**WOMAN’S**

**EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY**

**OF COLORADO COLLEGE**

The Woman’s Educational Society

of Colorado College

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

**THE WOMAN’S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY**

**(WES) of Colorado College**

**2021-2022**

**Annual Report of the President**

**133rd Annual Meeting**  **April 26, 2022**

To all members and friends:

This report summarizes the activities of the committees and officers of the WES Board of Managers.

**STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Membership Statistics as of December 31, 2021

Dues-Paying Members……………………………..85

Lifetime and Silver Special Members……………...79 Honorary and ex-Officio Members………………….3

Additional Database Contacts…………………….206

TOTAL……………………………………………373

Note: Due to COVID 19, some members were slow to renew and have since paid their 2021 dues. As with many organizations, WES did experience a higher number of non-renews in 2021 than in years past.

Board of Managers accounts as of December 31, 2021

Operating Fund ................................................................. $29,370.98

Scholarships – Fundraising ............................................... $14,749.42

.............................................................................................................

Market Value of the Endowment as of December 31, 2021

Composed of the WES Irrevocable Trust and the WES

Revocable Trust the Cook, Hinch, Campbell, Stone,

General Scholarship, Rising Scholar and Operating

Funds……………………………………………………. $7,494,703

2021-2022 Scholarship funds allocated to 21 scholars .......... …$191,100

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been my honor to serve as President of the WES Board of Managers for the fiscal year 202122. While we had all wished that Covid and associated protocols were behind us, it was another year of largely socially distanced interactions with both scholars and members. By spring, we were pleased to be able to safely host several events in person, albeit not yet on campus. Despite those challenges, we are proud of the accomplishments made this year. WES opened the year with a deep dive into our mission and vision with a subsequent delineation of action items to better address our evolving role on campus and in the community.

Our monthly newsletter has proved to be a great way to connect with a much broader base of supporters and to reconnect with past scholars. An enhanced outreach to the community has resulted in new members and larger donations, and while our membership definitely needs to grow, we feel that we are on a good path to building the connections that are essential to maintaining a healthy organization. We added four new board members this year---all outstanding women, dedicated to WES' mission and vision for the future. This year we invited two senior scholars to participate on the board. It was beneficial to have immediate feedback and participation from current scholars. We were thrilled to have Dean of Women, Rochelle Dickey join us as an Honorary Board Member. Her support is greatly valued and her presence and sponsorship of events has been especially meaningful to scholars. WES was the recipient of two Legacy gifts this year: One gift helped us establish an operating budget endowment that will aid in covering the rapidly rising expenses of general operations. The other legacy gift was made by Board member, Barbara Keener, in honor and memory of Sarah Healy. This gift is intended to establish an on-going collaborative initiative that will serve WES scholars, the Colorado College community and broaden ties within the Colorado Springs community. Sarah's life was defined by a dedication to community service, and we are excited to have begun work on this initiative.

First and foremost, WES continued to support the education and personal growth of 21 outstanding female scholars. Whether through direct financial assistance, organizing of social events or mentormentee personal connections, WES made a difference in our scholars' college experience. We are pleased to be celebrating the five scholars from the graduating class of 2022 at this Annual Meeting. Your donations of time and treasure are truly valued and you can be assured that your generosity will continue to enhance our scholars' lives throughout their time at Colorado College

With best regards, Patsy Aronstein, President, WES Board of Managers

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

President – Patsy Aronstein

Vice President – Kelley Riggs

Recording Secretary – Lisa Bonwell

Treasurer – Connie Rickard

Board Members:

Barbara Keener Kendra Wolfe

Karen Rubin Debra Wynn

Tomi-Ann Roberts Cindi Zenkert-Strange

Tess Powers

Judy Sondermann

Ex Officio : Scholar Members:

Judy DeGroot Sakina Bhatti

Jennifer Lam

The Woman’s Educational Society Scholars 2021-2022

***Seniors, Class of 2022***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sakina Bhatti | Kansas City, Missouri |
| Dylan Hall | Buffalo, New York |
| Allya John | Brooklyn, New York |
| Jennifer Lam | Aurora, Colorado |
| Tiffany McBride  **Junior Class of 2023** | Snellville, Georgia |
| Tamar Crump | St. Louis, Missouri |

Mei Ji Fong Federal Way, Washington

Rikki Held Broadus, Montana

Sarah Higgins Columbia, Missouri

Gabriella Morales Beaufort, South Carolina

### Second Year – Class of 2024

Avery Colborn Ojai, California

Magdalena Gonzales San Antonio, Texas

Julia Nichols Saint Paul, Minnesota

Annabelle Sparks Asheville, North Carolina

Emmie Weprin Denver, Colorado

Olivia Xerras Charlotte, North Carolina

### First Year—Class of 2025

Alana Ermeus Jackson, New Jersey

Camila Espinosa-Short Denver, Colorado

Meena Kim Centennial, Colorado

Aidan Reidy Denver, Colorado

Roxana Reisch Rochester, New York

**PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR (see detailed descriptions below)**

**August 6, 2021 New Scholar Meet & Greet (virtual)**

**September 24, 2021 Scholar/Mentor Picnic at the home of Judy Sondermann**

**October 22, 2021 Zoo Tour**

**October 29, 2021 A Conversation with Joe Neguse**

**December 9, 2021 Cookie Exchange**

**January 28, 2022 Tour of the Universe (virtual)**

**February 8, 2022 Galentine’s Tea**

**March 7, 2022 Book talk -*The Guest Book* featuring author, Sarah Blake**

## April 26, 2022 Annual Meeting

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Lyrae Williams (Chair/Treasurer), *thru January 2022*

Assistant Treasurer: Catherine Tobin, *thru November 2021*

Members: Dottie Rue (CC Representative), Patsy Aronstein and Kelley Riggs

The Finance Committee evaluates the operating budget, monitors the endowment and determines funding available for scholarships. Since the 1990s, John W. Bristol and Company has managed the WES endowment. As of December 31, 2021, it was valued at $7,494,703, up over 15% from December 31, 2020.

The Board of Managers’ goal is to provide scholars no less than 10% of the total cost of attending Colorado College. For academic year 2022-23, the scholarship will be $9,900. This amount is 12.5% of Colorado College’s cost of attendance. The total annual scholarship commitment for 21 students will be $207,900.

In December 2021, WES received a $10,973.80 memorial gift to honor the life Sarah Healy who was a longtime supporter of WES and past Board of Manager. The Board is currently considering how best to use the gift and honor the legacy of Sarah Healy.

The pandemic continues to create uncertainty in the world and has impacted WES’s ability to hold fundraising and other in-person events.

WES’s members and friends continue to make the work of WES and our impact on the scholars possible through their continued support and generous gifts. All contributions make a difference…Thank you! *\*\*In light of the Covid-19 ongoing crisis, the Finance Committee along with its liaison to Colorado College continue to monitor the impact the crisis is having on the financial market, the WES Endowment and overall giving to WES.*

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

CHAIR PERSON: Karen Rubin

MEMBERS: Patsy Aronstein, President, Kelley Riggs, Vice President, Judy Casey (Member-at- Large)

In the past year we have added 4 new members to our Board of Managers. We are so thrilled to have them join us! They are:

Tomi -Ann Roberts

Kendra Wolfe

Barbara Keener

Connie Rickard

We are always seeking to welcome new committee and board members. Please contact us if you are interested in participation on a committee or the Board of Managers at :

WES@coloradocollege.edu

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair: Kelley Riggs

Members: Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Kendra Wolfe

Database Manager: Lisa Bonwell

Membership statistics as of December 31, 2021:

PaidMembers………………………… 85

Lifetime and Silver Members …….. 79

ExOficio and Honorary Members… 3

Additional Database Contacts…… 206

**Total**……………………………… 373

Note: As Covid-19 continued through 2021, WES, like many non-profit organizations, experienced a higher number of non-renewals than in years past. However, as opportunities for more in-person events increase, we will work to grow our membership in the coming year.

