



On September 17 the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2012 gender wage gap numbers. And guess what. The wage gap still stands at 23 cents. That means a woman working full time, year-round still typically takes home 77 cents for every dollar a man takes home. The gap is even worse for women of color.

This isn't the first year the wage gap has refused to budge. Since 2002, the gap has stubbornly hovered right around 23 cents. Sometimes, it feels like the wage gap will never close.

Some don't care if these numbers play out like a broken record year after year. They would rather blame the difference in men's and women's pay on individual choices. If only that were true. When you account for all measurable decisions that might influence a person's paycheck — college, major, occupation, industry, work hours, you name it — the wage gap is still there.

AAUW should know. Last year, we did a study that looked at the earnings of women and men just one year out of college, a time when few women or men are making choices about having children, taking care of elderly parents, or working fewer hours. Taking into account all the factors that have been shown to affect pay, the report found that women are paid an unexplained 6.6 percent less than men doing the exact same work.

If you do the math, you'll find that 6.6 percent of an average man's earnings one year out of college comes to just over \$2,800. That amount of money could buy you

- Nearly a year's worth of groceries
- More than 750 gallons of gas
- 1,400 tall Starbucks coffees

Whether they are one year out of college or 40 years in the workplace, women can work as hard as they

want. They can negotiate like that guy from Priceline and even pursue careers in lucrative industries like information technology. The research shows they are still likely to be paid less just because they're women.

Of course, there is something we can do about the wage gap. (There always is!) For two years, the U.S. Department of Labor has been saying it will develop a new tool to collect information on salaries, wages, and other benefits for employees of federal contractors. This tool is essential to giving workers and employers the information they need to end pay discrimination, and it will give the Department of Labor the information it needs to make sure companies that are receiving our tax dollars are following the law. Urge the Department of Labor to speed up its work on this data collection tool today!



October Branch Meeting

AAUW Jamestown Branch will be meeting Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 7 pm, Unruh Sheldon. room 132, on the campus of the University of Jamestown, Jamestown, ND.

Nicole Stein and Megan Baker will discuss their leadership experiences at the 2013 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland.

Kelsey Barstad will join Nicole and Megan for a panel discussion on the relevancy of AAUW to college women on campus. All three women are past winners of the AAUW Jamestown Branch scholarship to attend the leadership conference.

The scholarship pays for tuition and transportation. Jamestown AAUW is the only Branch in ND that sends a women college student this conference, fondly nicknamed among AAUW members as Nic Whistle.

More than 700 students participated in the 2013 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. The students represented 47 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Jamaica. For many students attending the conference is a transformative leadership experience. Students return home ready to improve their communities and campuses.

Guests are welcome.

AAUW Hires Coordinator For North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana

Amanda Cotylo has been hired by AAUW to help further the cause in ND. She'll more than likely be working on the anti choice ballot initiative as well as reinvigorating membership and branches at the campus and universities and beyond. If you have thoughts on how Amanda can help grow AAUW North Dakota please let one of the steering committee members know.



Dr. Temple Grandin

Invitation

The University of Jamestown has extended an invitation and free tickets for Branch members to attend The Character and Leadership Fall conference, October 10, 2013, 6:30 pm, Reiland Fine Arts Center. The keynote speaker is Dr. Temple Grandin.

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is now the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. Her fascinating life, with all its challenges and successes has been brought to the screen. She has been featured on NPR (National Public Radio), major television programs, such as the BBC special "The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow", ABC's Primetime Live, The Today Show, Larry King Live, 48 Hours and 20/20, and has been written about in many national publications. In addition workshops will be presented by Kerry & Stacy Bender, Marcia Gums and Dale Shark.

Please contact Patsy Klose: 252-3983 or patsyklose@msn.com by October 3 if you want a ticket.