

## Appeal for Scholarship Donations Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon November 18



## Dear AAUW Collegues:

The AAUW Atlantic branch has donated over \$90,000 in scholarship money to local colleges in the past decade. We have also sponsored female students for seminars. The majority of the scholarship funds have been targeted to Atlantic County female students because most of the donations have come from residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties. We have prioritized specific majors, leaning heavily toward nursing and other professions in which the skills that are learned are needed in our area and jobs are available.

Community colleges have become a lifeline for affordability for students. New Jersey public four year colleges are rated among the best in the country.

College costs have escalated beyond what many may realize. For example, Atlantic Cape Community College tuition and fees to earn two-year degrees in these disciplines are: Culinary Arts \$ 29,462.00, Nursing, A.A.S. \$24,339.00, and Radiologic Technology, A.A.S. \$34,057.00.

The cost of a four-year degree with tuition and fees at Stockton University is over \$107,000. The cost of tuition, fees and room and board at Rutgers University for a four year degree exceeds \$142,000. The first semester bill for a freshman at Rutgers contains the "student fee," the "new student fee," the "parking permit," the "school fee," the "technology fee," and the "digital book charge." These fees alone total over \$2,265.00 for one semester! The most current information indicates that the average college text costs \$114.00. It is overwhelming.

Student loan debt has grown roughly 71% in recent years. Today, the average student loan debt amount is slightly over \$30,000. However, many borrowers owe \$50,000 or more.

Thousand dollar scholarships are kind, but not enough. A thousand dollars will not offset tuition costs enough for the woman to buy books or the computer that every college

student must have. We need to do as much as we can to help to enable women to obtain a college education and graduate without crippling debt.

Your generous support is even more necessary today than ever, and is appreciated. The form below can be used to send in your donation in support of our important mission.

Respecfully,

Karen Poorman Scholarship Officer

