Sac State women inspired by leadership meet

Seven Sacramento State students and a staff member attended their first National Conference for College Women Student Leaders this spring at the University of Maryland.

The student participants were Jessica Arauza, Anabel Urbina, Gabriela Bermudez, Andrea Salas, Eva Lee, Allyson Headley and Lauren Lombardo. NASPA Fellow Bermudez and ASI President Lombardo were featured on the national website. J’Lissabeth Faughn, director of the Multi-Cultural, PRIDE and Women's Resource centers, accompanied the students.

This is the first year Sac State formed a local chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) under the guidance of Beth Lesen, associate vice president of Student Engagement and Success. America’s premier conference for college women is sponsored by AAUW and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Conference keynoter Chelsea Clinton spoke to the 900 college women, declaring, “I can’t imagine anything that would make the world look more different than if women and girls were unequivocally enfranchised.” She urged listeners not to be apologetic about their roles as potential leaders: http://bit.ly/Yr7Mql.

A conference highlight was the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony. Each year, several accomplished, successful women who are leaders in their respective fields receive this prestigious award.

Hattie Kauffman was the first of five awardees, and she offered advice to the college women leaders, imploring them to be bold. The first Native American to file a story for a national evening news broadcast, she eventually landed a job as a TV anchor and a coveted spot as a correspondent for Good Morning America. The same year, she joined the GMA team.

The other awardees were Lily Liu, a young entrepreneur; Pam Melroy, one of two women to have commanded a space shuttle; DeRionne Pollard, the president of Montgomery College in Maryland and a college-access advocate; and Judy Smith, a crisis communications expert whose career inspired the ABC series Scandal.

“It was a great opportunity to network with professionals and students, and examine current challenges affecting women across the country,” says Eva Lee, graduate project assistant/Women’s Resource Center. “Sitting front row and watching Chelsea Clinton speak along with many amazing professionals inspired me to continue to pursue my career. We need more national conferences like this to empower, educate and implement effective programs for our students here at Sac State in order to support student learning.”
Anabel Urbina adds, “The conference was truly inspiring and motivational. It was wonderful to meet other women leaders throughout the country that are working for change in their communities and learn how we, too, can do that here in Sacramento.”

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller