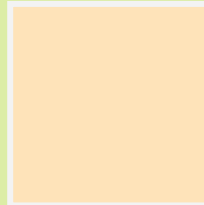


# PLEN

The Public Leadership Education Network | Preparing Women to Lead



## Connecting Women Leaders Annual Report 2013

## Our Mission

The Public Leadership Education Network is the only national organization with the sole focus of preparing college women for leadership in the public policy arena.

## Our Vision

Each year, we bring hundreds of women from across the country to Washington, D.C. to experience the policy process firsthand. Through introducing college women to role models and skill trainings before they enter the workforce, we seek to increase the number of women in leadership positions who influence all aspects of the decision-making process.

## PLEN Member Schools

Barnard College, New York, NY  
Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA  
Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA  
Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA  
Douglass Residential College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Hood College, Frederick, MD  
Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA  
Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, CA  
Newcomb College Institute, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA  
Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, MD  
Smith College, Northampton, MA  
St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN  
St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY  
Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX  
Wells College, Aurora, NY  
Wesleyan College, Macon, GA  
William Smith College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY  
Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA

## Alumna Profile: Maryam Laly



*"It is very rare to have the opportunity to be able to sit down and have a discussion with a woman whom you admire and learn about her own path."*

Maryam Laly, now a senior at PLEN Member School St. Lawrence University, received a scholarship to attend the Women & International Policy Seminar in May 2013 and the PLEN360° Summit in July 2013.

As a college junior, Maryam was seeking opportunities in Washington, D.C. that would let her explore her passion for working with women and children in her home country of Afghanistan. Maryam received a scholarship to attend a PLEN seminar from a private donor. "The PLEN seminar on **Women and International Policy** enabled me to become more aware of the role that women play in international, national, and government affairs," Maryam explained.

PLEN offers scholarships so that outstanding women can attend all of our seminars. Last year, private donations enabled 18 college women to gain the knowledge, skills, and connections that they need to start their policy careers through PLEN.

## PLEN Students



Yolanda Cabrera and Carol Zehosky (pictured above) attended the 2013 Women & Public Policy Seminar, sponsored by CSX Corporation. **Thirteen percent** of women who attend our D.C. seminars are from non-traditional backgrounds, including students who are returning veterans, making a significant career change, or working full-time. **"As a nontraditional student, I do not believe that the ability to learn and grow comes with an expiration date and neither does PLEN,"** said Carol after her week in Washington. Scholarships for Wilson College women were made possible in part by Dr. Barbara A. Shailor and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

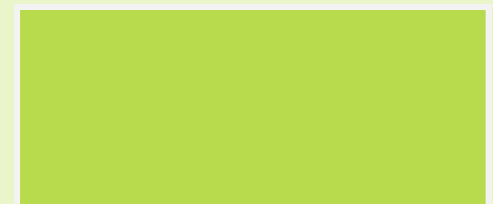
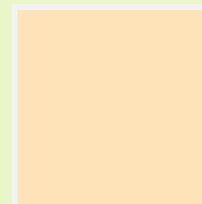
Each year, PLEN serves diverse women from across the country, bringing nearly **300 women** to Washington, D.C. for leadership in public policy seminars. Students are briefed on policy issues such as immigration and education, network with women leaders who work in fields related to their interest, and participate in skill-building professional development workshops such as salary negotiation and resume-writing.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and are pursuing variety of majors. Almost **45 percent** of our students this year were women of color. Women who attend our seminars report an increased knowledge of the way that policy is made and **increased confidence in their ability to start careers in public policy.**



*"Being surrounded by young ladies passionate about making their dreams come true, and meeting women who have already walked that path to success, is a priceless experience."*

Zaira Garcia  
Junior, University of Texas—Austin  
Attended Women & Congress  
Seminar, March 2013





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