

VISION2020

EQUALITY IN SIGHT®

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let's Act Like the Majority We Are

On September 17, National Constitution Day, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Schemel Forum at the University of Scranton in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The title of my talk was "Let's Act Like the Majority We Are" – a longtime theme for me in addressing women's groups. The large audience was made up of students, faculty, and members of the community, including some men.



During the question-and-answer session after the talk, I received a question I've been asked many times before: What do we do about women who criticize and undermine other women? The question cited the frequent example of Phyllis Schlafly preventing the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s and 80s.

My answer has always remained the same: We must identify and illuminate the many issues that unite us as women, rather than those that divide us. Most (if not all) of us have experienced unfair treatment at some point because of our gender. Many of us have struggled to balance family and work responsibilities. We care about the future for our children and grandchildren, so many of us also share concerns about issues like climate change and gun violence. In sum, I believe we have a variety of shared values.

From its beginning, Vision 2020 decided to focus on common themes – shared leadership among women and men, economic parity, youth education, and women's increased civic engagement. With our national Delegates and Allied Organizations, we have emphasized a commitment to helping women and girls achieve America's promise of **equality**.

Now, as plans evolve for Vision 2020's Women 100 commemoration of 100 years of women's voting rights, we have much to learn and build on.

We must think and act like the majority we are!

Lynn Yeakel

President and founder of Vision 2020

Vision 2020 News

Promotions and New Staff Members to the Vision 2020 Team

Drexel University's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership is pleased to announce the promotion of two longtime employees and the addition of two new members to the Vision 2020 team.

Congratulations to Janine Barber, new associate director, Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, the home of Vision 2020 and Shermika Lightfoot, its new department administrator. Janine was the organization's program manager and Shermika was its finance coordinator. Janine has been with Vision 2020 since 2008 and Shermika since 2004.

In Janine's new role she will work closely with director Lynn Yeakel on fundraising and management of the programs of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, including Vision 2020.

As department administrator, Shermika will oversee fiscal operations, human resources management and budgeting for the Institute and its programs, including Vision 2020.

Vision 2020 also wishes to welcome Terese Casey, who will be serving as Vision 2020's Women 100 national fundraising consultant, and Marsha Braverman as the organization's communications director.

Terese brings her considerable years of political and non-profit fundraising to the team. An active community volunteer for many non-profit organizations in both Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., Terese also serves on the boards of St. Joseph's Center and NativityMiguel Scranton. Terese earned her CPA and practiced with KMPG in Boston and Washington, and later worked in the corporate office of the Washington Post Company.



*Janine Barber, associate
director, Institute for
Women's Health and
Leadership, the home of
Vision 2020*



*Shermika Lightfoot,
department administrator,
Institute for Women's Health
and Leadership,
the home of Vision 2020*



Terese Casey, national

Marsha is not new to the Drexel family, having served as the chief marketing officer for the College of Medicine for six years. Prior to her work at the College of Medicine, she was the executive vice president of marketing and communications for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and served as director of communications and legislative affairs for Philadelphia Corporation for Aging.

Welcome aboard, Terese and Marsha.

*fundraising consultant, Vision
2020*



*Marsha Braverman,
communications
director, Vision 2020*

Women100.org New Home for 2020 Celebration

With the launch of a website on August 21, Vision 2020 created a new home for *Women 100: A National Celebration of American Women*. Visitors to Women100.org will find all current information about the largest 19th Amendment centennial celebration in the United States.

The website showcases the seven Women 100 signature programs and events, as well as Voter Mobilization 2020, a nonpartisan effort led by Vision 2020 and its Allied Organizations to break the record for voter turnout by women in the 2020 national election.

Women 100 Proud Partners, numbering more than 30 organizations so far, are hosting a women-themed program or event in 2020 aligned with the 19th Amendment centennial. Proud Partners are listed on the [About page](#) and each of their offerings is included in the schedule on the dynamic and searchable [Events page](#).

The website was designed by [BTC](#), the official marketing partner of Women 100. It will remain live through November 2020.



Annual Toast to Tenacity™: A Celebration to Remember

Vision 2020's Toast to Tenacity marking Women's Equality Day, was a memorable event

with a capacity crowd for this year's celebration in Philadelphia. Supporters gathered at the Independence Visitor Center overlooking Independence Mall to raise their glasses to honor the courage and persistence of the suffragists who won American women's voting rights 99 years ago.

This year's program included a short preview of the film *The 19th Amendment: A Woman's Right to Vote*, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania in support of Women 100.

The preview was followed with welcoming remarks by Lynn Yeakel, Vision 2020's founder and president. She was joined by this year's Toast host and sponsor Lauren P. McKenna, partner, Fox Rothschild LLP.



Raising their glasses to mark Women's Equality Day at this year's Toast to Tenacity (left to right) are Lynn Yeakel, president of Vision 2020; PA State Rep. Joanna McClinton; Independence National Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod; and Dianne Semingson, co-chair, Women 100 Advisory Committee.

