



On May 14, 2009 the San Antonio College Programs and Services for Women & Non-Traditional Students Department will sponsor the 8th Annual WE: Women Empowered Conference at the McAllister Auditorium on the San Antonio College campus.

History:

On May 21, 2002, the *San Antonio College Women's Center* sponsored the first **WE: Women Empowered Conference**. Held at San Antonio College, approximately 100 women attended the first event. Annual conferences have been held every year since due to the success of the first event. **In 2008, over 300 women attended.**

Purpose:

This free, one-day outreach/recruitment Conference was developed to provide outreach into our community to a much underserved population: women who are considering a return to school who are often overlooked in traditional outreach efforts. Conference workshops provide information on topics such as overcoming fears and gaining confidence in order to reach personal and educational goals. Information on GED preparation and testing, college enrollment, financial aid, and short-term technical certificate programs as well as personal and professional development is provided.

Conference Sponsors:

2009 WE Conference sponsors include Network Power/Texas and the Center for Health Training in Austin, Texas.

Impact:

An overwhelming majority of participants indicate that the conference provided them with information to help them in their decision to come to college. Follow-up statistics on participants attending the 2008 WE Conference indicate that of those women that provided follow-up information, 34% had enrolled at San Antonio College by the subsequent fall semester (Fall, 2008).

Focus:

A special focus is placed on targeting, adult "re-entry" women who have experienced a disruption in their education and need encouragement to continue their education. This target group includes displaced homemakers, single parents, and dislocated workers. A special workshop track has been developed especially for working women who desire assistance with professional development. A workshop track is offered in Spanish for non-English speakers. In partnership with the Center for Health Training in Austin, Texas, a special workshop will be offered on women's health issues at this year's conference.

Scholarships:

Scholarship assistance is central to providing access to higher education to women. Accordingly, a highlight of the WE Conference is the presentation of scholarships to attend San Antonio College. At the 2008 Conference, over \$22,000 in scholarship monies was awarded. Every year our goal is to encourage more sponsors to provide scholarships. With each scholarship we hope to change the life of a woman and her family through education. The more lives we touch the better our community will become.