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Women Leading Women

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Women Leading Women
Friday CFW Meeting

I want to start with some relevant historical information about the council: In 2006, the council's inaugural year, 36 agreed to join the council. I have no doubt that much of that initial success was due to the remarkable, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens.

Today we are a group of 112 and range from a wide variety of backgrounds, career choices, and class years.

The group in 2006 made \$11,000 in pledges and commitments. Last year, this group made gifts in the amount of \$29,000 and has established a \$50K endowment in order to sustain the commitment of scholarships for the students.

Four scholarships have been awarded annually since 2008 (one for each class year) (52 including 2020, plus a few extra here and there) Do you recall the year that roommates nominated each other and it was so hard to pick, we awarded each of them a scholarship?

➤ Started at \$250; now \$1,000/each = \$4K awarded at Summit

There is much success to be celebrated, and here we are again at this very special event that you all have built. It is an incredible weekend to celebrate!

- As the Council and the Summit have become more and more successful, we have an opportunity to reach more alumnae and invite them to join in our efforts. Now is the time to analyze our structure and membership and determine how we can make even more of a positive impact for students and alumnae.
- There are a number of effective models at similar institutions who achieve this with tiered levels of participation, allowing for various types of involvement. Many of our current members prefer to not participate in the activities, but they are important financial contributors. Others might not be

in the position to give as much, but they want to offer their time and expertise. By making the different levels of engagement transparent, we provide an opportunity for alumnae to choose what level is a good fit for them. Empowered women empower women and working together we can all achieve a common goal of inclusivity

- In Alumni Engagement, our goal is to connect as many alumni as possible to the university. We offer many tools in which to achieve this: Events, Homecoming, Class Reunions, Giving, Pride Alumni Community, Minority Alumni Network (that is evaluating its future as well), International Alumni Network, etc. Everyone is encouraged to participate-these are all 'opt-in' initiatives, that enable a sense of belonging without an exclusionary process. The opportunity for access creates opportunity for growth.
- So as you move through the Summit this weekend and interact with students, faculty and staff, I ask you to think about ways to make the Council a more inclusive endeavor for all who wish to participate.
- After the Summit we will reach out for your input and continue the conversation.

Kim and Marilynn spoke about recalibration and I would like to introduce you to someone who is leading the university through some tough challenges by doing just that. I am not exaggerating when I say that everyone I speak to (alumni, faculty, staff and students) are all very excited to have President Nugent leading Illinois Wesleyan. You may have seen press about the Presidential Tour, where she has the opportunity to meet alumni all over the country and communicate her vision, **I With U: One Community, One Purpose**. I am very pleased that she is able to join us to meet this group, especially.

President S. Georgia Nugent, Ph.D., Kenyon College president emerita, leads Illinois Wesleyan University as the institution's 20th president.

A widely published scholar of the classics and of higher education, Nugent earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a doctorate from Cornell University. Before beginning her decade-long presidency at Kenyon,

Nugent served at Princeton as assistant to the president, associate provost, and dean of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and as professor of classics at Princeton and Brown universities. She also taught on the classics faculties of Cornell as well as Swarthmore College and Kenyon.

Nugent later served as interim president at The College of Wooster during the 2015-16 academic year and is currently a senior fellow at the Council of Independent Colleges.

Please help me welcome, President Georgia Nugent.

Notes

112 members

75% active (participating in activities, calls, etc.)

14% leadership donors (\$500+)