Tam Williams, Vision 2020 Pennsylvania delegate and Marjorie Solomon, Vision 2020 volunteer, shared with the audience what we believe suffragists Mary Church Terrell and Alice Paul would have said if they were here today. Pennsylvania's State Representative Joanna McClinton spoke about the importance of Pennsylvania's ratification of the 19th Amendment. Dianne Semingson, co-chair, Women 100 Advisory Committee, reported on the committee's activities, and Maria Bomersbach told the story of the Justice Bell.

A special moment came when Vriti Khurana, a member of Drexel University's class of 2020, spoke about what it means for her to vote in a national election for the first time in 2020.

Members of the Vision 2020 national team presented a preview of the events and programs scheduled for *Women 100: A National Celebration of American Women*. Lynn Yeakel introduced the newest member of the Vision 2020 team, Terese Casey. Terese will serve as Vision 2020's national fundraising consultant.

The program closed with attendees raising their glasses of grape juice along with people around the country to salute the determined women of nearly a century ago. *Cheers!*

2019 Toast to Tenacity Delegate Highlights

Hawaii Delegate: Jennifer Dotson

The American Association of University Women Honolulu Branch gathered for their Toast to Tenacity in the Aloha State to celebrate the 99th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting American women the right to vote. Vision 2020 Hawaii Delegate

Jennifer Dotson and her 10-year-old daughter Jade joined the collective "cheers" from the 50th state by raising their glasses for a #ToastToTenacity in honor of National Women's Equality Day.



Florida Delegate: Maddie Stewart

Vision 2020 Florida Delegate Maddie Stewart cohosted her third annual Toast to Tenacity on August 25, 2019, in Fort Myers. Participants read short passages that highlighted black women who fought alongside white women in the suffrage movement. Fort Myers Mayor Randall Henderson Jr. has a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, which is sponsoring a large series of events next year for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Neil Volz, a Fort Myers resident who was instrumental in Florida's push to restore felons' voting rights, also spoke.



Read more about the event, and all the various sponsors and supporters in [The Community Press](#).



Tennessee Delegate: Pat Pierce

To raise awareness of the upcoming 100th Anniversary of woman's suffrage, Vision 2020 Tennessee Delegate Pat Pierce joined the Southwest Point Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in sponsoring a "Suffrage Tea" on August 18, 2019, at the Historic Roane County Courthouse. Everyone dressed in 1920s period clothing and entered a "best hat" contest. A brief history about Tennessee's role in women winning the vote was reviewed, and suffrage symbols were on display.



California Delegate: Dawn Dyer

To celebrate the 99th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, friends gathered in Ventura County for a Toast to Tenacity to honor those who persevered to make women's right to vote a reality. Vision 2020 California Delegate Dawn Dyer hosted the Second Annual Ventura County Toast to Tenacity on August 25, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ventura. Cohosts included: Marni Brook, Tiffany Emhoff, Harvey Champlin, and the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel.

2019 Toast to Tenacity Social Media Highlights

Here's a sampling of some of our posts.

- See photos from our Philadelphia Toast on the Vision 2020 Facebook page
 - See the many tweets that used our hashtag #toasttotenacity
 - State Representative Joanna McClinton (speaker at the Philadelphia Toast)
 - Philadelphia Orchestra (Proud Partner)
 - Judith Lukomski (California Delegate)
 - Wyoming Women's Action Network (Ally) with Natalia Macker (Wyoming Delegate)
 - American Medical Women's Association (Ally) Eliza Chin (California Delegate)
 - Instagram also had a lot of great posts.
 - See photos on the Vision 2020 Instagram page
 - We even had skydivers!
-

Remembering Cokie Roberts

By Lynn Yeakel

It was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of veteran broadcast journalist Cokie Roberts, known to millions for her pioneering work on NPR and ABC News.

Cokie was one of the first nationally prominent women to sign on as a Vision 2020 National Advisor a decade ago. She and I also had another connection we discussed: Our fathers served in Congress together and were friends.



Cokie Roberts
1943-2019

An acclaimed author of books like *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation* and *Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848-1888*, she told of the often-overlooked role of women in history.

Cokie Roberts, advocate for women's rights, role model and good friend to Vision 2020, will be sorely missed.

New Film About Women's Struggle to Win the Right to Vote

The Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, an Allied Organization of Vision 2020, recently produced the film *The 19th Amendment: A Woman's Right to Vote*.

For almost a century and a half of our nation's history, women were barred from exercising this fundamental right. This is a film about their long, difficult struggle to win the right to vote. It's about citizenship, the power of the vote, and why women had to change the Constitution with the 19th Amendment to get the vote. **To view the video.**



VOTER MOBILIZATION 2020

Let's Break the Record for Women Voter Turnout

Vision 2020 is leading a nonpartisan effort to get women across America registered to vote in 2020 national elections. At all Women 100 events, Vision 2020 will offer voter registration.

