

# AMPLIFY & ACT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2021



## What's Most Needed Now

A Message From the President of VisionForward

I won't say we are "new and improved," because I am so proud of all that our national coalition accomplished during our decade as Vision 2020. More to the point, in planning our September 1 rebranding, the Vision 2020 team was not seeking to do the same thing, only better; it was seeking to do what's most needed now to advance the cause of gender equity.



Vision 2020 announced its new name, mission and strategies at the National Congress in June. It is reprinted below. Building on that foundation over the summer, the team selected two timely issues as the targets for collective impact efforts — one in the focus area of economic equity and a two-part effort in the area of civic engagement.

**Caregiving penalties.** The pandemic has made clear that women are overwhelmingly responsible for — and penalized for — caregiving. In this historic moment, families and employers are experiencing the economic pain and disruption caused by attitudes and institutions that undervalue the care of children, the elderly and other dependents. It is a systemic problem, and as such, it can only be changed by a sustained collective effort — a national movement of the kind our coalition is uniquely suited to lead. Economic equity cannot be achieved until we elevate the value of caregiving and eliminate caregiving penalties in all forms.

**Unequal representation in legislatures.** America's 50 state legislatures enact laws and control services that directly affect the lives of women and families. And yet women currently hold only 31% of the seats in state legislatures nationwide. Fixing this requires a two-pronged civic engagement effort: empowering more women to run for these seats and motivating more voters to show up for the midterm elections in which many of these seats are filled. Although a record number of women voted in the 2020 presidential election, one out of three eligible women didn't vote. In the 2018 midterm, 45% of women didn't vote. A major effort is needed to raise awareness of the

impact of decisions being made at the state level and the benefits of having more women involved in making those decisions.

As VisionForward works to define a detailed action plan, the team will be seeking to connect with individuals and organizations already working on the issues described above or interested in pursuing those causes. If you can help us make those connections, please email [visionforward@drexel.edu](mailto:visionforward@drexel.edu).



Lynn H. Yeakel, Founder and President, VisionForward

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## About the New Brand

**Name:** VisionForward

**Tagline:** Advancing Gender Equity

**URL:** [visionforwardatdrexel.org](http://visionforwardatdrexel.org)

**Description:** VisionForward is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to advance gender equity through women's leadership.

**Mission:** To achieve gender equity by increasing the number and power of women leaders to accelerate economic, political and social change.

**Strategies:**

- Connect leaders and organizations with complementary agendas to collaborate for collective impact, especially in areas of economic equity and civic engagement
- Amplify voices and messages for positive change
- Focus on timely issues and opportunities that support the mission
- Propel progress through partnerships, programs, events and media

## Connect With Us on Social Media

- Facebook: [facebook.com/VisionForwardAtDrexel](https://facebook.com/VisionForwardAtDrexel)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/visionforwardatdrexel](https://instagram.com/visionforwardatdrexel)
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/vision-forward-at-drexel](https://linkedin.com/company/vision-forward-at-drexel)
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**VisionForward News & Events**



*Toast to Tenacity was held outdoors in front of Philadelphia's Kimmel Center Campus and livestreamed to a national audience. In-person guests were delighted to receive Women 100 branded yellow umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun on a very hot day.*



*Among the presenters at Toast to Tenacity were (from left) Elizabeth Moro, Karen Berkowitz MD, Michelle Legaspi Sanchez, Tammy Williams and PA State Rep. Joanna McClinton, with Lynn Yeakel at the podium.*

## **Toast to Tenacity™ Caps Women 100 Year**

Toast to Tenacity was the grand finale of Vision 2020's Women 100 Celebration. It took place August 26 – National Women's Equality Day. In-person participants were outdoors on South Broad Street in Philadelphia and a national virtual audience watched the Toast via live webcast. Several groups of

Delegates and Allied Organizations from across the country participated by sharing videos of their own toasts. Some of their celebrations are highlighted below.

Each year, Toast to Tenacity marks the day in 1920 that the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution became law, guaranteeing American women the right to vote. [View more photos and a recording of the event.](#)



### Dare to Run (Allied Organization)

Dare to Run joined us in a toast to 101 years of women's suffrage and featured their graduating class from December 2019, Cohort 1. They were proud to award certificates to eight phenomenal women, four of whom ran campaigns for public office in New York City.



### Natalia Macker (WY Delegate) & Wyoming Women's Action Network (Allied Organization)

In lieu of hosting their usual #ToastToTenacity to mark passage of the 19th Amendment on Women's Equality Day, they nominated women to run for office!



### Dr. Dana Brown (PA Delegate) & Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics at Chatham University (Allied Organization)

The PCWP hosted a Toast to Tenacity event on campus at Chatham University to celebrate the 101st anniversary of the 19th Amendment. They raised a glass of sparkling punch,



### Patricia Pierce (TN Delegate) & National Women's History Alliance (Allied Organization)

Tennessee Delegates and the National Women's History Alliance [continued their celebration](#) of the Woman's Suffrage Centennial by paying tribute to many brave women who led the drive to win the vote as well as

promoted upcoming Center programs, and gave away Women's Equality Day information and SWAG.

women who are supporting voting rights today. They hosted a luncheon in Washington D.C. on August 21 for living and deceased honorees.

## News From Our National Coalition

### More Awards and Nominations for UNLADYLIKE2020

**UNLADYLIKE2020's** broadcast special, *The Changemakers*, which tells the stories of trailblazing women in American politics and civil rights, was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award as part of American Masters' 2020 season, in the category of Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series. (Disney+ took home the Emmy for *Secrets of the Whales*.)

UNLADYLIKE2020 won a Silver Award at the 2021 Telly Awards, in the category of Series – History. The Tellys honor excellence in television and video content created for all screens. This year's winners were selected from over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents.

UNLADYLIKE2020's Jovita Idar documentary has been nominated for an Imagen Award in the Best Short Film category. Imagen Awards are judged by an independent panel of entertainment industry executives and Latino community leaders to recognize outstanding work that portrays the Latino community in a sensitive and accurate manner. The Imagen Awards will be presented October 10 on [PBSSoCal.org](http://PBSSoCal.org) and [KCET.org](http://KCET.org).

**UNLADYLIKE 2020**

## Empowering Photo of the Month



Hoisting bottles of grape juice at Toast to Tenacity are Lynn Yeakel, founder

and president of Vision 2020 (now VisionForward), and Dianne Semingson, co-chair of the Women 100 Advisory Committee. The annual toast, celebrated simultaneously in cities across the nation, honors the suffragists on Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution establishing women's right to vote. The toast is made with grape juice because the amendment was passed in 1920 during Prohibition.

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This list was current as of September 23, 2021

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