



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



With the arrival of September comes a renewed focus on education in America. Vision 2020's youth education goal is a year-round focus for us, and we are working with education leaders and institutional partners like the National Constitution Center and a new Allied organization, the [Annenberg Public Policy Center](#) at the University of Pennsylvania, to plan programs that will educate young girls and boys about the history of women and the importance of achieving gender equality for our nation.

The valuable [Educators' Guide](#), created for Vision 2020 when we launched the Campaign for Equality in 2010, is currently being updated. Its innovative activities--lessons and games--are available to teachers and others interested in increasing young people's awareness of women's contributions to American history.

Another Ally, the Legacy Center here at Drexel, has created an award-winning website called [Doctor/Doctress](#) for high school students about the history of women in medicine. This is a great example of getting our message out.

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The paragraphs above describe Vision 2020's role as a Connector, Communicator and Collaborator. We also are a Convener, bringing together the individual and institutional leaders who make up the powerful and growing National Vision 2020 coalition. Those leaders, some of whom have been with us from the beginning, and many of whom are new, will gather in Nashville, TN next month--October 26-28--when we convene the Fifth National Vision 2020 Congress. If you are interested in participating and have not yet registered, please contact [Ali Gathers](#) right away.

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On the subject of **Connecting-**

Five new Allied Organizations have joined the Vision 2020 coalition this summer. Including the two mentioned above. The others are:

The [Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement](#) (WISER);

The [Voter Participation Center](#) (VPC);

The [National Women's Hall of Fame](#), which I plan to visit at its home in Seneca Falls, NY on October 3. I have long anticipated a visit to Seneca Falls, the site of the nation's first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, and I'm looking forward to visiting the Women's Rights National Historical Park (NHP) there and to attending the ceremony when new women leaders are inducted into the Hall of Fame.

We welcome also the following new Delegates: **Jennifer Li Dotson** of Hawaii; **Shauntay Nelson** of Wisconsin; and **Kendra Snipe** of South Carolina.

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On the subjects of **Communicating and Collaborating-**

Participating with me in this year's Vision 2020 "Toast to Tenacity" on August 26 at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia was Pennsylvania Delegate **Desiree Peterkin-Bell**, who is also Director of Communications and Strategy at Office of Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. Our annual Vision 2020 toast is a brief but meaningful tribute to the suffragists, commemorating the date in 1920 when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment became law, and like other aspects of women's history, Women's Equality Day doesn't get much attention, even though it's been federally designated since 1971. On the morning of August 26, I heard a radio announcer say that this was "National

Dog Day," with no mention that it was also Women's Equality Day. So I did what I think any Vision 2020 member would do, I got in touch with someone who could correct the oversight, and by nightfall the same station was reporting regularly that August 26 was Women's Equality Day. Speak up!

Vision 2020 Leadership Circle member **Roberta Liebenberg** and Illinois Delegate **Stephanie Scharf** co-authored a new study [First Chairs at Trial: More Women Need Seats at the Table](#). The groundbreaking study that illuminates the roles of litigators along gender lines was sponsored by Vision 2020 Ally the **American Bar Association's** Commission on Women in the Profession and the American Bar Foundation.

**Roberta Liebenberg** also represented Vision 2020 with **Lisa Passante**, past President of the National Association of Women Lawyers, a Vision 2020 Ally, at the Philadelphia regional office of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for Women's Equality Day. They spoke about gender pay equity and their presentation was webcast to SEC offices around the nation. The PowerPoint presentation is on the Vision 2020 website.

Iowa Delegate **Diane Ramsey** had an opinion piece published in The Des Moines Register about the recent selection process for the president of the University of Iowa where the four final candidates considered were all white males. She provided information about the continually low numbers of women in leadership in Iowa and nationally.

Connecting, Convening, Communicating and Collaborating through Vision 2020 can result in a 5<sup>th</sup> C: CHANGE!

Happy September,

