



THE 2018 JUDITH SANDERSON LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AWARD

The **Judith Sanderson Legacy of Leadership Award** is given biannually to an AAUW Colorado member for contributions to AAUW's mission and leadership at the branch, state or national level — or a combination thereof with emphasis on contributions at the state level. The recipient will be honored at the annual State Convention in even-numbered years.

Purpose: To honor and recognize outstanding AAUW service and support of AAUW's mission — advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Past Recipients:

- 2006 – Judy Sanderson
- 2008 – Sue Bodis
- 2010 – Betsy Loague
- 2012 – Lois Florkey
- 2014 – Betty Flaten
- 2016 – Diane Fuchs

Criteria: *The nominee*

- Has served on the State Board and/or a State Committee for two or more terms.
- Supports the mission of AAUW by guiding and inspiring other women and girls to participate in AAUW programs and activities.
- Promotes excellent working relationships with all members to accomplish AAUW goals.
- Has been an AAUW member for ten years, five of which have been in Colorado.

Nomination for the Award to Amy Blackwell

Submitted by Jill Smith and Barb McDaniel

11-year member of AAUW, all in Colorado

Member of all 13 Branches

AAUW Offices Held:

NATIONAL: AAUW Board of Directors (2011-2015), AAUW Action Fund Board of Directors (2013-2015), AAUW Strategic Communications Committee (2015-2017), AAUW Delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (2016 & 2017), AAUW Leadership Corps Field Representative (2009-2011), Certified Salary Negotiation Facilitator (since 2009)

AAUW COLORADO: President-Elect (2015-2016), President (2016-2018), Public Policy Co-Director (2009-2013), Volunteer Lobbyist (2010-2015), Voter Ed Co-Director (2008-2009, 2012-2013), Nominating Committee (2008), Web Manager (since 2012), Facebook Page Founder & Administrator (since 2009), Developed State calendar for website

BRANCH: Douglas County Branch: Public Policy Chair & Publicity Co-Chair (2008-2010); Lakewood Branch: EF Chair (2006-2007), Nominating Committee Chair (2007), Co-President (2007-2008)

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TESTIMONIALS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Amy Blackwell's Friends and Associates Speak Up

Amy, it seems only yesterday that we sat across the table at Mt. Vernon and I mentioned you would be the perfect person to serve on the state Public Policy committee.

You took off like a rocket filling AAUW committee and officer positions at the local, state and national level, all while building your own successful business.

You are a role model for the young women we want and need to recruit for today's AAUW. By your example you can help them to know that they too can be successful leaders and advocates for tomorrow. I am proud of the way you have led AAUW Colorado into the 21st Century in regards to leadership, technology and that ever cognizant eye on the future.

The vision of that future and application of it will be your legacy for AAUW Colorado.

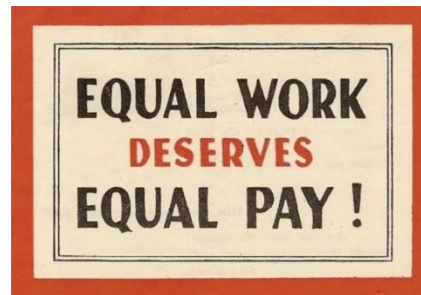
Congratulations on this most deserved award.

— *Betty Flaten,*
AAUW CO Program Co-Chair

Amy,

It has been such a pleasure to know you, become friends, and work with you. We made a good team as co-presidents of the Lakewood branch, and I learned

so much from you throughout that year. You are such a dynamic leader in so many ways, and I'm so proud of you in all that you've achieved in AAUW and in your civic service.



I love that you've grabbed the opportunities as they came your way and capitalized on them to become the wonderful woman and leader that you are. Thanks for sharing your multitude of talents with us in AAUW, with our communities, and with the world. We are all better because of YOU!!

Best wishes in your future endeavors!

