After several years collaborating with the Salem branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Abby’s House has taken steps to formalize this relationship with an institutional membership. The mission of AAUW is advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

There are many benefits of being a University partner of AAUW:

- WOU students can become free e-student affiliate members and will have access to AAUW internships in Washington, D.C.
- WOU will have priority for leadership development opportunities
- We will receive two national memberships for faculty or administrators.

For more information about AAUW visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

Advocates Emily Easton-Mace and Adrianne Schneider, along with Abby’s House Director Dr. Mary Ellen Dello Stritto, attend the AAUW Elect Her workshop in Salem, Oregon at Willamette University last spring. This workshop is an example of an opportunity now available to the WOU community with the new AAUW University Partnership.

Contact us to learn more about this partnership!
abbyshouse@wou.edu
Abby’s House held our first ever Survivor Support Week October 27-30th in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The week culminated in our annual Take Back the Night event with over 60 people in attendance. Deborah Thompson, Director of Sable House in Dallas, was our keynote speaker. We were fortunate to have student spoken word artist Cain Burchell perform at the event too. Part of our program involved a response to a National Day of Action on behalf of Columbia University student and survivor Emma Sulkowicz’s “Carry that Weight” project. WOU students carried a mattress during the candle lit walk through campus as a powerful act of solidarity.

Students from Dr. Foster’s Psychology of Leadership Class successfully coordinated the 2nd annual Responsibility, Equality, Accessibility, and Leadership (R.E.A.L.) Fair on November 18th. The group of students worked with Assistant Director, Andrea Doyle Hugmeyer, throughout the term to plan the successful event. More than ten organizations and offices from campus were involved with the fair and food was collected to support the WOU Food Pantry.

In partnership with the Stonewall Center, we gathered for a participatory discussion in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th. More than 20 people attended and had dynamic discussion about gender expression, personal and institutional violence against Trans people, and the importance of creating a welcoming and safe environment for all people at WOU.

A HUGE thank you to the bidders and donors of our annual Silent Auction! The Auction and Poster Sale were a great success!
On Saturday October 4th AAUW of Salem and Abby’s House at WOU came together in a joint team to participate in the Discover Pink Walk. The Medical Foundation of Marion and Polk counties organized this year’s event, raising funds for breast cancer screenings and support for women going through breast cancer treatment. Team members were Dolores Mlynarczyk, Joyce Zook, Elaine Walker, Dick Walker, Robin Brandt, Mary Ellen Dello Stritto and her daughter Elena, Meg Artman, Cori Brownell, and Amber Ryerson. The team received $115 in sponsorships.

Advocates participated in continued training opportunities during fall term. In conjunction with the Oregon Best Practices Conference hosted by WOU this year, Shalotta Sharp, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner from the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault provided a training session for our advocates on October 17th. In addition, four of our advocates attended Safe Zone Ally Training in November.
Looking back...

Senior Leadership Award

Adrianne Schneider was an advocate for two years. During that time, Adrianne produced our annual performance of The Vagina Monologues. Adrianne expertly organized auditions, rehearsals, and performances. As a result of her role, Adrianne became the expert in program planning and public relations. Adrianne has represented Abby’s House and Western Oregon University as the recipient of an AAUW of Oregon scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders in Maryland last year. This was a transformative leadership opportunity for her. She recently was part of a panel discussion about this conference at the Oregon/Washington AAUW Convention.

Advocate Leadership Award

Jennifer Ruks was an outstanding leader among Abby’s House Advocates in 2013-2014. Jennifer has been a cast member in the Vagina Monologues for the past two years. Also, she was responsible for maintaining our website throughout the year. She served as a student member of the Abby’s House Board of Directors and was our board secretary last year. Jennifer was directly involved in securing a foundation competitive grant for a project called the Media Campaign Against Sexual Violence. Finally, Jennifer was very active in our program planning committee and consistently enriched our community of advocates with further opportunities for leadership and growth. Jennifer has been a “wave” of energy and passion for Abby’s House.

Social Justice Award

Hannah Towle has a tremendous amount of passion for social justice work, specifically for survivors of sexual violence. Hannah is a leader among advocates in that she is always eager to step in and help with our many programs. Hannah has taken the lead on many projects at Abby’s House. On Equal Pay Day, Hannah led our march through campus, megaphone in hand. Hannah has dedicated her time and energy to our Suit Up! program that provides interview appropriate attire to WOU students. Recently, Hannah has co-written and produced a series of videos for the Media Campaign Against Sexual Violence that will soon be launched on campus.
2014 Woman of the Year

Malissa Larson
Director of Disability Services

Abby’s House congratulates Malissa Larson as the 2014 Woman of the Year! Malissa demonstrates empathy towards others in a leadership capacity at WOU. Her role directly aligns with the Abby’s House mission to end discrimination, hatred, harassment, and to promote equity. She is the director of the Office of Disability Services and has a personal and professional history of advocating for people who are often marginalized. Malissa also dedicates an enormous amount of time and energy as chair of the University Diversity Committee, always strategizing about ways WOU can institutionalize equal and just practices for students, staff, and faculty in order to enhance our community.

