

S.T.A.H.L. NEWS

STUDENTS TALKING ABOUT HEALTHY LIFESTYLES...WORDS OF WHIZ-DOM

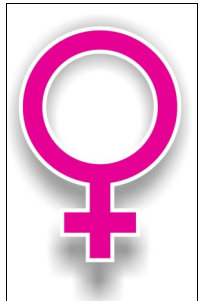
Brought to you by IUP Women's Programs, The Center for Health and Well-Being

March 3, 2014



HisHERstory

Celebrating Women's History Month



Why Does Women's History Month Matter?

Originating from a weeklong celebration of women's history and achievements in Sonoma, California, Women's History Month has been celebrated every March since 1982. Yes, you read that right—we started celebrating Women's History Month **AFTER** the two major waves of feminism that happened in the early 1900's and the 1970's. So, you may be wondering why we celebrate women for a month. Aren't we all equal now? Looking at the statistics, it turns out that women are still not equal to men, even if they can vote and have jobs now.

Did you know?

Women face a lot of disparities...

- * According to aauw.org, depending on a woman's race, a woman can earn up to 41 cents less compared to every dollar a white man earns. Within each race/ethnicity, women always earn less than men.
- * 1 out of every 4 women experiences domestic/dating violence in her lifetime.
- * 1 out of 6 women has been the victim of attempted or completed rape.

It gets even trickier when race is involved!

- * Even though 4 out of 10 Hispanic women and 5 out of 10 African American women are the breadwinners of their households, they both face a higher unemployment rate compared to white women.
- * Women of color represent 53.2% of people without health insurance.
- * Only 27% of women serving in Congress are women of color, and there is only one woman of color in the Senate.

Trans women are women too!

Transgender women have issues that affect them too. The discrimination that they have to face is so severe that 40% of anti-LGBT murder victims are trans women. Also, 63% of transgender people have faced major discrimination, such as losing a job or sexual/physical assault. These problems affect trans women of color even more severely than white trans women! If you experience transphobia, you can contact the IUP Safe Zone (safe-zone@iup.edu) or the IUP GLBT Commission for help.



So, what can we do about this?

You can:

- ✓ Contact your local House Representatives and Senators to tell them how important these issues are to you and encourage them to support pro-women legislation.
- ✓ Join organizations on campus that work to solve these issues such as Students Advocating Gender Equality (S.A.G.E.), the IUP Women's Studies Club, and the Men's Awareness Project.
- ✓ Learn about feminist issues! Feminism is all about giving women equal rights to men. There are feminist communities and pages on web sites such as Tumblr and Facebook where you can learn about feminism directly from feminists themselves!
- ✓ Take a Women's Studies course at IUP for your liberal studies requirement!

