

WRC TODAY

Preparing for Finals?

Finals Week is quickly approaching, and that also means so is the week before finals. We at the Women's Resource Center know and understand that the week before finals and Finals Week can be a very stressful time for everyone with the late night study sessions, paper writing and maybe just a little crying. So in order to support our students, the Women's Resource Center will provide hot chocolate, coffee, tea, cookies and fun activities the rest of the semester. Also, remember the Women's Resource Center provides a study space for all students and our building can be reserved after hours by students for individual and group study sessions.

The Women's Resource Center is a wonderful place to focus on your work and prepare to ace your finals, so please come in to enjoy some free treats and take advantage of our study space. With all of that being said, please make sure to take care of yourself and find time for some self-love!



Next Semester at the WRC...

As this semester comes to a close, please remember to stay tuned for the events that the Women's Resource Center will be having in the spring semester. These will include, but are not limited, to WRC Annual Recognition Reception, Women's History Month in March, VDAY, more I Need Feminism Because..., and our Consciousness Raising Luncheons. We will keep you updated on the events through the newsletter, website and posters that will be posted up around campus. Since the fall semester is almost over, our next newsletter will come out in February 2017!



CONTACT Us!

970.351.1492
www.unco.edu/wrc



student voices

Welcome to the Student Voices section of the WRC Today! This section may look a little different for some of you. If some of you remember, the Student Voices section of the WRC Today was actually launched in the Spring of 2016. We collaborated with Gender Studies to feature written pieces by students in the four newsletters we distributed last Spring semester. Student voices began as a space for students on campus to be able to discuss various topics relating to women's and gender issues, have their voices be heard and to get various perspectives on these topics. When initially launched, the Student Voices section was not open for all students on campus to submit pieces. However, that is changing this year!

While the purpose of Student Voices continues to be offering a space to heighten gender consciousness (being aware of what it means to have a gender identity and navigate from a gender place), we have decided to open up the section to allow all students on campus to submit not only written pieces, but also visual art, self-reflections, poetry and much more. If you want to join the Women's Resource Center in heightening gender awareness at the University of Northern Colorado, then submit your piece to us! Topics can vary anywhere from identity and intersectionality to injustice and gender.

If you are interested in submitting a reflection or piece (e.g. short story, poetry, visual art, etc.) to be featured in our monthly newsletter and online content, submit to, or for more information, contact Emily Hedstrom-Lieser at emily.hedstromlieser@unco.edu.



Savana Griego

*Graphic Design & Marketing Specialist, Women's Resource Center & Stryker
Institute for Leadership Development*

Feminism in Modern Day Life

by Gwen McFadden

I am a feminist.

I have always viewed myself as a feminist but I was wary to be an active feminist because I didn't know how to defend feminism. Last year I was in a class where some boys sitting in front of me kept talking about how they had met these girls who were feminists. They used all kinds of slurs against the women calling them bitches that hated me and were lesbians. At that time, I did not know how to defend feminism as a movement that strives for equality of all genders. After reading "Feminism is for Everyone" written by the noted black feminist scholar bell Hooks I was able to understand and grasp at what feminism means. Bell Hooks says "Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression." This is the best definition by far that I have ever read about feminism. It is not a movement that is anti-male but rather as a movement that is anti-sexism and that is what men need to know.

Sexism is a part and parcel of our daily life even now. I sat at a table with my friend and four men. These men were talking each other up, acting very macho and manly in an effort to impress us, the women. They thought that they should act like "real men" and fulfill stereotypes where as teenager guys are known to curse, smoke pot and talk about how tough they are. I also notice that when I try to hold open a door for a man, he will grab it from me and insist that I go in first. As I become more and more sensitive to understand our social norms, I see evidence of sexism and how feminism as an ideology can help us become a more egalitarian society.

In our society patriarchy is still an overarching system, and male domination is a big reality. Feminism does create an understanding for an equal opportunity system, which does not take away power from men, but makes women equal partners to it, and also includes other genders. If we practice respect and love for all genders in homes and professional lives, it might be possible to have an equal society, not patriarchal or matriarchal but a best of both worlds. However, this is extremely idealistic, but one day in the future I hope that it can happen, even if that day is years from now. All in all, I can't wait to keep learning about gender and how it affects this world and forefront feminism as a movement that is for all humans.



Gwen McFadden: I'm 18 years old and I am a feminist. A little about me: I love watching movies of every genre, and my favorite book is Twenties Girl by Sophie Kinsella. I am a horrible cook and a total night owl. I want to travel the world and go on crazy adventures. Who doesn't? I can't wait to graduate college with a degree in business and make my mark on the world.



I was born the color Blue

by Austin Carpenter

In today's world, and today's society Gender is defined as "A Subclass within a grammatical class (as a noun, pronoun, adjective, or verb) of a language that is partly arbitrary but also partly based on disguisable characteristics (as shape, social rank, manner of existence, or sex) and that determines agreement with and selection of other words or grammatical forms" (Webster's Dictionary). Gender in my opinion something that is given to you when you are born from society, however gender is also something an individual can choose to live out. From most hospitals across the nation it has become easy to distinguish a newborn baby girl, from a newborn baby boy. The color pink has been commonly labeled as the color of a girl, while the color blue is commonly a known label for a boy. Most of the gifts given to newborn children are either the color pink, or the color Blue depending on their sex, not their gender. When an individual is born into the world they are born with a certain sex, being either male or female. Through common practice it has become socially normal to give an individual a label of gender due to the eminence of their sex. Gender is something that is given, but not rightfully so.

Growing up I was the only male child in the family, having three sisters. I was always a fan of the color purple, and sometimes I played with dolls, which belonged to my older sister. However I was never comfortable wearing the color purple, and I know for a fact that I wouldn't have been seen in public with a doll in my hands. Within my household there has always been a comfortable, and free spirited feel. I felt that at home I could wear any color that my sisters did, and playing with dolls was just like any other form of playing. But outside I could not be so free. Inside my home my parent's conduct of everyday matters was also very different as far as gender roles are concerned. My father typically made every meal, and which he still enjoys doing. While my mother has always been the first one up and out the door for work in the morning; leaving my father to cater us kids to and from school. This lifestyle for my parents is, and always will be normal even if social norms of gender would rather have us think differently.

I think Feminism is important as far as thinking about gender is concerned, because feminism as a movement works to remove gender discrimination. The commonly used definition of Feminism from Webster's dictionary is as follows "The belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities." However, had I not been in my Gender and Society class I would likely still be under the impression that Feminism was a fight for women, pledged by women, against all men. Throughout the course of Gender of Society thus far I've learned that "Feminism is based on equality, and equality for everyone, men, women and other genders." Throughout history men have been the dominant gender. Because of gender norms humans have separated men and women on the basis of social class, and ranking, which should not be the case. As bell Hooks says "feminism is a radical notion that women are human beings." Feminism unites us as human to fight for gender equality as well as not to categorize people into boxes as only men and women with no options of personal choice.

Austin Carpenter- Born, and raised in Colorado. Studying Political Science with the sight of Pre-Law at the University of Northern Colorado. Very passionate about Sports, and Friendships; free time is spent with his girlfriend, or finding something fun to do; very big drive for music, loves all genres. Goals by the end of College are to meet as many new people as possible, and achieve the best grades, graduate happy!



We hope everyone has a
wonderful winter break and
good luck on finals!



CONTACT US!

970.351.1492
www.unco.edu/wrc