2014 Jeanne Deane Scholarship Recipient

Marissa Onshus-Womble
Senior, Psychology

Abby’s House congratulates Marissa Onshus-Womble as the 2014-2015 Jeanne Deane Scholarship recipient! Marissa is currently in her senior year at WOU, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Dance. Marissa has been an engaged student at WOU in various capacities, serving as a member of ASWOU Senate, a peer advisor for PLUS Team, and a Program Assistant to Megan Habermann in Student Leadership and Activities. Marissa has completed SafeZone Ally Training and is currently involved with Triangle Alliance, Green Dot, and the Student Activities Board. She was highly regarded in areas of academic performance, work ethic, and leadership. Megan Habermann describes these attributes: “One of the things I admire about Marissa is her ability to listen and support people one-on-one. She is very good at putting others’ needs first and to be a true support system for them.” We are thrilled to have Marissa join us as an advocate!
Abby’s House would like to extend a warm welcome to our nine new advocates for the 2014-2015 school year! Abby’s House advocate training, which covers a wide variety of topics over the course of three days before fall term begins, was a great success! New advocates learned about sexual harassment and violence, crisis response, historic and contemporary gender issues, and resources for our LGBTQ+ community. Nice job everybody and welcome aboard!
Students Promoting

SPEAK
Equity Activism & Knowledge
A student-led club partnered with Abby’s House.

LOVE YOUR BODY DAY 2014
The purpose of our Love Your Body Day tabling on October 13 and 14 in the Werner Center was to subvert mainstream cultural messages about our bodies and help spread the love for all body shapes and sizes! We invited students to write down what they loved about their body, and to post it on our (gender neutral) body cut out. Our efforts are currently on display in Abby’s House.

SPEAK
(Students Promoting Equity Activism and Knowledge)
A student organization sponsored by Abby’s House and open to ALL students. SPEAK’s mission is to promote activism by providing educational programming that addresses a wide range of social issues, both current and longstanding. We aim to foster equality, tolerance and understanding by providing a safe environment where all people are free to gather and express their ideas.

Eating Disorder Awareness Presentation
Eating disorders are a health crisis nationwide, especially on college campuses. SPEAK held an informational event to raise awareness. Amy Hammermister and Emily Swart spoke to the group about the signs and symptoms of these disorders, and what is considered “disordered eating”. Amy and Emily also spoke about their personal experiences surrounding eating disorders.

If you want to get involved with Abby’s House or just meet new people, come to SPEAK meetings!
We meet Wednesdays at 5pm in Abby’s House.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/SPEAK-at-WOU/254117571408686
Upcoming Events:

Abby’s House Lunches
Join us every Tuesday at noon as we eat lunch and talk about anything and everything. Bring your own lunch!

Orange is the New Black: Actor Dale Soules
Tuesday, January 20, 12pm Columbia Room, WUC

Cyber-Stalking Prevention Workshop
Wednesday, January 28, 12-1pm, Willamette Room, WUC

One Billion Rising: RISE for REVOLUTION
Thursday, February 12, 10-3pm WUC Plaza

The Vagina Monologues
Friday, February 27, and Saturday, February 28, 7pm Pacific Room, WUC

Resource and Gender Studies Library
The Resource and Gender Studies Library at Abby’s House is a FREE resource available to students, faculty, and staff!

Come check out books on various topics including: Family Studies; Women and Violence; Women’s, Gender, and Masculinity Studies; Reproductive Health; Women’s History, and much more! Whether you need resources for a class assignment or for personal use, the Abby’s House Library can help!
Mission Statement:
To provide the WOU community with educational programming, information, and referral services designed to promote equity and non-violence. We embrace a feminist model that empowers all people to actively stand against all forms of violence, harassment, verbal abuse, discrimination, and hatred.

We can help you find resources for a variety of issues:
- Sexual Violence
- Relationship Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Child Abuse
- Stress and Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicide
- Women’s Heath
- Breast Cancer
- Contraception
- STD Testing
- Substance Abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Gender Identity
- And Much More

On the web:
www.wou.edu/abbyhouse
facebook.com/wouabbyhouse
https://twitter.com/WOUAbbysHouse

Editors: Yazmin Alvarez, Erika Gutierrez & Andrea Doyle Hugmeyer