

WOMANifesto

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CENTER

OCT/NOV 2022

Use Your Voice: Don't Forget To Vote!

By Betsy Danforth

This fall once again brings us an election opportunity! As citizens of this nation and this state, it is your privilege, your right, and dare I say, your responsibility to vote in our open elections. Many folks wait until Presidential elections to cast their ballots; but local, state and U.S. Congressional elections are just as important.

Take responsibility for knowing about the candidates, the issues, and ballot measures, as there will be a lot of choices for Montanans this year. Know, too, that not all offices are party affiliated, so be sure to research all the candidates. And take the time to read our state constitution, an amazing document that was written 50 years ago—you can find it here: <https://law.justia.com/constitution/montana/> The preamble reads: “We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.” If you have an opportunity to attend any of the Constitutional Convention (“Con Con”) events happening this year for the document’s 50th anniversary, I strongly recommend you do so. I learned so much from the event held here at MSU last semester, and subsequently, feel very strongly about this amazing document, the process of selecting its authors, and the incredible amount of insight, thought and care that went into its creation.

Think about issues that are important to you when choosing candidates or voting on referendums and initiatives. How will this initiative really affect you, your family and friends, your neighbors? How exactly will this referendum improve the lives of citizens? Will our community be a better place if this individual has a voice in our government? What is their professional history? Do they have the proper experience for this position? Do they have a proven record of accountability, honesty and integrity? Do they have a broad understanding about the lives of Montana's diverse citizens?

The bottom line is that we Montanans can actually make a difference with our vote! You can easily check online to make sure you are still registered in Montana at <https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/>. Voter registration is open until 5 p.m. on Election Day if you still need to register, and if you receive a mail-in ballot, be sure to return it with plenty of time or hand deliver it to your local polling place. Many candidates in Montana are elected by quite a small margin, so again, use your voice to have a say in the future of MSU, Bozeman and Montana!

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THE HEART INITIATIVE AT MSU AND MSU'S WOMEN'S CENTER

PRESENT A SCREENING OF:



AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY INVISIBLE HANDS

Invisible Hands exposes child labor and trafficking within the supply chains of the world's biggest corporations which produce some of our most loved items. Invisible Hands digs deep into a modern slavery system quietly supported by corporate interests and demands to know why top stakeholders continue to engage in this unlawful and often deadly practice.



6:00 PM
WEDS., OCTOBER 26TH
PROCRASTINATOR THEATER, MSU
FREE OF CHARGE

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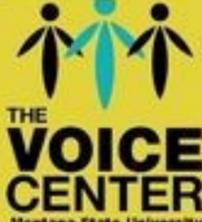


PINT NIGHT!



**OCTOBER 24 & 31 (4-8 PM)
@ BRIDGER BREWING
&
NOVEMBER 8 (4-8 PM)
@ OUTLAW BREWING**

**A PORTION OF EVERY PINT WILL BE GOING
TO THE SURVIVOR FUND WHICH HELPS
FINANCIALLY SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**



**THE
VOICE
CENTER**
Montana State University

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Women Can Be in STEM, Right?

By Madeline Conrad

Think of a scientist. Was the first image that popped into your head a man in a lab coat holding a beaker in a laboratory? You wouldn't be the first. While STEM fields have marched ahead, breaking barriers and moving boundaries, some of the most promising scientists have been left behind: women. In comparison with how much STEM in general has advanced, this biased mindset is outdated. Unfortunately, STEM misrepresentation and gender inequality persist, despite our best efforts.

The inclusion of a diverse work force has been associated with increased financial and theoretical success for both businesses and research. According to several studies, Fortune 500 companies are those with the highest level of workplace diversity. Even though there is clear evidence that the inclusion of women in STEM careers is associated with an increased rate of success, they are still significantly underrepresented in scientific fields. We believe that by implementing early intervention programs for women in science, socialization barriers can be reduced in local communities. The purpose of this initiative is to increase the participation of women in science throughout Montana.

As of 2020, MSU finally achieved their goal of making sure that at least 20% of the engineering department's population is female. Likewise, the chemistry and physical sciences departments had similarly low percentages of women enrolled, 25% and 20%, respectively. Despite this being an improvement over previous years, it still illustrates how few women are represented in science and engineering. Even though we have made significant strides as a society towards reducing that gender gap, why do we still have such a problem? One reason is the social and cultural barriers that prevent girls from pursuing STEM degrees. As a young woman, it is still regarded by many as abnormal to pursue STEM fields. Often times, if girls are interested in science or math they will be perceived as an outsider. This is a particular challenge for girls in high school and middle school, where most students' primary goal is to fit in. Because STEM isn't popular, many girls are hesitant to pursue it.

The gender gap may also be due to the fact that girls feel they need to prove themselves in a room full of boys and also do not see many role models or representations of successful women scientists. Although females have been active in STEM fields for over a century, some misconceptions and stereotypes persist. Often, girls are considered inferior, have their opinions constantly devalued, are not called on by teachers as often, are not invited to participate in scientific dialogues, and might not be listened to when they are. Girls understand that they must overcome these obstacles and sometimes it is simply too onerous. As a result, girls tend to believe they must be excellent in all STEM activities and classes in order to succeed in a male-dominated field, and when they are not able to accomplish these goals, they may believe that they will not be able to succeed in STEM.