Love, Sandy Kistler

Amy has been inspirational in my commitment to AAUW because her active participation and leadership is contagious. I was so impressed and surprised to walk into the Annual Meeting of the Durango Branch in May of 2017 and there was Amy. As a strong show of leadership, her decision to be a member of our branch and others is amazing and loyal

to her position in AAUW-Colorado. Thank You Amy!

marcy jung, AAUW Durango
Branch President

Hey Amy! Congratulations on receiving the Colorado Legacy of Leadership award. Your passion for AAUW has been an inspiration to many branch leaders. You moved our social media presence to a new level - especially in regards to the initial web-site design and maintenance.

We thank you for representing AAUW Colorado at the national level and for showing that there is more than one path in the leadership pipeline.

We look forward to where your energy will take us now.

Brenda J Wolfe,
Colorado Springs Branch



WITH FORMER COLORADO STATE SENATOR
BETTY BOYD



WITH LILLY LEDBETTER, PIONEER IN TAKING ACTION FOR EQUAL PAY

Amy seems to have been a great help to expanding AAUW's State structure. She was a help for me as a first-time National Convention attendee.

Aloha,

Pam Jones, Aurora Branch
President

There from the start.
Helping to start smart.
Equal pay for women!
Always in our heart.

Love and thanks for all you have done and continue to do!

Annie and Dorrie
Start Smart Program

Dear Amy,

Thank you for all the work you have done for Colorado AAUW in the public policy arena and as State President. Your understanding of the working of social

media and the way our organization could use it for Voter Education is especially noteworthy as are the Start Smart workshops you have conducted throughout the state. You truly live the mission of AAUW in all aspects of your life.

Sally Mathewson, Colorado
Springs Branch

Since I moved to Loveland and became active here in AAUW, Amy Blackwell has been active in the Colorado AAUW. I was impressed with Amy always when I heard her present... usually that was at state conventions or leadership conferences. She was always prepared, was positive in her presentation, and used our time wisely.

There were many times that I saw that she could think

“outside the box” and open new avenues of thinking and working for us.

I found her to be organized, informative, and motivational in conversations and presentations in the variety of leadership positions she has held since I have known her. I feel that she is very deserving of this Legacy Award.

— Martha DiCicco,
Loveland Branch

I first met Amy at an AAUW National Convention when I was incoming branch president. She had such enthusiasm and passion for AAUW and gave me confidence as I moved into my new role.

As I have gotten to know her through the last years I realize how caring she is and what a broad range of interests she has in addition to AAUW. She will be missed, but her contribution will not be lost!

Amy, go forth and find new experiences as I know you will still be a major supporter of AAUW!

Linda Joseph, Littleton-South
Metro Branch

Amy Blackwell accepted an invitation to be a speaker at a Grand Junction AAUW program meeting. Because of her knowledge, I was motivated to volunteer to be nominated as president for our local branch. As our branch has struggled with



ALL-CHINA WOMEN'S FEDERATION, 2012

not only change but also growth, I have found myself needing advice on how to handle the conflict caused by those who did not want to change. We are finally reaching out to a more diverse group of women, and slowly growing while also holding the interest of those who don't wish to change.

Virginia Brown,
President AAUW Grand Junction
Branch 2017-2019

When Amy Blackwell was the president of Lakewood Branch I served as co-program vice president. I had just rejoined the branch after twenty-four years of teaching in Jefferson County Schools.

A talent that was especially important to me was her technology knowledge. A portion of an evening branch program was on my computer. In a practice session I connected my computer to the projector, clicked on a button, and nothing happened. I made a worried

phone call to Amy. On the night of the branch meeting, she arrived with a downloaded manual for the projector, followed the directions, and problem solved.

On another occasion the plan was to show the film Iron Jawed Angels. The location had a DVD player, but a very small TV. Amy's solution was to enlist help transporting and setting up her large sized TV, and problem solved.

I continue to see other great qualities now that I saw in 2008. Amy has exceptional presence in front of an audience. Along with her outstanding communication skills, she sets a good example. She compliments and thanks members for their service.

Thank you, Amy, for your commitment and passion for AAUW.

Sincerely,

Margene Stroup
Co-President of Lakewood
Branch

Congratulations, Amy! Your dedication and leadership at every AAUW level is exceptional. Thank you for your service particularly in Public Policy, as state president, and nationally.

