategic plan of the University:

The goals and objectives and the programming that is created by the WRC to meet those goals and objectives keeps in mind the overall strategic plan of the University. Through its programming, the WRC intentionally responds to the stated values of our university of acting justly and thinking critically in a way that engages both our Loyola and our New Orleans community. Further, the WRC seeks ways to build on our strengths as a university, partnering with units across campus to provide excellent programming to our faculty, staff, and students. And as we move forward, we will build on our outreach efforts, with an increased focus on reaching out to other universities, to our New Orleans community and to communities beyond through organizational membership, service, social justice activism, and community partnering.

6.3 Strategic plan/goals:

For 2009-2010 the following goals have been set:

- Continue to establish the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) as a place that helps to educate and empower women students and that addresses the interests and concerns of students by working with the Women’s Initiative for Learning and Leading (WILL) and with the Women’s Issues Organization (WIO).
- Form a WRC student advisory board
- More actively reach out to faculty and staff, working especially to support the Women’s Studies program and the faculty who do research on gender and women’s issues.
- To continue outreach efforts with the larger community
In addition to the above goals, the following competencies are vital to the director’s success in this position and/or will enhance professional development:

- be conversant in current academic trends in gender and women’s studies
- be conversant in policies and issues that affect women’s day-to-day lives
- communicate effectively
- creatively manage a center with a limited budget
- and be able to address sensitive and/or provocative issues with diplomacy and empathy

Further, it has been recommended by the Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs that the director can enhance her development of the noted competencies by participating in regional and national conferences, attending leadership training seminars, and teaching courses.