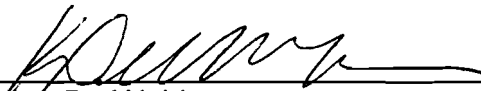


Florida State University

has earned the Seal of Excellence in

Faculty Gender Equity and Gender Scholarship

2009



Kristine De Welde
Co-Chair, Committee on Academic Justice



Gail Murphy-Geiss
Co-Chair, Committee on Academic Justice



Sociologists for Women in Society



*Sociologists for
Women in Society*

Dear Sociology Department Chair -

Sociologists for Women in Society has issued a *Report Card on Gender Scholarship and Equity in Sociology Departments (2008)*.¹ **We are happy to report that your department has met our highest standards and been awarded "The SWS Seal of Excellence!"** The goal of this report is to recognize departments that excel in creating a climate that is welcoming to women and gender scholars. As part of this process we are awarding *The SWS Seal of Approval* to departments that either demonstrate a commitment to gender equity among their faculty or support scholarship on gender or intersectional inequality. The *SWS Seal of Excellence* recognizes departments that achieve both of these goals.

Women are becoming the majority of sociologists; they now earn 64% of the doctorates in our discipline. Yet, women are still underrepresented among full faculty members, particularly in top-ranked institutions. Nonetheless, we at SWS have reason to be optimistic. In 2004, when we first reported on the state of women sociologists and gender scholarship only 33% of graduate departments had 40% or more women faculty. Just four years later 63% of departments meet this standard. These departments have earned SWS's **Seal of Approval for gender equity**. We congratulate you on earning this seal!

The increase in women scholars has also been accompanied by an increased prominence of scholarship on gender, race, class, and their intersections. This scholarship is not simply about women, but rather about the ways in which social relations intersect and are embedded within one another. By this standard, departments have done less well. In 2008 26% of departments have more than a quarter of their faculty working on gender or intersectional inequality. These departments have earned SWS's **Seal of Approval for gender scholarship**. Again, we wish to congratulate you on earning this seal!

Finally, the **SWS Seal of Excellence** is awarded those departments that have shown a commitment to both the presence of women faculty and importance of gender/inequality scholarship. These departments are likely to be the most gender-and women-friendly in our discipline. You are one of these model departments. We congratulate you for your hard work in generating an inclusive scholarly community!

Because of the transformations in such a short time, SWS is hopeful that our discipline is on a path to realizing the promise of gender equity and recognizing the importance of intersectional scholarship. We hope that the report, which will be updated regularly, will serve as a guide for prospective students as they consider graduate programs and for scholars as they think about the academic environments of potential employers. For departments, we hope this reports inspires discussions of equity and intellectual representativeness. The SWS Committee on Academic Justice is happy to work with departments to think through ways of becoming more equitable and inclusive.

SWS is committed to continuing its work on behalf of women sociologists and the feminist tradition. We know that equity and inclusion don't just happen. We are thrilled to acknowledge your hard work on behalf of women and gender scholarship and hope to do so again when we issue our report in four years!

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Hill

2009 President of Sociologists for Women in Society

¹ *Report Card on Gender Scholarship and Equity in Sociology Departments (2008)* can be found on the Committee for Academic Justice website: <http://www.socwomen.org/page.php?sss=44>.