Inventory of the

Academic Centers
Women's Studies Center/Programs

Records

in the
Northern Illinois University Archives

UA 30-6
INTRODUCTION

The University Archives acquired the records of the Women's Studies Center in June 1993. Literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the records.

14 Boxes
1 Oversize Folder
12 Linear Feet
1971-2012

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Women's Studies Center are a subgroup within the Academic Centers record group of the University Archives. The records contained here are divided into two series. **Series I, Women's Studies Program**, consists of course materials including exams, handouts, and some student papers; information on Women's History Week/Month; minutes and correspondence for the Women's Studies Advisory Committee. Also included are course proposals and other related materials. **Series II, University Resources for Women** contains annual reports, brochures, correspondence, newsletters, program reviews, and other information. **Series III, Gender Studies** consists of a folder on LGBT curriculum. Researchers should also consult the materials on the President's Commission on the Status of Women found in the Boards, Councils and Committees record group (UA 17). Digital files from Series I and II can be found in the UA Electronics folder on the Library V Drive and the 3.5 floppy disks and Zip disks containing digital records can be found in UA 11. **Series IV, Oversized Items** contains several large posters mostly pertaining to Women's History Month and an untitled framed watercolor painting.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The **Women's Studies Program** began in 1976 through the efforts of a planning committee of students, faculty, and staff. The Board of Regents approved the interdisciplinary minor in 1979-80 and it began operating in 1981 through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A graduate level concentration was approved in 1991. The director's position is an eleven-month, halftime position held by a faculty member from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Faculty from many departments, as well as off-campus experts, guest lecture or team teach.
Guided by an advisory committee composed of faculty from different disciplines, staff, and students, the program seeks to encourage critical inquiry, reflection, and self-expression in its curriculum while promoting tolerance for diverse views and sources of knowledge. The program maintains a close liaison with the Office of University Resources for Women, and the women's studies staff maintains connections with other campus and community groups concerned with women's issues and status. In addition to offering courses, the Women's Studies Program provides a variety of events and programs designed to promote knowledge about women's experiences and the effects of gender in society.

The **University Resources for Women** was established in May 1979 by acting Provost Wendell Harris. It operates and is funded within the Division of International and Special Programs. The Board of Regents established URW as a permanent entity in the Spring of 1980. The major objectives of URW are to facilitate the re-entry of the mature woman into the university, to provide a centrally located facility for women students, to coordinate existing programming for women on the campus, and to support the recruitment and retention of older, adult women who are potential or enrolled students. University Resources for Women is headed by a full-time director who holds membership on several university committees to provide feedback about women's needs.

**COLLECTION INVENTORY**

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6 Caught between Cultures, 1993-1996
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Budget Proposal [Includes Information on SWAN's Mission and Programs], November 2002
Commuter and Non-Traditional Students, 2005
Everywoman's Guide to Colleges and Universities - NIU Responses to Questionnaire, Spring 1981
Sexual Harassment Policy for NIU, 1981; Sexual Harassment Prevention Training, 1991
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Discrimination Task Force Committee, 1986-1987
“Racial Discrimination on Campus: Strategies for Awareness and Action,” at NIU, February 4, 1988
A.C.T. Videotape - Discrimination and Women on Campus, 1991
Social Justice Coordinating Committee, April 2, 1996
Safe Zone and City of DeKalb City Ordinance, October-December 1998
Unity in Diversity, (November 1999-July 2001)
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Center for Black Studies, Black Heritage Month, September 1999
NIU’s Gathering of Nations POW-WOW, April-May 1994
Women’s Resource Center, Volunteering Opportunities, ca. 2005; External Environment Worksheet, ca. 2005
“The Impact of Academic Environment and Student Services on the Academic Progress of Women,” by McCanne, McCanne & Keating, NIU, January 1980
“Melissa’s First Twenty-two Years: The Making of a Successful Woman?” by Melissa [Anonymous] and David E. Keys, 1980
NIU Statistic Reports, (1986-1996)
Midwest Womyn’s Autumnfest, 1995, 2004
Women’s Resource Center photographs and Outstanding Women Student Awards (45 photos, 14 negative strips), 1994, 1996-1997, no date
University Resource for Women postcard, ca. 1998
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