Sherry Hitztaler
Douglas County Branch

When Amy joined the Lakewood Branch, it was the first time I met her. Her leadership abilities quickly stood out when she would bring us up to date as to what was happening in Colorado and nationally with AAUW. As president of Lakewood Branch, I attended workshops she presented, and was in awe of her skills. Her Facebook entries and emails continue to inspire us. She truly deserves to receive the Legacy of Leadership Award.

Barbara Green Martin,
Lakewood Branch

Amy Blackwell has inspired every AAUW branch in Colorado to do better in order to thrive and

grow. As Colorado AAUW State President, she joined every branch and has made the commitment to speak to each branch in 2017-18. She also served at the national level, where her energy and knowledge made a difference. I expect Amy to continue making a difference for AAUW and women and girls everywhere for many years to come. Amy is an exceptional recipient for AAUW's Legacy of Leadership Award.

Mary Wylie,
Lakewood Branch

Dear Amy,

Thank you for all the work you have done for Colorado AAUW in the public policy arena and as State President. Your understanding of the working of social media and the way our organization could use it for Voter Education is especially noteworthy as are the Start Smart workshops you have conducted throughout the state. You truly live the mission of AAUW in all aspects of your life.

Sally Mathewson, Co-Founder of
the Legacy of Leadership Award
Colorado Springs Branch
State Public Policy Committee

Amy Blackwell is an accomplished woman of many skills and abilities. When I think of her, the following come to mind: She helps to improve the lives of women and girls, a leader who thinks outside of the

Buckyball, an organizational finance expert, a teacher who leads women to an understanding of their worth, committed to science and a contributor in a variety of fields, a business owner, internet marketing expert and a poet.

She is high energy, tireless, a leader and someone you need to know.

Dave Kirkwood
National Board Member



Amy was one of the initial supporters and members of our state's first virtual branch, the Colorado eNetwork. Her tireless efforts and countless hours of devotion to AAUW are awe-inspiring, and she certainly has established a legacy in her leadership.

Heidi Baker,
Colorado eNetwork

Amy Blackwell is someone I consider not only an AAUW colleague, but a friend. I met Amy through AAUW and through a shared empathy for our childhood and a passion for social justice, developed a friendship. Amy was a chief cheerleader during my master's degree program and assisted me in finding my voice to speak out about injustices in the world.

Amy is a supporter for all people in getting access to education, the right to vote, and the right to use their voice. Amy is the founder of Blackwell Communications LLC, which is a mobile and online communications, research, public relations, and marketing service provider specializing in writing, presentations, workshops, and social media outreach for businesses, nonprofits, and grassroots organizations.

As a member of AAUW she has worn many hats and currently serves as the AAUW of Colorado President and is a former member of the AAUW National Board of Directors. Amy is skilled at providing marketing, communications, coaching, and research services in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and health care. She volunteers to prevent domestic violence, create access to education, and provide health care consumer protection.

She is an avid protector of the environment and loves hiking

and photographing the natural wonders of the many places her work and volunteer opportunities take her. She is a writer and enjoys cooking.

Amy is a strong advocate for women and just as she has created the life she wants for herself, she strives to empower others to develop their own vision for who they wish to be and encourages them to reach their goal.

Connie Paeglow, AAUW CO
eNetwork Member

Amy has been a tenacious leader for Colorado AAUW. Perhaps her greatest contribution has been an ongoing effort to make our branches and state organization more mission driven. It is important that members know what the larger organization is all about, and Amy has faithfully stressed our mission and worked diligently to help that happen for leaders at all levels, and especially for branch leaders.

To her credit she has also made herself available and serves on both a state advisory board and a local community board.

Colorado AAUW has moved forward in mission with Amy's leadership.

Betty Boyd
Member of Colorado House
(2001-06), Senate (2006-2013),
AAUW CO Public Policy Co-Chair,
Lakewood Branch Member

(Nomination, continued)

AAUW Activities and Programs:

Start Smart and Work Smart workshop planning and facilitation (and initiated it for state programs); pay equity; college/university relations; volunteering for lobbying; public policy; voter education and mobilization; AAUW Delegate to the United Nations; governance; leadership development and succession; strategic planning; visioning sessions.

