



## Connecticut

### Overview: Dr. Carol R. Virostek NCCWSL Scholarship

At its State Convention in April 2012, AAUW Connecticut established an annual scholarship to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in honor of Dr. Carol R. Virostek. The conference is co-sponsored by AAUW and NASPA and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills; to be inspired by the Women of Distinction, who are recognized at the conference; and ultimately to return to their campuses to make a positive impact in critical areas affecting women and girls. The scholarship provides a \$500 stipend to cover the recipient's NCCWSL registration fee and partially defray transportation costs or incidentals.

A longtime AAUW leader at the branch, state, and national levels, Dr. Virostek is the College/University Relations Chair for the New Britain branch. As AAUW CT President and National Liaison, she helped establish a matching grant program so that the state, its branches, and its college/university partners could collaborate in providing funding for students in Connecticut to attend the conference. A retired English teacher and teacher educator, Dr. Virostek is now serving in her sixth year as chair of the national AAUW College/University Relations Committee. In that capacity, among other C/U Partner Membership Program projects, she leads efforts to promote interest in and funding for NCCWSL, which attendees have called "a life-changing experience." Her goal is to have as many students as possible, from all over the country, attend this conference.

After receiving her B.A. in English at the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Virostek moved to Connecticut, where she completed her graduate studies. She received her master's degree in English Education at Central Connecticut State University and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Connecticut, where she was adjunct professor/supervisor in the Neag School of Education as well as a consultant for the English Department's Connecticut Writing Project. At both these institutions she has been a strong supporter of the women's centers and their programs. For that reason, she has decided that the scholarship in her honor will be given in alternate years to an undergraduate woman from one of these two schools, starting with the University of Connecticut in 2013.

### Criteria and Selection

**Criteria:** The Dr. Carol R. Virostek NCCWSL Scholarship will be presented to a student leader at UConn or CCSU who works, interns, or volunteers at the University of Connecticut Women's Center or the Ruthe Boyea Women's Center. The recipient must be a freshman, sophomore, or junior.

**Selection Process:** The director of the women's center, often an AAUW campus representative, along with her assistant, associate, or designated colleague, will create a selection committee. The committee may include other faculty or staff members who are supportive of the women's center.

- They will develop their own nomination/selection process as best suits their needs, but the recipient should be an undergraduate who has made significant contributions to the women's center and who will be able to do so for at least one more year following the conference.