



PCCW FACT SHEET

2019-20

ABOUT US

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 champion women students, faculty, staff, and alumnae as they lead within their fields at Cornell University and across the world, by:

- Achieving alignment with the president on those issues of greatest importance to Cornell women
- Engaging accomplished 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
- Initiating and supporting programs that attract and retain Cornell women students/faculty/staff, develop their leadership skills, and enhance their overall quality of life

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 professional lives (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 PAST/PRESENT 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, New York Times Best Seller
- Kate Snow—Television Journalist

PARTNERING WITH THE PRESIDENT

The Chair and Vice Chair of PCCW meet annually with the university president, to ensure PCCW's priorities are aligned with the university's strategic plan and the president's priorities around supporting Cornell women. The university president is also invited to speak and/or attend PCCW's annual symposium, as the president's calendar allows.



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GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Since its beginning in 1990, PCCW has awarded in excess of \$2 million drawn from its Current Use Fund and earnings on the endowed funds to help many faculty women advance their careers, help students excel in athletics and pay tuition, and fund programs that advance the leadership skills and quality of life of women at Cornell.

We do so through:

- **Affinito-Stewart Endowment Grants:** Advances Cornell junior women faculty and the long-term retention of women faculty by awarding seed funding for research and other academic projects critical to the tenure process. [Fund #472626]
- **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. The PCCW Leadership Endowment Fund [Fund #2110020] also includes discrete funds for Athletic Leadership [Fund #225129], Student Leadership [Fund #224920], and Faculty Leadership [Fund #225027]
- **Leadership Scholarship Endowment Awards:** Awarded yearly to one or more Cornell sophomores, juniors, or seniors who have exhibited leadership at Cornell [Fund #0006042].
- **Cornell Tradition Fellowships:** Up to three undergraduate women students are selected each year who demonstrate a commitment to work, public service, and academic excellence. These fellowships ensure that bright, promising women can study at Cornell, no matter what their financial means. [Fund #345115].
- **Microgrants:** Funds women student organizations up to \$500 each semester for projects or events directed to women.
- **PCCW Current Use Fund:** Supplements money generated each year by the PCCW endowed funds. The PCCW Steering Committee directs how the money in this fund will be spent each year, guided by current need and PCCW's mission [Fund# 0010727].

Between 1990 and the present, members of PCCW have contributed a total of over \$28 million to Cornell, including to 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, and mentor students one-on-one and through Cornell's Cyber Mentors and CUELINKS programs.

PCCW COMMITTEES

PCCW volunteers have the opportunity to join and participate in the following committees:

- **Alumnae and Faculty Engagement:** Fosters alumnae connections to Cornell by creating regional and local programs for engagement and networking among PCCW members. Cultivates a strong relationship with Cornell women faculty to provide support for initiatives that strengthen faculty leadership roles and voice within the Cornell community.
- **Communications:** Develops strategies and tools for communication among PCCW members and between PCCW and Cornell.



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- **Development:** Educates PCCW members about options for giving to Cornell and encourages them to support the PCCW endowed funds and other Cornell fundraising initiatives.
- **Diversity & Inclusion:** Works with other PCCW committees to ensure inclusivity in membership, mentoring, event speakers, etc.
- **Grants:** Manages the award process for the Affinito-Stewart Grants, Leadership Grants, and Microgrants, including grant review and award decisions.
- **Membership:** Coordinates member selection and new member orientation. Provides guidance for transition to other Cornell-related volunteer opportunities to Sustaining members.
- **Mentoring:** Develops and coordinates opportunities for PCCW members to mentor Cornell women: undergraduate students; graduate, professional, and medical students; young alumnae; and fellow PCCW members.
- **Nominating:** Selects the PCCW chair and vice chair in coordination with the PCCW staff liaison in the Office of Volunteer Programs and the associate vice president of Alumni Affairs and Development.
- **Symposium Planning:** Plans the major themes and structure of the annual membership meeting, which is designed to stimulate member engagement, foster connections with the university, and reflect the mission of PCCW.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is PCCW's mission? *To champion women students, faculty, staff, and alumnae as they lead within their fields at Cornell University and across the world.*

What are my benefits as a PCCW member? *You have the opportunity to have a tangible impact on issues important to women at Cornell, as you collaborate with fellow members who are talented and accomplished women from diverse backgrounds. You are provided myriad opportunities to mentor Cornell students. You can share in the satisfaction of helping advance Cornell women through PCCW grants and scholarships awarded annually through PCCW philanthropy.*

How do I get involved as a PCCW member? *Volunteer to join one or more committees, which conduct most of their business during regular conference call meetings.*

How often do members get together? *In addition to the annual symposium, which is held in the spring on campus in Ithaca or in New York City, 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 symposium, which typically runs 2 days (Friday-Saturday) and participation in conference calls of your chosen committee. 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 interests and availability.*

How do I learn about PCCW updates? *Follow us on twitter @Cornell_PCCW, like our Facebook page (President's Council of Cornell Women), and join our members' only Facebook group. Participate in conference calls for the committee of your choice. Create your CUVolunteer profile and have access to nomination updates and other important PCCW documents.*

How do I get in touch with other PCCW members? *The online PCCW Member Listing is updated regularly and can be found under Documents in our CUVolunteer community. You can also remain connected to fellow PCCW members by joining the President's Council of Cornell Women [Facebook group](#). Finally, visit the PCCW website at: <https://alumni.cornell.edu/volunteer/leadership/pccw/>.*



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How do I nominate someone to become a PCCW Member? *Submit a nomination via the CUVolunteer website:*

<https://givegab-cornell-alumni.herokuapp.com/communities/president-s-council-of-cornell-women-pccw/positions/member-at-large-president-s-council-of-cornell-women-pccw>

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 both our current use and 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 page](#) 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 Symposium, which costs between \$300 and \$350 for registration, plus travel and accommodations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Loréal L. Maguire, D.Ed.

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