* In June 2021, letters were drafted and sent to all members for renewal of their membership dues. This was the first year in which renewal occurred in July, following the change of the membership year to July – June from the previous calendar of Jan – Dec. Renewal reminders for 2022-23 will

go out in June of this year.

* A letter offering the opportunity for an end-of-year donation to WES was sent to all our membership in December, using the services of TMR Direct for printing and mailing.
* Tax letters were mailed in January, to thank our members and supporters, and to acknowledge their contributions for tax purposes, and this mailing was organized by our treasurer.
* In order to conserve and make the best use of operating funds, Membership will now send responses to donations and membership renewals by email, and these emails will also serve as the tax receipt for the giver. This will allow us to save the cost of the January tax receipt mailing.
* Membership continues to use our monthly email newsletter to connect with members, and to keep them up to date with news about CC and our current scholars, including interviews with former scholars and board members. The newsletter is also a way to give advance notice of any programs or events for WES members.
* Membership continues to make use of Eventbrite as a way to reach non-members in our target populations, and to make ticketing and payment convenient for attendees.

**Work in Progress:**

* To increase our outreach to the public, Membership will place a membership station at each program open to the public, staffed by board member volunteers and stocked with membership brochures and applications. As Covid-19 protocols relax, the coming year should provide many more opportunities.
* The Membership brochure is being updated with current photos of WES scholars and events, as well as messages and quotes from current and former scholars.
* Membership is currently contacting the full list of former scholars to connect with them and encourage all to give back through membership. In addition, we are encouraging them to share their stories so that we may update our membership on their journeys and the impact of WES in their lives.
* With the advent and new familiarity of Zoom during Covid-19, Membership is working to engage with members, including board members, who may live outside of Colorado, and to offer the opportunity to bring their experience to WES and its committees.

## Program Committee

Co-Chairs: Patsy Aronstein, Cindy Zenkert-Strange

Members: Debra Wynn, Judy Sondermann

The role of Programming is to find interesting ways to engage our membership with one another, with our scholars and with the Colorado College campus. We had hoped that 2021-2022 would see us back on campus and in full in-person mode again. But with Covid still on the rise and protocols changing daily, we continued to confront challenges in planning events. This year, some of our events were virtual and gratefully towards the spring, while still unable to be on campus, we were able to meet in person. WES continues to strive for greater connections with various departments on campus, to build our membership by providing compelling programming and to engage with our scholars in meaningful and fun ways.

WES is grateful for the positive partnership we maintain with Colorado College, both for the needed technical support and the deep well of expertise that professors and administrators alike provide us. Here is a description of the events that were planned for this year:

### Meet and Greet

WES Board members and 1st Year scholars and their families met via zoom for a first meeting prior to coming to campus. During the 45-minute zoom, scholars and board members had an opportunity to introduce themselves and share a bit about the history of WES and the relationship board members have with their mentee/scholars.

### Scholar/Board Welcome Picnic

Scholars and Board members met on a sunny September afternoon at the home of Board member, Judy Sondermann. Attendees enjoyed a Caribbean-themed buffet while chatting with fellow students and board members in Judy’s beautiful back yard. It was a terrific way to start out the year!

### Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Tour

Our first community-wide event of the year, WES invited scholars, WES members and their families to attend an evening tour of the Zoo. The evening opened under a chilly October sky with S’mores around the fire and followed with a wonderful and personal evening tour of the zoo. Zoo animals put on a good show for us and the full harvest moon that concluded our evening viewing was an additional treat.