For women in STEM, the sky is the limit. Women are qualified to provide unique insights into the world around us as well as to contribute diverse perspectives to different fields. Women often have an ability to empathize and analyze the world simultaneously, providing a unique perspective on issues or scientific problems. Having such a diverse perspective while dealing with challenges is a crucial component to solving those issues. It is crucial that young girls and females explore and pursue STEM fields for STEM to continue to progress.

For young girls to become interested in STEM, and for STEM to see future progress, it is imperative that we remove the stereotype that these fields are only for men. We need to provide girls with role models who are in the STEM field and celebrate women making significant contributions, either in the past or present. Women must be shown that they can enter this field and make a positive impact. Additionally, we must expose girls to the "fun science" as well. Show them that science can encapture their interests, it's not always about just being in a stuffy lab!

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Reflections on My Time at the Women's Center

By Anna Campbell

In 2018, as I was approaching high school graduation, I visited the MSU campus. My parents and I met with admissions counselors, Dean Lee of the Honors College, and professors in Political Science, Women & Gender Studies and the pre med track of Cell Biology. At the end of the tour was our last appointment with Betsy at the Women's Center. By that point in the day, I was a typical grumpy teenager, taking my anxiety about starting college out on my parents by not letting them buy me a sandwich from Avo's. I had met Betsy before, as my mom volunteered at the Women's Center in the 90s and has stayed friends with Betsy and other staff from that time.

When we walked in, Betsy gave my mom and grandmother hugs, and then seemed surprised. "Wait, you're who I'm meeting with right now? Give me a break!" She elaborated, saying, "the email said I was meeting with a VIP prospective student!" You see, my step-grandpa was Michael Malone, a former president of MSU. I never met him, as he passed before I was born, but I knew he was important to the administration at MSU. I'm not trying to humble brag here- I am just from a long time Bozeman family. I mean, really, up until this point the only thing that happened because of this connection was that my family went to a football game in the President's box one year- which I was psyched about only because of the delicious chicken nuggets and leaving school early.

Anyway, the point is that the whole situation was ridiculous and made me uncomfortable knowing the other people we had met with had received the same "VIP" email. I felt a twinge of imposter syndrome. Betsy, as those of you who have met her know, truly knew how to keep it real. We all cracked up at how silly the situation was and had a great meeting that left me more excited for college and MSU than anything else that day.

Once in the swing of my freshman year, I applied for a staff position with the Women's Center, and I have been working here ever since. I am proud to work here. While we have a very small budget, and may not be as widely recognized as we'd like (the third floor of the SUB does exist!), the thing I like most about the Women's Center is that it's simple and earnest. All the programming and resources we offer are genuinely important to the staff. Betsy cares about the people on this campus and sees the Women's Center as not only a good resource for students, but hopefully as a model for how university units and individuals can contribute to the wellbeing of students and the MSU community as a whole.

My sophomore year, I took Intro to Feminist Theory. I remember during a discussion about ways we can all help standardize awareness of pronouns, our professor specifically mentioned that the director of the Women's Center was one of the first people on campus to include pronouns in her email signature. I recall smiling to myself, feeling happy that I worked there!

Never once have I felt an event we sponsored, from our sack lunch seminars to larger events and panels, was frivolous, or a bubble of self congratulatory processes with no tangible outcome. The Women's Center partners with many units and individuals on campus and in the community who are also hardworking, genuine people. Like Betsy, they are no nonsense, caring, and inspiring assets to our campus and larger community.

When I reflect on my time here, I will remember and carry with me the impact the Women's Center has had. Betsy has taught me so much, been there for me in the worst times in my college career, by my side to celebrate the highs and a consistent force in my life. As I approach graduation, I am so grateful to her for being a mentor, an inspiration and most importantly, a friend. I am incredibly lucky to have had these past four years at the Women's Center. If you know any incoming MSU students, tell them to apply to work at the Women's Center; they won't regret it.

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FREE ADMISSION, RESERVATIONS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
TWO MONTANA PERFORMANCES: MSU BOZEMAN & LIVINGSTON

SPONSORED BY STUDENT ADVOCATES
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AT MSU

MY BODY NO CHOICE

THIS IS A TIME
WHEN WOMEN NEED
TO TELL THEIR STORIES

originally
commissioned by
arena
stage



ASTELLAR LOCAL CAST READING

MONOLOGUES BY
LEE CATALUNA, FATIMA DYFAN, LISA LOOMER,
DAEL ORLANDERSMITH, SARAH RUHL, MARY HALL SURFACE,
V (FORMERLY EVE ENSLER), AND "ANONYMOUS"

CONCEIVED BY MOLLY SMITH



INFO & RESERVATIONS: [FACEBOOK@MTMyBodyNoChoice](https://www.facebook.com/MTMyBodyNoChoice)

FRI. OCT. 28 BLUE SLIPPER THEATRE, LIVINGSTON

TUE. NOV. 1 INSPIRATION HALL, MSU, BOZEMAN

DOORS OPEN 6:30, SHOW BEGINS 7:30