

A photograph of three women in professional business attire standing against a solid orange background. The woman in the center is the most prominent, with her arms crossed and a serious expression. She has long, wavy hair and is wearing a dark blazer over a collared shirt. The woman on the left is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The woman on the right is also partially visible, looking slightly away from the camera. The overall tone is professional and empowering.

If She Matters to  
you, here's what  
you can do.

# SHE MATTERS

## **Top Ten Issues**

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INPUT AT THE  
2012 IOWA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

# 1.

## INCREASED NUMBER OF WOMEN IN STEM CAREERS

### GOALS (POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION)

- Align State STEM initiatives
- Encourage incentives for STEM businesses to hire women
- Advocate for a statewide curriculum for girls in STEM
- Support school to workforce transition program for STEM careers

### ACTIONS (EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS)

- Assist in building public awareness of STEM and state efforts
- Promote training and hiring female teachers in STEM subjects
- Encourage females in STEM workplaces to mentor other women
- Endorse exploration of STEM careers at younger ages (elementary school) and include hands-on experiences
- Learn what other states and communities are doing to promote STEM to girls and align efforts
- Share role models in a range of places including teen magazines, online media, school volunteers
- Support a school-business partnership program that provides girls with exposure to STEM workplaces and create internship opportunities

### RESOURCES

- Iowa Governor's STEM Initiative
- Iowa Math and Science Education Partnership
- Corridor STEM Initiative
- Noyce Foundation, Informal Science Education Initiative
- Girls Scouts

### HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Work to eliminate gender stereotypes in education and career choices
- Promote STEM through faith, community, and gender-specific organizations in your community
- Learn about why STEM is important for girls and women
- Find ways to include science and/or mathematics in daily interactions with children
- Expose young people to science centers, planetariums, zoos, and parks (rather than movie theaters and shopping malls)

# 2.

## ALL IOWA WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

### GOALS (POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION)

- Increase availability of health-care buying pools
- Increase support of services in physician shortage areas of the state (mobile clinics, nontraditional sites)
- Create an official state website with easy-to-understand insurance information
- Create nurse navigator and health care coaching for public health care management programs
- Develop tax incentives for a program for volunteer procedures by medical professionals

### ACTIONS (EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS)

- Identify local gaps in insurance and health care coverage and investigate causes
- Create local maps and information about providers in different communities
- Provide health insurance information to students before graduation to help them understand the process and importance of insurance coverage
- Educate emergency room personnel on diverting uninsured non-acute patients to free clinics
- Create a campaign to educate public about the importance of having health care coverage and use of medical services (disease prevention, health management)

### RESOURCES

- Free Clinics of Iowa
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- hawk-i program
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association
- HRSA

### HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Conduct community education sessions about understanding health coverage
- Organize free school physicals and other health services at local schools
- Volunteer to teach at a SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Plan) site
- Organize educational workshops for women and girls around health concerns and prevention
- Develop community awareness around local, free clinics

# 3.

## FEMALES AND MALES ARE PAID EQUALLY FOR EQUAL WORK

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# 4.

## ALL IOWA WOMEN AND FAMILIES LIVE ABOVE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

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# 5.

## NO INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST IOWA WOMEN

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# 6.

## MORE IOWA ELECTED AND APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS ARE WOMEN

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# AT LEAST 50% OF IOWA BUSINESSES ARE OWNED BY WOMEN

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# 8.

## NO IOWA WOMEN ARE HOMELESS

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# 9.

## IOWA'S AGING WOMEN ARE HEALTHY AND INDEPENDENT

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# 10.

## IOWA GIRLS AND WOMEN ARE PREVENTED AND/OR DIVERTED FROM INCARCERATION

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## IOWA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROJECT MEMBERSHIP

Iowa Women's Leadership Conference (IWLC)

Chrysalis

NEXUS, Executive Women's Alliance

Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Iowa State University

Iowa Department of Human Rights

Iowa Women's Foundation

Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

Iowa Network for Women in Higher Education

Women's Connection, Quad Cities and Muscatine

Women Aware, Sioux City

The Way Up Conference

Business and Professional Women/Iowa

Women's Leadership Network, Dubuque

Des Moines Women Connected

Mapping Strategies