Working with Amy Blackwell for the past 11 years in AAUW activities we see that she embodies the mission - advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Her non-partisan advocacy work is well documented at the national, state and branch levels. Amy brought the goals and values from her AAUW work with the UN to all 13 branches in Colorado, of which she is a member! As the state's website manager and Facebook page manager, Amy has developed ways to inform and educate our members as well as to attract others to AAUW Colorado and Branch activities. She is a mentor and guide who skillfully communicates and reaches out to members to participate and be involved in education. She teaches AAUW's Start Smart and Work Smart Programs. Amy, a member of AAUW's Legacy Circle, is a generous and persuasive donor. She "walks the talk" as an example and inspiration for philanthropy. Her leadership and management skills have brought changes to the structure and focus for state and branch programs and activities. Guided by research, Amy has encouraged branches to understand changing societal trends and how to address them in practical ways.

Knowing Amy Blackwell personally we appreciate her friendship and dedication to making a better world. Even 'outside' of AAUW she advocates for a safe and just world for women and girls. She embraces global issues through her professional activities and personally funds initiatives. Amy offers book suggestions that have influenced her, shares her wonderful sense of humor and demonstrates the value of time for reflection and renewal.

Please honor Amy Blackwell with the Legacy of Leadership Award for her outstanding service and support of AAUW's mission and members.

— Jill Smith and Barb McDaniel





philanthropy, education and advocacy. I admire the way you present our mission on the AAUW Colorado website and on Facebook in such an organized, easy to use way.

What a focused positive life you lead! Thank you for the leadership you have continuously exemplified for all of us.

Stormy McDonald

Dear Amy,

Congratulations on your receipt of this Judy Sanderson Legacy of Leadership Award!

You have been a nurturing leader for me since I rejoined AAUW in 2007 here in Colorado. I remember your first counsel to me to plan mission based programs for Lakewood. I learn from you online, in person, and seeing you living the current AAUW mission actively seeking equity for women and girls through your research,

Amy throws her heart and soul into whatever she does and she does it all; from being active in communities, running her own business, being part of national and state AAUW offices and still finding time to take care of herself.

I have followed her career, as much as possible for it means keeping up with someone who never stops, and always admired how she can fit so much into so

few hours. Amy is not only committed to AAUW, she is involved in ways that make communities and our world a better place to live.

She has worked hard to help women be trained to obtain better salaries, represented AAUW at the UN, led national and state roles to better the conditions for women and girls, and worked on environmental and mental health issues.

The quality I most admire in Amy is her desire to learn all she can by trying new things. She is dedicated and curious, seeking new experiences and knowledge and then applying them to her life and finding ways to help others. I am grateful to have her as a friend. She is only just beginning and her efforts continue to reap rewards.

Fondly,

Diane Norten



Littleton - South Metro Branch thanks you for your leadership! Jill Smith

Congr.
your commitment
and leadership is amazing!
Congratulations!
Barb Pfeiffer

Congratulations!
Thanks for moving
AAUW into the future!
Jane Miller

Congratulations
and thanks -
Ann Ross

Amy
Congratulations!
Jan Scanlan

Amy,
We are so
proud of you.
Susan Probie

Good luck in
future adventures
Diane Steen
Colleen Zimmerman

Congratulations!
Best wishes!
Judy Kraft

Thanks, Amy!
for all that you do
for AAUW. What
would we do without
you? Mini Svensson

Congrats!
Anne Louise

Amy, you have been
such an inspiration
to me over my tenure
at AAUW. I daily
strive to follow in
your footsteps -
Carolyn Cooley



Great work!
Thanks Amy for
your tireless advocacy
of women's issues.
You're an inspiration!
Janice Roth

Congrats!
Best -
Dana Zimmerman

Have enjoyed
having you
as a role
model, Stormy
Amy,
Congrats for work
most honorable!
- Kate Kimbro

Best & you Amy!
Thanks for all the
leadership & support
Linda Joseph
Thank you, Amy
Sin Patterson
Good job
Jennifer