### A Conversation with Joe Neguse

This event was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to an important vote in Washington D.C. for which Congressman Neguse needed to be present. WES partnered with the Political Science Department for this event intended as a campus-wide conversation about racial equity and environmental justice. Professor Doug Edlin formed a panel of CC professors to moderate a Q and A. Lunch was to be served. We hope to be able to host a similar event with Congressman Neguse in the future.

### Cookie Exchange

We were happy to host this favorite event in Cossitt Hall on campus again this year. Scholars and Board members met to enjoy lunch. Scholars filled tins with home-baked holiday cookies and enjoyed decorating sugar cookies. This was a fun and appreciated break for students at a very busy time of year.

### Tour of the Universe (virtual)

WES attendees of this virtual event were treated to a tour of the Universe with KaChun Yu, Curator of Space Science with Denver’s Museum of Nature and Science. Dr. Shane Burns in Colorado College’s Physics department moderated the Q and A. It was an out of this world tour for certain!

### Galentine’s Tea

In place of our traditional Fall Tea which we were unable to host on campus, we had a festive Galentine’s Tea. Scholars and WES members met at the beautifully restored Peel House on Cascade Avenue for a festive and delicious celebration of WES gals! The lovely afternoon featured tea sandwiches, scones, delectable sweets and hot tea. It was wonderful to be together in person again!

### Book talk

WES members and a good group from the broader community met at the home of WES Board of Managers,

President, Patsy Aronstein for an engaging book talk with Sarah Blake. Sarah is the author of several New York Times bestsellers, including *The Guest Book*, which was the focus of this talk. Attendees enjoyed cheese and wine before the talk. Sarah shared perspective on her novel, read a beautiful passage from the book and answered questions from the engaged readers.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair: Judy De Groot

Members: Tess Powers, Debbie Wynn, Lisa Bonwell, Tomi-Ann Roberts

Following are some details of a productive year for the committee. Due to continued COVID restrictions the Scholarship Committee conducted the majority of its work via email and ZOOM interactions:

* Selection of and notification to five (5) new WES Scholars, as well as the recruitment and assignment of mentors, was the initial focus of committee efforts.
* Provided photos and biographical info for each scholar for the *WES monthly newsletter*. Additional photos were provided to the *WES monthly newsletter* following other activities involving the scholars.• WES Scholars’ Tea was replaced with a “Galentine” event held in February at the Peel House
* Goodie bags were prepared and distributed to the scholars during each semester.
* The December holiday Cookie Exchange was planned and well-attended by scholars and mentors.
* Disseminated WES Special Grant Application and the Rising Star Award application information to the scholars in the fall of 2021 and again in February 2022. Accepted applications, reviewed and selected grant recipients:
* Annabelle Sparks – Special Purpose Grant to help fund purchase of a new computer
* Tamar Crump – Special Purpose Grant to cover cost of flight to Thailand for a course in spring of 2022
* Sakina Bhatti – Special Purpose Grant to cover flight cost to attend the course “White Masculinity, Social Problems and the Urban Imaginary in American Cinema” in NYC.
* Sarah Higgins – Special Purpose Grant to cover flight cost to attend a course in Italy called “Cinecitta: Italian Hollywood” with Carla Cornette.
* Emmie Weprin – Rising Scholar Award to cover costs associated with travel for a research project “Food as Cultural Expression for Jewish People in Vienna from 1938 – 1945”
* Advised WES Scholars of the April 26th WES Annual Meeting and Luncheon and encouraged their attendance. Notified graduating seniors of the luncheon presentation requirement and assisted them with preparation for this activity.
* WES will welcome 5 new Scholars for the class of 2026. Working with the CC Financial Aid Department to identity qualifying female students.

**SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE APPROVED AT THE WES BOARD OF MANAGERS**

**MEETING IN MAY**

**PRESIDENT: KELLEY RIGGS**

**VICE PRESIDENT: LISA BONWELL**

**RECORDING SECRETARY: SHARED BOARD DUTY**

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: KAREN RUBIN

**TREASURER: CONNIE RICKARD**