

## UCSD Women's Center: 2003-2004 Annual Summary

From 2002-2004 the Women's Center was in a state of transition and understaffing. The founding Director resigned her position in December 2002 and the Assistant Director was appointed as Interim Director for the next 7 months. She was hired to the permanent position in July 2003. The Women's Center continued to operate with only two professional staff (full time Director and 83% Office Manager) until a new Assistant Director was hired June 1, 2004. During this time, the Women's Center maintained its major operations, avoided any closure of the physical space, and continued providing student internship positions.

From a small unit in 1997, which boasted a Director and a temporary office assistant, and which offered small workshops on gender issues, we have increasingly become an integral part of the larger campus climate. We now work with many different campus units each year in a coordinated effort to provide programming that enriches the educational climate for hundreds of people a year.

"The Women's Center provides a venue for discussion of serious issues that is nowhere else available on the UCSD campus." Faculty Member

One of the largest focuses for the Center continues to be developing and facilitating programs and events. In the last few years, consistent with our mission and the direction of our Advisory Board, we have striven to provide larger and more academic programming that will draw graduate students, faculty, and the community as well as students and staff. From 2002-2004, while we organized less programs and events, we focused on ones that drew larger attendance, such as Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, the Clitoris Celebration, Take Back the Night and the Vagina Monologues.

We created new programming partnerships and renewed old partnerships. We sponsored "Love Your Body Day" and the film "Mona Lisa Smile" with the Office Sexual Harassment Prevention and Policy (OSHPP), hosted a reception for a Helen Edison Lecture Series event, and continued our joint programming with Women in Science and Engineering. We have also worked closely with staff at the Office of Graduate Studies and Research to find ways to outreach to graduate women. We are currently working together to revive the "Graduate Women's Handbook." We formed a campus-wide committee to plan Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. Due to limited resources and staff, this event was shortened from a full-day event to a half day event. Input from members of the committee and past participants indicated that some parents wanted more time to take their children to their own work sites. We therefore provided structured activities for the morning, served, lunch, and had limited activities in the early afternoon. This was also the first year that the name of the event included "Sons" in the title. We saw a significant increase in the numbers of boys who attended.

In the 2003-2004 academic year, the Women's Center successfully partnered with the Cross Cultural Center and Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center in the creation and implementation of the "Chancellor's Undergraduate Diversity Leadership Institute." This year-long institute brought together 12 students and our three Campus Community Centers to discuss and explore the Social Change Model of Leadership Development. Students engaged in social change action projects which were presented to the campus community at a Spring symposium. This institute has been one of the most successful partnerships we have created and has given us the opportunity to articulate our joint goals, passions, and commitment to diversity and social justice.

Following UCSD's commitment to public service and outreach, we have continued our donations drives for community agencies in the San Diego Community, and have created programs that bring UCSD and the community together discuss gender issues and to celebrate San Diego women. We partnered with UCSD Athena and with an organization called Women's Media to highlight issues for women in the workplace and share results of Athena's San Diego survey. For the third year in a row we were a major organizer of the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame, which was hosted at the UCSD Price Center Ballroom and co-sponsored with the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, San Diego State University Women's Studies Department, and the San Diego Women's History Museum and Educational Center. The 2003 Hall of Fame included a welcome address by Chancellor Robert Dynes and the 2004 Hall of fame included a welcome address by Interim Associate Chancellor Ann Briggs-Addo. This event is one of the Women's Center's largest events, with an attendance or 400-500 people.

In the past year, the Women's Center has significantly increased its visibility campus-wide. We were able to make a presentation to the Chancellor's Council and the UCSD Board of Overseers. We were also invited to present to the Dean's staff at the office of International Relations and Pacific Studies, and were asked to conduct diversity training for the office of Equal Opportunity Staff Affirmation Action. We continue to provide training support to the university's student leaders with joint training sessions (with the Cross Cultural Center and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center) for Orientation Leaders and Resident Advisors. In the next year we will continue to focus on larger academic programming and major speakers.

We would not have been able to become what we have without the support of many individuals, groups, departments, and other campus units who have supported us and worked with us over the years. We are especially thankful for the many opportunities for collaborative partnerships with our friends on campus and in the community and are hopeful and optimistic that these partnerships will continue to flourish.