

Where

FUTURES *Take Flight*

Fall/Winter 2017

MAGAZINE



**INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITY OF
A LIFETIME**

**LIFE'S PATHS BRING
COUPLE TO LEAD**

**LEAD STUDENT WINS
PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**

**HARTFORD COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN REUNION
SPARKS CONNECTION**

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE
CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF HARTFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the energy and joy of students on campus!

This semester, we were pleased to welcome 33 new students to our LEAD program's Class of 2021. This innovative program is dedicated to helping female students maximize their college experience and enter the world of work as confident professionals and leaders. As an alumna of Hartford College for Women (HCW), I am proud to say that this program is inspired by the support and challenge that students benefited from at HCW.

In this Fall/Winter magazine, you will read about our programs and how support from—and meaningful engagement with—HCW alumnae and friends of The Women's Advancement Initiative are changing the lives of our students including:

- » Nina Vasquez '17 is able to "say yes" to a prestigious internship at the Connecticut Secretary of State thanks to support from The Women's Advancement Initiative;
- » Karishma Pinto '17, a recent LEAD and University of Hartford graduate, talks about her transformation through the LEAD program;
- » Jan Sweet A'65 (HCW) shares her story about generations of educated women in her family, and how, after attending her 50th Hartford College for Women reunion and meeting our LEAD students, she was inspired to continue the commitment to "women's education" by sponsoring two LEAD students.

Every year, I am thrilled by the impact our programs have on students, faculty, and staff at the University of Hartford. I am proud that the legacy of my alma mater, Hartford College for Women, is alive and flourishing.

Best regards,

Kate Stoddard

Kate Farrow Stoddard A'72 (HCW)
 Chair, The Women's Advancement Initiative Board of Directors
Continuing the Legacy of Hartford College for Women
 womenadv@hartford.edu

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ABOUT US

Where Futures Take Flight

The Women's Advancement Initiative, uniquely positions women for success through education and leadership programs, research and scholarship opportunities, and career connections and experiences, which open minds and open doors. This distinctive program is built on the rich heritage of Hartford College for Women and is supported and sustained by a community of women and men who believe that advancing the potential of women is a personal and collective priority.

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THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE
CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF HARTFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

On the cover: Jan Cassells Sweet A '65 (HCW) with Katie Bosetti '17 and Teresa Cardona '19, LEAD students she sponsors in the garden of her historic home in Haddam. Attending her 50th HCW Reunion connected Sweet to The Women's Advancement Initiative and the students in its LEAD program. See article on page 11.

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LEAD PROGRAM HELPS STUDENT ACCEPT PRESTIGIOUS INTERNSHIP

Nina Vasquez '17, a junior in The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program, was invited to an interview at the Connecticut Secretary of State's Office after she impressed one of their employees with her 30-second elevator speech that she developed during a LEAD session. Nina was selected for the prestigious internship out of nearly 300 candidates.

As a double major in criminal justice and political science, the internship with the Connecticut Secretary of State was ideal for Nina. Her only challenge was figuring out how to fit the the internship into her already busy class and work-study schedule. And the bus timetable made the situation even more challenging. Transportation also meant an additional expense.

That is when she approached Amy Jaffe Barzach, executive director of The Women's Advancement Initiative. Barzach helped Nina figure out how to reframe the issues and find solutions. She also introduced Nina to the University's Center for Community Service, where Nina learned that her internship could qualify as work study, thereby solving her schedule conflict.

At about the same time, Nina's transportation challenges were also worked out. The Women's Advancement Initiative Board of Directors and staff had been exploring "micro-investments" as a way to provide funding to help LEAD students pursue additional opportunities to enhance their college experience. Nina receiving funds to assist with transportation is a perfect example of how this kind of support makes a difference in students' lives.

Through her internship, Nina gained experience as a ballot administrator and a Spanish translator. She also walked away with an enhanced understanding of the electoral process and a new professional network.

"The Secretary of State internship was the opportunity of a lifetime for me," says Nina. ▬



Nina Vasquez '19 reflects on new possibilities as a result of her internship.

"MICRO-INVESTMENTS" AWARDED BY THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE TO LEAD STUDENTS ENHANCE THEIR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

LEAD sophomores, juniors, and seniors who successfully complete the LEAD program each year are eligible for \$250 micro-investments that can be used for:

- » Undergraduate research or creative projects
- » Career connections and experiences, including transportation costs associated with internships, job shadowing, and informational interviews
- » Volunteer community service trip with LEAD to Give Kids The World Village during Winter Break

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF HARTFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

The Women's Advancement Initiative uniquely positions women for success through its education and leadership programs, research and scholarship opportunities, and career connections and experiences, which open minds and doors. The Women's Advancement Initiative is supported and sustained by a community of women and men who believe that advancing the potential of women is a personal and a collective priority. The Women's Advancement works in collaboration with partners to enhance women's education, empower women to lead, and enrich the University community.



PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

LEAD

Serving more than 100 female students in all class years, the LEAD program features more than 50 leadership and professional development workshops and an empowering network of students and professionals. The design of LEAD was inspired by the way students at Hartford College for Women were challenged and supported. Participants graduate with the professional skills they need to excel in careers, in graduate school, and in life.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- » Dorothy Goodwin Scholars program provides scholarships, professional development, and a learning community for female students doing innovative research or creative projects in partnership with faculty mentors. Faculty mentors receive stipends to support their own professional development.
- » Robert E. Donovan Scholarships for female engineering majors awarded in memory of Robert E. Donovan.

PROGRAMS FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Recognizing full-time female faculty who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to advancing their discipline through teaching, scholarship, mentoring of female students, and/or excellence in practice, Faculty Fellowship awards are made to both early career and mid-to-late career faculty. Recipients receive \$7,500 grants that are announced at the University's Faculty/Staff Kickoff.

LAURA JOHNSON

Laura Johnson Leaders for female faculty and staff includes professional development workshops, networking, and leadership projects. In its inclusion of faculty and staff together, this popular professional development program builds leaders and community while fostering collaboration on campus. Established in 2008, the program has served 89 faculty and staff to date.

To learn more or to get involved, call 860.768.5289 or email womenadv@hartford.edu.

LEAD (LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT) is an innovative, four-year program designed to give undergraduate students leadership skills, professional development, career connections, and enhanced confidence. Each class cohort meets twice a month for its own workshops that address the unique opportunities, challenges, and transitions that impact female students at each stage of college. Students also have the opportunity to interact on a regular basis with HCW and UHart alumnae, leaders, faculty, staff, professionals in the community, and LEAD participants from other class years.

Building Networks and Bridges to the Future



Meghan Becerril '20 benefited from mentoring by Deanna Akinbajo, clinical pharmacist at Waterbury Hospital.

FEMALE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE in The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program are provided with unique opportunities that truly help prepare them for success. Not only do they learn leadership skills, but they also grow their confidence as they engage in professional development and build networks and bridges to their futures.

Through the LEAD program, Meghan Becerril '20, a health science pre-pharmacy major, had the opportunity to be mentored by Deanna Akinbajo, a clinical pharmacist at Waterbury Hospital.

The LEAD program also helps students develop a blueprint for their lives in and after college, and provides excellent opportunities for students to engage in powerful reflection as they define their goals and choose their future paths.

Deanna Akinbajo, who was thankful for her mentors and sees mentorship as an important way "to give back," told Meghan about the many opportunities available to pharmacists and gave her advice on how to make her graduate school application stand out.

In addition to giving Meghan professional and personal advice, Akinbajo also motivated her to go after her dreams. "Dr. Akinbajo was helpful to me in confirming that pharmacy is the ideal career for me," Meghan said.

"Part of the whole experience we value includes leadership training and experiences embraced by LEAD."—President Woodward

University of Hartford President Gregory Woodward is impressed with the LEAD program. "We are putting together experiential maps for every undergraduate student," Woodward says. "Part of the whole experience we value includes leadership training and experiences embraced by LEAD. A full education might, and perhaps should, include leadership engagement that the LEAD program models so well." 

*Are you
Interested in
MENTORING a
LEAD student?
read more on page 7*



WHY WE GIVE

The Crossroad to LEAD



Karin and Bill Stahl with the LEAD Cass of 2021 during their leadership kick-off retreat.

IN A LIFETIME, WE TRAVEL MANY PATHS that intersect and define our lives in meaningful ways. We may not always understand these intersections at first, but eventually we see the connections and how they play out in our purpose and the lives we touch.

This is the story of Karin Arentzen Stahl M'73 and her husband, Bill Stahl. Karin and Bill, long-time philanthropists and volunteers, support many educational institutions, organizations, and their church. Fifteen years ago, they began a new journey of giving that eventually led them to The Women's Advancement Initiative.

In 2002, Karin and Bill lost their daughter Kristina to an anxiety disorder and suicide, while she was in treatment. Kristina, who taught English and coached three sports at Kingswood Oxford, was loved and respected by all who knew her. "She was a natural leader," says Bill.

After Kristina's death, Karin and Bill's priorities and goals took on a very personal and more focused mission in Kristina's memory, to help educate young people, mental health professionals, educators, and parents about anxiety and suicide. This included lectures on suicide and a book by Karin, *The Option: a memoir of suicide, mystery and finding our way*, to help parents and educators help young people manage the issues of anxiety.

They also established the Kristina Stahl Creative Writing Fund at Colby College and the Teacher Development Fund at Kingwood-Oxford, to support the professional development and mentoring of new teachers.

While Karin was serving on the Aurora Women and Girls Foundation Board and Bill was volunteering on Aurora's investment committee, a new crossroad presented itself.

They learned of an Aurora grant to The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program and became interested in learning more.

"LEAD seemed a natural fit," says the couple. Karin became involved with LEAD, teaching a negotiation and conflict management workshop, participating in mock-interviews, and the seniors' five-year-plan presentations, and now developing a speakers' boot camp.

"Kristina would have loved being a part of LEAD," says Karin. The couple are now LEAD sponsors, something very special to them. Karin and Bill see LEAD as "connecting in so many deep ways" to their path and to their purpose in supporting young women. ■



Karin, Kristina, and Bill Stahl

Help Young Women Turn Talent Into Confidence

**MAKE A GIFT TODAY TO HELP US DEVELOP
AND SUSTAIN OUR PROGRAMS**

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT ANNUAL FUND

Unrestricted annual gifts provide essential support for the day-to-day needs of The Women's Advancement Initiative's programs, including LEAD, Dorothy Goodwin Scholars, Laura Johnson Leaders, and our LEAD ON-CAMPUS programs and events.

LEAD PROGRAM

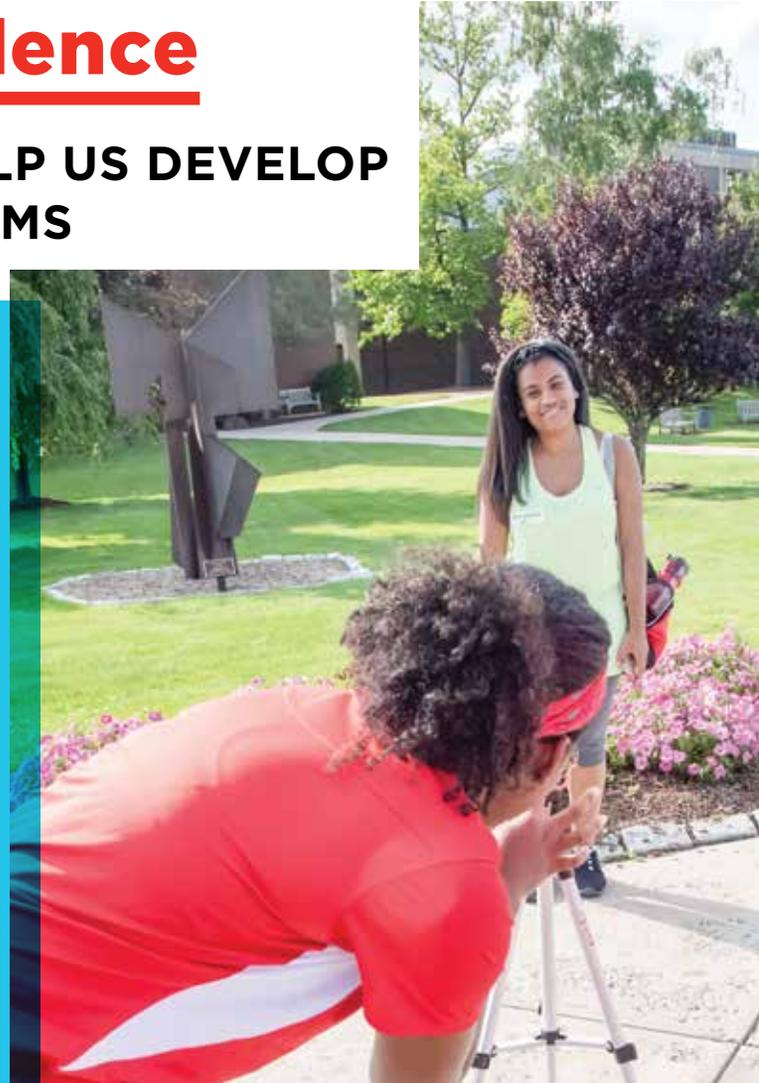
Gifts to the LEAD student program provide unique educational opportunities for undergraduate students to experience a four-year curriculum focused on professional development and personal enrichment. With your support, students can participate in biweekly workshops, be part of a supportive and empowering community, and attend on- and off-campus lectures, programs, and events.

SPONSOR A LEAD STUDENT

One-time gifts of \$2,000 support a single student's participation in LEAD for one academic year. You can support one or more students for a year or a single student for one or multiple years of college. Throughout the year, you will receive special updates from the student(s) you sponsor and opportunities to share in their experiences.

MENTOR STUDENTS

There is nothing more energizing than making a difference in the lives of young women.



Jessica Floyd '18, majoring in Political Science and Government, recording Samantha Marte '21 at the LEAD retreat where new students learn how to navigate campus before classes start.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUPPORT OR JOIN US TODAY.

MAKE A GIFT

- » Click on "Make a Gift" at hartford.edu/womensadvancement.
- » Send a check in the enclosed envelope.
- » To discuss major gifts or alternative options—including directing a gift from a donor-advised fund, retirement assets, or real estate, please contact Lida Mullarkey, associate vice president of development, at 860.768.2444 or mullarkey@hartford.edu.
- » To learn more about making a planned gift or bequest to The Women's Advancement Initiative, please contact Lauren Parda director of planned giving, at 860.768.2415 or parda@hartford.edu.

PLEASE JOIN US, YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

- » Work with us to organize gatherings of your HCW classmates.
- » Attend our programs and events, or join us for lunch or tea with alumnae or students.
- » Share your career and life experiences with a student.
- » Hire a student as an intern.
- » Join us for lunch with students.
- » Hire a student as an intern or host a student in your workplace a few hours or a few days as part of the Express to Success job-shadowing program.

**TO LEARN MORE, CALL 860.768.5289 OR
EMAIL WOMENADV@HARTFORD.EDU**

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THE WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE DONOR REPORT

July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017

Thanks to the support of donors like you, The Women's Advancement Initiative, formerly WELFund (Women's Education and Leadership Fund), is able to make a significant difference in the lives of women and girls.

We honor and thank you for helping us advance women's potential in the Hartford College for Women tradition.

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P Parent

☛ Deceased



Jan Cassells Sweet A'65 (HCW) and her two sponsored LEAD students talking in her garden.

FROM A FAMILY OF EDUCATED WOMEN

**JAN CASSELLS
SWEET A'65 (HCW)**

As Jan Cassells Sweet A'65 (HCW) sits in the gardens outside her revolutionary era home, she talks about her long-time involvement with the Haddam Historical Society and the Thankful Arnold House, and its generations of Arnold women.

This story, however, is not about Haddam's history. "It is generational," Jan says. "It is about the women in my family and their education." This is where the story connects to Hartford College for Women (HCW) and The Women's Advancement Initiative's LEAD program.

Jan's mother, Violet Cassells, an advocate for women's education, encouraged her oldest daughter, Joan, to go to college. Joan was the first-generation in the family to attend college and the first to graduate from HCW.

Her second daughter, Barbara, went to a teacher's college, followed by Jan, who graduated from HCW in 1965, and then a niece, Donna Legner, a 1970 graduate of HCW. This is a family of educated women, including a long line of HCW graduates.

