



Supporting Student Success

By Lori Stone

Agency Spotlight: CEW

The Center for the Education of Women (CEW) is an excellent resource for both men and women, yet many students are not aware of the variety of services offered. This year CEW celebrates its 50th anniversary, and is considered one of the most well-respected community services available to students, staff, and members of the community. The CEW was founded in 1964, before the 1970's feminist movement when there was a disparity of women in attendance at the University of Michigan. The primary goal of CEW in 1964 was to encourage adult women to attend the University, and provide assistance and resources for non-traditional female students. CEW has evolved and now provides services for hundreds of women and men each year.

The services offered by CEW over the past 50 years have focused on empowerment and education for women; as CEW further evolved, so did the services offered. Since its inception, the primary goal of CEW has been to provide women with services that would promote a better quality of life. Initial services were career and educational counseling, financial aid assistance, and conferences where opportunities for women were the focus. Services at CEW have expanded to meet the diverse needs of individual clients.

CEW advocates for policies and legislation to support women and other disadvantaged populations. CEW has the only scholarship program at the University of Michigan that was developed for non-traditional students to advance their education and career goals. It is scholarships like these that assist non-traditional students to attend the University of Michigan. This enables students to obtain the financial independence and education they otherwise could not afford.

Extensive counseling services are offered to women and men by CEW and are focused on education, life transitions and career planning, including resume assistance. Women encompass 81.5% and men 18.1% of CEW counseling services, with 53.6% of recipients being graduate level students. Services provided at CEW differ from those at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) as CEW recipients are often seeking employment changes or focused on life-transitions. The counseling services offered at CEW are free.



cew.umich.edu

CEW offers Critical Difference Grants, which are primarily for non-traditional and graduate students who experience financial difficulties. Critical difference grants help in emergency situations that could otherwise derail a student from completing their degree. These grants are to assist with expenses like day-care, transportation, rent, utilities, food, etc., and are not ongoing funds, but a one-time grant. Students can apply for a Critical Difference Grant by calling the CEW and making an appointment to meet with a counselor. There are no deadlines for Critical Difference Grant applications.

Scholarships and fellowships offered by CEW are privately funded. Over 1,500 scholarships have been awarded to qualified students since 1970; some awards are not solely for women. The scholarship program is focused on providing financial assistance to students returning to school, or non-traditional students attending school for the first time. On average, 45 scholarships are offered each year, with an average award of \$5,900.

Scholarships are offered to U-M students attending all three campuses. Applications for scholarships are due late January, with students being notified of their award status in May of that year. The scholarships are awarded for the following academic year. To apply for a scholarship



applicants must make an appointment with CEW to meet with a counselor and discuss the options available for their unique circumstances.

CEW offers workshops throughout the year which are intended to serve the educational and career development needs of CEW constituents (U-M students, staff, faculty, as well as community members) throughout the lifespan. Workshops include leadership development, job search workshops (resumes, interviewing, etc.), returning to school workshops, and retirement workshops, which are very popular. CEW often partners with Rackham Graduate School to offer workshops specific for graduate students; all workshops for students are free. Many of CEW's programs, like guest speaker events, are free, with the exception of the largest annual career development conference on campus, the Women of Color Task Force. This conference has a fee and is open to everyone.

There are between 4-6 MSW interns at CEW yearly. MSW student interns perform a variety of services such as counseling, non-profit management, fundraising, event planning and policy research and advocacy. The MSW interns at CEW also actively develop and facilitate workshops. MSW policy interns evaluate institutional and public policies to inform the advocacy efforts of U-M's President's Advisory Commission on Women's issues along with CEW's grant work to reduce women's poverty through the Michigan Partners Project. Interpersonal practice interns provide excellent counseling services to U-M staff and community members, but not to U-M students. CEW staff provides free counseling services to everyone, including students on campus. MSW interns also assist in organizing meetings and events to steward donors and help further develop relationships between CEW and members of the community. U-M SSW student interns play a pivotal role in the day to day duties of CEW.

Staff and MSW interns at CEW offer an abundance of unique, informative and educational services which play a pivotal role in the lives of many. The services offered by CEW are invaluable to U-M staff, students and community members.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, learn more about scholarships or view upcoming workshops please visit CEW's website: www.cew.umich.edu or call 734.764.6360. CEW is located at 330 E. Liberty Street between S. Division and S. 5th Avenue. Hours from September through April are M 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, T-F 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. May through August hours are: CEW is open: M-F 8:00-5:00. You can find further information about CEW's internship opportunities, Michigan Partnership Program and President's Advisory Commission below:

<http://www.cew.umich.edu/cew-social-work-internship-program>

<http://www.cew.umich.edu/michigan-partners>

<http://www.cew.umich.edu/action/campusadvo/pacwi>

