The recent New England Women’s Policy Conference, held in Boston November 7th was a power-packed day of learning, networking and celebrating state and regional action in four issue areas promoting women’s economic security: wages and income security; health and family leave policies; childcare; and elder care.

Vermont Commission on Women’s Cary Brown addressed the 400 event participants in two panel discussions: *Innovative Approaches and Best Practices: Learning from the States* and *A Call To Action Round Table*. In addition, Cary moderated the break out session, *New England State Paid Leave Policies: How to Organize Successful Campaigns and Coalitions*. Other featured speakers included the Mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh, economist, author and commentator Julianne Malveaux, and the Director of the Women’s Bureau at the US Department of Labor, Latifa Lyles.

Conference co-conveners were women’s organizations in our region: Vermont Commission on Women, Connecticut’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Maine’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, New Hampshire Women’s Foundation, Women’s Fund of Rhode Island, and hosts were: John F. Kennedy Library and Museum and University of Massachusetts Boston @ Boston’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. Honorary Co-Chairs of the conference were Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Rosa DeLauro (D-Connecticut). Read materials and watch for a video capturing highlights of the day [here](#).

* VCW Commissioner Shambulia Gadsden Sams was invited to join other advocates at the White House for a briefing: "Women and Girls of Color: Addressing Challenges and Expanding Opportunity."

Many of the disparities that women face are often more pronounced for women of color. This event, held by the White House Council on Women and Girls for its new report, "Women and Girls of Color: Addressing Challenges and Expanding Opportunity" featured opening remarks delivered by Tina Tchen, executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls. Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett closed the event with an armchair conversation. [Watch the Video](#).

Learn More

* Women's Leadership Circle of Chittenden County - January to June 2015
Program in Nonprofit Management, Marlboro College Graduate School

This program, founded by new VCW Commissioner Kerry Secrest, is now a collaborative effort with the
Program in Nonprofit Management at Marlboro College Graduate School, and provides women from a specific geographical location (Chittenden County this time) facilitated gatherings over six months (from January to June 2015), establishing the foundation for an ongoing network of support. Participants meet for an initial overnight retreat followed by 5 monthly meetings. They benefit from a customized, one-on-one coaching session, and work with a peer learning partner to maintain momentum and accountability. Learn more about the next Circles here.

* Vermont Stage Company presents "Or"
January 28th – February 15th

Vermont Stage Company presents | 110 Main Street | Burlington | VT | 05401

Producing Artistic Director, Cristina Alicea decided to produce the play "Or" shortly after becoming a Vermont Works for Women "Labor of Love" Honoree. Why? Alicea says, "Because of the play's real-life heroine, Aphra Behn. She's such an exciting woman. She was widowed at 27, ended up in debtor's prison during her career as a spy for the English crown, and wrote over a dozen successful plays as a first female professional playwright. In the 1660's, there was no place in that society and culture for her, so she created a place for herself. I identify with that. I think all women in 2014 can still very much identify with that." Vermont Stage Company describes the play like this: The 1660s look a lot like the 1960s in this fast-paced, neo-Restoration comedy about real-life poet, spy, and first professional female playwright, Aphra Behn. Before she can complete her latest masterpiece, our daring heroine must solve a pushy producer problem, untangle a saucy love triangle, and stop an attempted assassination of the King. Tickets and more info here.

* Rochester’s Big Town Gallery hosts Seven Women Painters Exhibition
Ends November 22nd

BigTown Gallery is especially proud to present this exciting group of painters, all of whom have pushed deep creative roots into our Vermont landscape. Gallery’s description: These artists have been selected for the remarkable combination of vision and dexterity that characterizes their work. Together they represent some of the most accomplished contemporary landscape and abstract painters working in Vermont today. Featuring the work of: Renee Bouchard, Margaret Lampe Kannenstine, Ying Li, Celia Reisman, Laurie Sverdlove, Nancy H Taplin, Jessica Nissen, More info here.

* Tech Loving Women Unite: Social Hour at Burlington’s Generator
Thursday, November 20th 5:30 to 7:30pm

Girl Develop It (GDI), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and Vermont Works for Women are joining forces for a fun night at Burlington’s maker space, Generator. Meet other local women in tech, learn more about the three hosting organizations, experience free demos of Generator’s equipment, and enjoy food and libations from a tasty local food truck and ArtsRiot cash bar.
* Audio Conference: Job Schedules and Child Care
Wednesday, November 19, from 3-4

CLASP – the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Center for Popular Democracy, and the National Women’s Law Center present this audio conference addressing problems parents face with volatile schedules and access to child care, how parents cope when they lose their subsidies, and what subsidy policies and practices could enhance stable child care. More info or to register here.

* National Data on Job Recovery

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research recently released a briefing paper, “Women and Men in the Recovery: Where the Jobs Are” which details women’s and men’s job losses and job gains in the first five years of the recovery since the Great Recession. As of June 2014, men had regained 90.1 percent of jobs they lost in the recession and women had regained 136.3 percent of theirs.

The briefing paper analyzes job growth by gender and by industry and finds that, while women were hard hit by Government job losses, strong growth in Education and Health Services—the largest industry for women’s employment—buoyed their overall employment numbers in the recovery.

* Membership in Vermont Early Childhood Alliance

The Vermont Early Childhood Alliance is a statewide, independent, advocacy coalition of parents, individual community members, organizations and early childhood providers. Members and strategic partners are committed to improving public policies that impact young children between the ages of birth and eight in the areas of health, safety, food and economic security and early care and education. Those interested in learning more or becoming a member can access membership and strategic partnership documents online. Join by January 16th for the 2015 calendar year.

* Jobs at Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Montpelier

The Network is currently seeking to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant, a Special Projects Coordinator, and Community Change Coordinator. For position job descriptions, application due dates and more information, please send email to karents@vtnetwork.org.

Thursday, December 4, 2014, 2 p.m. EST

A national discussion is underway about the causes and effects of income and wealth inequality, including recent attention to the role of the U.S. tax code. The federal tax code contains more than $1 trillion in tax
subsidies known to policymakers and economists as “tax expenditures” because they are a form of spending through the tax code. Of these subsidies, more than half a trillion, $540 billion, support some form of savings or investment (e.g., higher education, retirement, homeownership); but wealthier households receive most of the benefits. This webinar will explore who benefits from federal tax expenditures by income, race, ethnicity, and zip code. More info or to register, here.

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Vermont Commission on Women (VCW)
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