Over the years, Jan lost touch with HCW. Then, she began receiving news about her Class of 1965 50th reunion. Letters from her classmates convinced her to go. And, it was one of the best decisions she could have made. It not only reconnected her to her alma mater and classmates, it connected her to The Women's Advancement Initiative and the students in its LEAD program.

"I am very impressed by these young women," said Jan, "I don't have children and thought what more could I do to make a difference in someone's life than to sponsor the education of women? Sponsoring LEAD students is an easy way to sponsor women's education," continues Jan.

In 2016, Jan made a generous donation to underwrite the cost of two students participating in LEAD—Katie Bosetti '17, who is now pursuing her master's degree in education and Teresa Cardona '19, who is majoring in art history. This fall, Katie and Teresa enjoyed a beautiful day in Jan's garden, and the three are making plans to go kayaking (one of Jan's favorite pastimes). They will continue their relationship, as Jan supports another generation of women's education through her support of the LEAD program. ■



Jan Cassells Sweet A'65 at her HCW Class of 1965 50th Reunion.

**Hartford College for Women
Class of 1968 50th Reunion
For information, please contact
womenadv@hartford.edu or 860.768.5471**

Student Transformed by LEAD Wins **PRESTIGIOUS** Leadership Award



Before starting her studies at the University of Hartford, Karishma Pinto '17 was shy and did not focus on her future career goals. But then she was accepted into The Women's Advancement's Initiative LEAD program, which taught her to find her strengths, overcome challenges, and seize opportunities.

"LEAD helped me come out of my shell and succeed when it comes to communication and networking," says Karishma.

Attending biweekly LEAD sessions focused on public speaking, networking, leadership, and goal setting helped Karishma develop a blueprint for her future and introduced her to people who are now some of her closest friends. After being undecided for almost two years, LEAD, in partnership with Career Services and Alumni Relations, helped her find a direction for her career.

LEAD also helped Karishma become more confident. She ran for the Student Government Association three times and instead of giving up when she lost, she persevered and ended up earning a position as the student representative on the University's Board of Regents.

Due to her involvement in numerous clubs and organizations and her many executive board roles, she received the Robert Hanley Award, the most prestigious leadership award the University of Hartford offers.

"I definitely attribute winning this award to the confidence I gained through the LEAD program," Karishma says. She highly appreciates Hartford College for Women alumnae and other people who generously donate their time and money to support The Women's Advancement Initiative, which makes the LEAD program available to students like her.

Karishma graduated in May 2017 with a degree in Communication from the University's College of Arts and Sciences focusing on advertising and public relations. She also earned a double minor in marketing and visual communication.

Karishma is now enrolled in the accelerated graduate communication program at the University of Hartford. She will earn her master's degree in May 2018.

"My goal is to become the director of communication at a large company in the beauty, lifestyle, or entertainment industry," said Karishma.

She looks forward to combining her passion for communication with the leadership skills she learned as a result of the LEAD program. "I know that if it wasn't for all the skills and support I gained through LEAD, I would not be where I am today," Karishma adds. 



PARENTS PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Arathi Rao-Pinto and Colin Pinto

Karishma Pinto's parents were very excited when she was accepted into LEAD, thinking it would be a perfect fit to further enhance and fine-tune her leadership and team-building skills. Her parents, Dr. Arathi Rao-Pinto and Colin Pinto, hoped it would help Karishma build her confidence and develop strong relationships with other like-minded students. And it really did. It helped build her confidence tremendously and encouraged her to get involved in on-campus organizations, her parents explain. LEAD also helped Karishma secure an internship at Renbrook. Her parents believe the connections Karishma forged, thanks to LEAD, will be very valuable for all of her future endeavors.

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First Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
Feb. 7, March 7, and April 4, 2018

WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

1877 Club
April 17, 2018
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hartford College for Women
Class of 1968 50th Reunion
Saturday, May 5, 2018
10 a.m.-4 p.m.



The Women's Advancement Initiatives LEAD program is a life changing program that serves more than 100 female students from every college at the University of Hartford. We invite you to share your career and life experiences with our students, or attend LEAD workshops that are held eight times a month.

**WE INVITE YOU
TO GET INVOLVED.**

TO LEARN MORE,
PLEASE CONTACT
womenadv@hartford.edu
860.768.5289

STAY CONNECTED



hartford.edu/womensadvancement