[Register to Vote](#)

The September Meeting of the National Leadership Circle



In September the National Leadership Circle gathered in Philadelphia to discuss the strategic direction for Vision 2020, as well as audience engagement for the Women 100 events and fundraising opportunities. Members in attendance represented six states. This advisory group is comprised of women and men who are leaders in their fields and bring their wisdom and experience to Vision 2020.

The prior evening, members gathered for a cocktail party hosted by Women 100's new Visionary Leaders Committee, co-chaired by Molly Shepard, Peter Dean and Jeanie Heffernan. The Leadership Circle members shown above are (left to right): Alexia Ward; Deborah Brittain; Karen Kaplowitz; Dianne Semington, co-chair of the Women 100 Advisory Committee; Ron Coley; Mark Steinman; Lynn Yeakel, president of Vision 2020; Renee White; Joanne Murray; and Susan Taylor, co-chair of the Women 100 Advisory Committee.

Vision 2020 Welcomes New Coalition Members

We are pleased to announce the additions of two new Delegates, two new Allied Organizations and five Women 100 Proud Partners to Vision 2020's national coalition.

New Delegates

Marnie Puente is a market development leader at KPMG, a multinational professional services network, and one of the Big Four accounting firms. She has affiliations with Girls on the Run and the Leader's Edge/Leaders by Design, and she has served as a speaker for Women in Technology. Marnie, who lives in Bethesda, Maryland, is committed to help Vision 2020 in her own organization as well as the larger D.C. metro community.

Caroline Henley is with After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP). ASAP has partnered with Vision 2020 to host the Philly Girls Play Chess Tournament at Drexel's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership. Caroline lives in Philadelphia and looks forward to volunteering at upcoming programs this year and in 2020, including the SHE Leads Road Rally.

New Allied Organizations

West Chester University Department of Graduate School Work offers a Master of

Social Work program, which specializes in preparing students for advanced practice with individuals, families and communities while maintaining a focus on social justice and human rights.

[Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School](#) is an all-girls Catholic college-preparatory high school steeped in Mercy tradition and service in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The high school provides an environment that fosters academic rigor, personal growth, and service and leadership opportunities for all of its students.

New Proud Partners

Women's Whistle Stop Scranton will honor the courage, tenacity and vision of the women who fought for women's rights and equality and all those who continue that quest today. Women's Whistle Stop is hosting the Women 100 SHE Leads Road Rally on its historic drive to Seneca Falls on Friday, June 19, and the return trip on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

[Museum Council of Greater Philadelphia](#) builds connections between and among the diverse museum and cultural community, provides opportunities for professional growth, shares best practices and promotes accomplishments in the field.

[Ben Franklin Technology Partners](#) connects people focused on innovation, investments and technology — and making a difference — to achieve their purpose to seed innovation and economic growth in the Greater Philadelphia region. They are interested in partnering in events that celebrate women in innovation.

[Langhorne Council for the Arts](#) has promoted arts and culture for nearly 30 years through a variety of activities that engage community members of all ages. They believe that involvement in the arts makes for a more vibrant and connected community. They will be partnering with Neshaminy School District to hold a 100-word essay contest in the middle and high schools this fall, and will work with them again in March 2020 to hold a poster contest about women's rights then and now.

[Center for Art in Wood](#) interprets, nurtures, and champions creative engagement and expansion of art, craft and design in wood to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of it. The center is dedicating its programming to highlighting women and women-identifying artists and makers who work creatively in wood.

Empowering Photo of the Month



Photo credit: David Wybenga

The sky's the limit as Melanie Curtis and Christine Bruchac raise their glasses to toast the suffragists who fought for the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. Melanie and Christine are part of the Women's Skydiving Network Pro Team.

What We're Reading

Since the 1870s, the West Has Led the Way for Women in Politics

"Though racist policies persist, the West has a distinctive heritage of expanding voting rights for women."

How Outdated Notions About Gender and Leadership Are Shaping the 2020 Presidential Race

"American voters are ready for a woman president. (We just don't know we are.) Now we need to set aside outdated notions that women are not as presidential or electable."

Montana Tech's Student Government Led by All Women for First Time

"At Montana Tech this year, the school's student government executive body is comprised of all women for the first time in school history."

Judy Chicago on Rescuing Women from Art History's Sidelines

"Judy Chicago, the feminist artist and author, is playing to the coasts this month."

Lauren Rikleen, Vision 2020 Delegate (Massachusetts) released her latest book titled, ***The Shield of Silence: How Power Perpetuates a Culture of Harassment and Bullying in the Workplace***. This book combines fascinating research, extensive interviews, and strategic recommendations for addressing workplace misconduct. Its premise is that sexual harassment and other negative behaviors will not be stopped unless the condition that drives victims and bystanders into silence — the overriding fear that reporting misconduct will result in retaliation — is eliminated.

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This list includes Vision 2020 partners and Women 100 Proud Partners as of September 2019.

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