

# MEMBER FACT SHEET

**About:** The President's Council of Cornell Women (PCCW) was founded in 1990 by then-President Frank H. T. Rhodes with the guiding leadership of trustees Lilyan Affinito '53 and Patricia Carry Stewart '50. It has since grown into a group of highly accomplished alumnae working to enhance the involvement of women students, faculty, staff, and alumnae as leaders within Cornell University and its many communities, by:

- Finding ways to expand the role of women within Cornell's decision-making groups
- Advising the president on issues important to Cornell women
- Helping to attract outstanding women students, faculty and staff to Cornell and enhancing their leadership opportunities
- Engaging leading alumnae by strengthening their ties to each other and to Cornell
- Offering guidance to and serving as role models for Cornell women
- Providing financial support for Cornell women through PCCW grants and scholarships

**Membership:** Membership in PCCW is by invitation only, with a special emphasis on attracting alumnae not previously involved in Cornell alumni organizations. Prospective Cornell alumnae candidates are leaders in their field, career or vocational activities (other than Cornell-related activities) who have accomplished a high level of recognized success in diverse areas. They have expressed interest in and concern for Cornell, its constituents and its public image. They have a demonstrated commitment to strengthening the experience of women affiliated with Cornell, whether students, staff, faculty, alumnae or friends. They also have a willingness to become active volunteers in PCCW.

- Select Members:**
- **Jane E. Brody**—Award-winning New York Times Personal Health Columnist; popular author
  - **Katie Brown**—Home and gardening television show host and five-time book author
  - **Zainab Nagin Cox**—Systems engineer on NASA's Galileo mission to Jupiter
  - **Gabrielle D. Giffords**—U.S. congresswoman, Arizona's 8th district
  - **Myra Maloney Hart**—Co-founder of Staples; Harvard Business School faculty (retired)
  - **Mae Jemison**—Physician & NASA astronaut (1st African American woman to travel in space)
  - **Janet Reno**—Former U.S. Attorney General
  - **Irene Rosenfeld**—Chair/CEO, Mondelez Int'l; former CEO Kraft Foods; among Forbes *50 Most Powerful Women in Business*
  - **Thelma C. Schoonmaker**—35+ year film editor with Martin Scorsese; won 3 Academy Awards
  - **Sheryl WuDunn**—Pulitzer Prize winner and co-author of *Half the Sky*, NY Times Best Seller

**Advising the President:** All PCCW members may take advantage of two annual events to discuss with the university president issues important to Cornell women. In a one-hour webinar in the Fall semester, President David Skorton speaks briefly and then responds to questions from PCCW members. During the annual meeting on campus (March 6-8, 2015), the President meets informally with PCCW members at a reception and dinner.

PCCW members may also communicate to the president, through the PCCW Co-Chairs and Vice Chair, suggestions and concerns regarding the advancement of Cornell women faculty and administrators. These PCCW leaders have met with President Skorton one-on-one meetings once each semester. Sometimes he has chosen to include another top-level administrator in the meeting.

**Grants and Scholarships:** Since its beginning in 1990, PCCW has established endowed funds to assist women at Cornell. PCCW awards in excess of \$2 million drawn from its Current Use Fund and earnings on the endowed funds have helped many faculty women advance their careers, helped students excel in athletics and pay tuition and funded programs that advance the status of women at Cornell. We do so through:

- **Affinito-Stewart Endowment Grants:** Aim to increase the long-term retention of women on the Cornell faculty by supporting the completion of research critical to the tenure process [Fund #472626].
- **A D White Professorship:** For a term of six years, support an outstanding intellectual who visits the campus for about a week in each 3-year period while Cornell Classes are in session during the academic year to enliven the intellectual and cultural life of the university [Fund #204611].
- **Cornell Tradition Fellowships:** Annually provide scholarships to up to 3 undergraduate women students who demonstrate a commitment to work, public service and academic excellence [Fund #345115].
- **Leadership Scholarship Endowment Awards:** Annually assist undergraduate women (sophomore, junior, or senior) who have exhibited leadership at Cornell. Established in 2010, this is the most recently established endowed fund with a goal of raising \$1 million [Fund #0006042].
- **Leadership Endowment Grants:** Support Cornell women with grants for projects that prepare them for, and recognize, leadership. Grants are awarded for projects that will impact students, faculty, administrators and staff over the long term. Established in 2000, the PCCW Leadership Endowment Fund [211020] also includes discrete funds for Athletic Leadership [#225129], Student Leadership [#224920], and Faculty Leadership [Fund #225027].
- **PCCW Current Use Fund:** In recognition of the impact of low interest rates on the amount of money generated annually by the endowed funds, PCCW has established a Current Use Fund to provide more cash available annually for the activities supported by our grants and scholarships. The monies raised in 2013-14 and 2014-15, have been designated to provide additional support for junior women faculty eligible to receive Affinito-Stewart grants.
- Between 1990 and the present, members of PCCW have contributed over \$28 million to Cornell, including PCCW.

## Mentoring

Since 1990, PCCW members have mentored more than 3,000 Cornell women students during annual meetings on campus. Participating in university-sponsored mentoring programs, PCCW members have mentored more than 1,000 additional students. In their home locations, PCCW members continue to sponsor students as externs, hire summer interns, host networking receptions during January break, mentor students one-on-one, and through Cornell's CyberMentors program.

