

VISIONFORWARD COALITION GUIDE

ACTION STEPS THAT LEAD TO COLLECTIVE IMPACT



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

College of
Medicine

Institute for Women's Health and Leadership

VISION**Forward**
Advancing Gender Equity

VISIONFORWARD OVERVIEW

VisionForward is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit initiative headquartered at Drexel University. Our national coalition increases the number and power of women leaders to accelerate change and achieve gender equity.

VisionForward is a convener, catalyst and rallying point for everyone committed to gender equity.

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 the areas of valuing caregiving and civic participation
- 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

COALITION MEMBERS

- Advocates
- Allied Organizations
- Proud Partners

See page 3 for more details on the VisionForward Coalition.



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THE VISIONFORWARD COALITION

VisionForward is a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to advance gender equity through women's leadership. The coalition comprises three different types of members: Advocates, Allied Organizations (Allies) and Proud Partners.



Advocate:
Tammy Williams

ADVOCATES

VisionForward is represented in every region across the country through Advocates, individual leaders who are committed to the advancement of gender equity and who use their spheres of influence to amplify VisionForward.

Advocates are united by VisionForward's two pillars of action: valuing caregiving and civic participation. They act to accelerate the pace of gender equity in their own local communities and regions by collaborating with other Advocates and Allied Organizations, hosting regional events and speaking engagements, participating in media opportunities and on social media, and collaborating with other leaders in their communities, as well as a variety of other projects.



Allied Organization:
Dare to Run

ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

VisionForward has formed alliances with national and regional nonprofit and professional organizations whose missions and values align closely with ours. Through the support and collaboration of our trusted Allied Organizations (Allies), VisionForward is able to better achieve collective impact as we advance our work toward gender equity.



Proud Partner:
Beyond the Bell Tours

PROUD PARTNERS

Proud Partners range from nonprofits and cultural institutions to small businesses and larger organizations, all of which show their support for the advancement of gender equity through relevant initiatives (i.e., exhibitions, themed programming, performances, etc.). Proud Partners typically do not have missions that are specifically focused on gender equity but are eager to support the movement.

Nonprofit organizations that are nonpartisan and have missions that align with VisionForward's work should consider applying to become VisionForward Allied Organizations.

COALITION AGREEMENT AND GUIDELINES

VisionForward is a project established within Drexel University's College of Medicine by the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership. As such, it is bound by the laws applicable to tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations. This includes the prohibition against VisionForward engaging in partisan political campaign activity. While we encourage coalition members to take part in civic affairs, please be mindful not to engage in partisan activities or lobbying in the name of VisionForward that could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the University or its affiliates or subsidiaries.

VisionForward will champion coalition programs that align with the mission through promotion. Programs that advance gender equity and are formally submitted to the VisionForward team (see page 5 for details) may be placed on one or more of the following VisionForward platforms: the official VisionForward calendar, monthly newsletter and/or social media accounts.

The VisionForward national office team is small but mighty. VisionForward does not provide funding nor staffing in the planning and implementation of programs outside of official VisionForward programs, but supports these activities through its national communication network.

Coalition programs and initiatives that honor the following standards will be prioritized:

- The program supports VisionForward's mission - with a specific focus on valuing caregiving and/or civic participation
- The program is nonpartisan
- The program plan is well-organized
- The program strives for diversity in the gender equity movement

Advocate, Allied Organization or Proud Partner roles do not include monetary compensation; these individuals and organizations are responsible for all private, professional and related activities in which they engage. Advocates, Allied Organizations and Proud Partners may not use the name, marks and logos of Drexel University or VisionForward in connection with their respective projects unless that use has been approved by the VisionForward national office. We ask that coalition members work with the national office to prevent VisionForward and its parent institution from being misrepresented in any domain. Please review Drexel University's Volunteer/Unpaid Volunteer Agreement (link below).

Thank you for your service and support in advancing gender equity.

DREXEL UNIVERSITY'S VOLUNTEER/UNPAID VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

<https://drexel.edu/hr/about/volunteers/>

ACTION STEPS

Get involved in one or more of the following activities.

Participate in VisionForward programs

Virtual and/or in person

VisionForward coalition members and national thought leaders regularly convene virtually and/or in person to tackle various topics that impact gender equity. From increasing women's civic participation to valuing caregiving, the team relies upon input and involvement from our incredible network of supporters.

Check the monthly VisionForward newsletter for program announcements

Engage in Coalition Coffee Breaks

Virtual

Every two to three months, VisionForward hosts Coalition Coffee Breaks, which are informal spaces for coalition members to gather and discuss predetermined topics via Zoom. They are great opportunities for coalition members across the nation to connect with us and each other.

Check the monthly VisionForward newsletter for Coalition Coffee Break announcements

Host your own program for us to promote

Do you plan to host an event with a focus on valuing caregiving or women's civic participation? Submit your program to VisionForward and it may be added to the official calendar to assist with audience-building.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT TO VISIONFORWARD HERE

Host a Toast to Tenacity™

Friday, August 26, 2022

Women's Equality Day is August 26—the date the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1920, granting American women the right to vote. VisionForward celebrates the anniversary of this historic milestone every year with its Toast to Tenacity™. Historically, our organization has honored the suffragists in their fight for women's voting rights during this program. VisionForward is expanding the Toast to Tenacity, in which people come together and raise their glasses in a united salute to past, present AND future trailblazers of the gender equity movement.

[VIEW THE 2022 'TOAST TO TENACITY TOOLKIT' TO SEE HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE](#)

Sign and share the 'He Cares Pledge'

While women are often pressured to step away from other goals and careers to care for family members, that same decision is stigmatized among men, who frequently face professional and social backlash for taking family leave. Normalizing caregiving among men is key to advancing gender equity and allowing us all to live lives unconstrained by restrictive gender roles.

[VIEW AND SIGN \(AND SHARE!\) THE PLEDGE](#)

ACTION STEPS CONTINUED

Get involved in one or more of the following activities.

Work on voter registration and mobilization

Voting is power. What better way to give thanks to the suffragists than to mobilize people to register and vote? Check out some of our VisionForward Allied Organizations that focus on voter registration and mobilization for toolkits, tips, action steps and more.

- [League of Women Voters](#)
- [Nonprofit VOTE](#)
- [Rock the Vote](#)
- [Voter Participation Center](#)

Run for office or work on a woman candidate's campaign

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.” - Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

VisionForward wants to achieve gender equity by increasing the number and power of women leaders to accelerate economic, political and social change. We encourage coalition members to run for office, seek appointment or help to support a woman candidate's campaign to ensure equal representation everywhere decisions are made. *Note: As an organization that is committed to nonpartisan work, we cannot endorse any candidates seeking election/re-election.*

Below are some of the VisionForward Allied Organizations that train women to run for office.

- [Dare to Run](#)
- [CAWP's Ready to Run](#)
- [Vote Lead Impact](#)
- [Vote Run Lead](#)
- [Women Campaign](#)

Help to build the coalition

Nominate individuals and organizations to become VisionForward Advocates, Allied Organizations and Proud Partners. Have an individual or organization in mind who would be a great fit? Email us and we will help to facilitate the process with you.

Contact: Joyce Collins, Coalition Director - jml575@drexel.edu

Spread the word on social media

Utilize the power of social media and help to spread the word about VisionForward. Share, repost and retweet us!



[@visionforwardatdrexel](#)



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