## Committee Descriptions:

PCCW volunteers are requested for the following committees:

**Alumnae Engagement:** Seeks to enhance the engagement of PCCW members with Cornell during their PCCW membership terms. Also manages relationship between PCCW and other Cornell alumnae by organizing regional activities in which members can connect with each other and with other Cornell alumnae.

**Annual Meeting:** Working closely with the university staff, plans the major themes and structure of the annual membership meeting held each Spring in Ithaca.

**Archives:** Maintains an electronic reference file, organized chronologically by PCCW Chair terms, and is responsible for preparing an annual summary of PCCW accomplishments.

**Communications:** Aims to increase the visibility and enhance the image of PCCW, its members and its activities both within and outside the organization, and develop effective strategies and efficient technologies for communication internally among PCCW members, between PCCW and the university, and to alumni and the public.

**Development:** Provides leadership to PCCW in raising resources to support PCCW endowed grants and fellowships, the PCCW Current Use Fund and other university fundraising initiatives and educating members about options for financial support of the university.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Established to assist PCCW's Co-Chairs and Vice Chair and university staff with advancing the status of women at Cornell. Supports staff in many diversity-related programs and initiatives.

**Grants:** Annually awards PCCW grants from the PCCW Current Use Fund and PCCW endowed funds including PCCW Affinito-Stewart Grants to pre-tenure women faculty and PCCW Leadership

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Grants to students, faculty and staff projects proposed by the Provost and the VP for Student and Academic Services. Annually recognizes faculty, staff, and student grant recipients and students who have received PCCW Leadership Scholarships and PCCW Cornell Tradition Scholarships.

**Membership:** Identifies, invites, and engages energetic and active new members who are leaders in their chosen fields and who will become alumnae leaders in PCCW and in other parts of Cornell.

**Mentoring:** Creates programs that enable PCCW members to provide guidance, serve as role models for the women on campus, and address issues that are important to women at Cornell.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is PCCW's mission?

To advance the involvement and leadership of women students, faculty, staff and alumnae within Cornell University and its many constituent communities, and to advise the President on issues related to women.

### What are my benefits as a PCCW member?

You have the opportunity to consult with the university president about issues important to women at Cornell. You work with fellow members who are talented and accomplished women from diverse backgrounds. You are provided myriad opportunities to mentor Cornell students as well as some faculty and staff. You can share in the satisfaction of helping advance Cornell women through PCCW grants and scholarships awarded annually through PCCW philanthropy. For personal views on benefits, see our [PCCW Tribute video](#).

### How do I get involved with PCCW?

Volunteer to join one or more committees and participate in the conference call meetings (usually one hour every other month).

### How often do members get together?

In addition to the annual meeting (March 6-8, 2015) on campus, many members attend a few regional gatherings scheduled throughout the year. Members also meet via periodic committee conference calls.

### How much time am I expected to give to PCCW?

We strongly encourage attendance at the annual meeting in Ithaca, which runs 2 and ½ days (Friday to Sunday) and participation in committee meetings of your chosen committee which generally run for one hour once every other month. Beyond that, the commitment for committee work tends to average no more than one additional hour per month. The work of some committees is gradual throughout the year, while others work more intensely for short periods. Everyone can find a committee that fits their interest and availability.

### How do I learn about PCCW updates?

Read our periodic [electronic newsletter, which includes lots of news including updates from our Co-Chairs](#). Participate in committee conference calls for the committee of your choice. Check the master calendar and other information on our [PCCW website](#). Join our [Facebook group](#).

### How do I get in touch with other PCCW members?

The online [PCCW Member Listing](#) is updated regularly by [Mary Faber](#) and may also be downloaded to your computer as an Excel spreadsheet or in HTML. You are also able to remain connected to fellow PCCW members by joining the President's Council of Cornell Women [Facebook group](#).

### How do I nominate someone to become a PCCW Member?

Submit a nomination via the CU Volunteer website: <http://www.alumni.cornell.edu/pccw/membership.cfm>. Nominations are now closed for the PCCW class that will start July 1, 2015. However, the nomination website will reopen for 2016 nominations in late January, 2015.

## **What is the financial obligation for PCCW members?**

We ask that you make an annual contribution to Cornell in an amount of individual comfort. Of course, we hope that all or part of your contribution will be directed to PCCW for our endowed funds, which are designed to help PCCW fulfill its mission of supporting Cornell women while also assisting Cornell with financial assistance for students, faculty, women's athletics and other beneficial programs. However, a financial gift anywhere in Cornell is equally appreciated. *To donate to PCCW*, visit [PCCW's Philanthropy](#) and click "Give online" under your designated fund. Or go to [Cornell's online giving page](#), choose "Other" under Designation, and under "Other designation or special instructions," type the name and fund number from the above Grants and Scholarships section. Another financial consideration is attendance at the PCCW Annual Meeting, which costs between \$200 and \$300 for registration, plus travel and accommodations.

### **For additional information, contact:**

Tina Gourley, Director, Office of Volunteer Programs  
607-255-7090, [tina.gourley@cornell.edu](mailto:tina.gourley@cornell.edu)  
or visit the [PCCW website](#).