

## **Michigan Women Speak on Affirmative Action**

*"I think people want to see us as a state that embraces possibility and hope for everyone and to enshrine something that would end up being viewed as discriminatory and negative and exclusive rather than inclusive would be a terrible statement about Michigan."*

- Jennifer Granholm, Governor of Michigan

*"There is a strong and compelling business case for diversity and [Ward Connerly's] proposal will have a detrimental impact on Michigan's ability to compete in a global marketplace."*

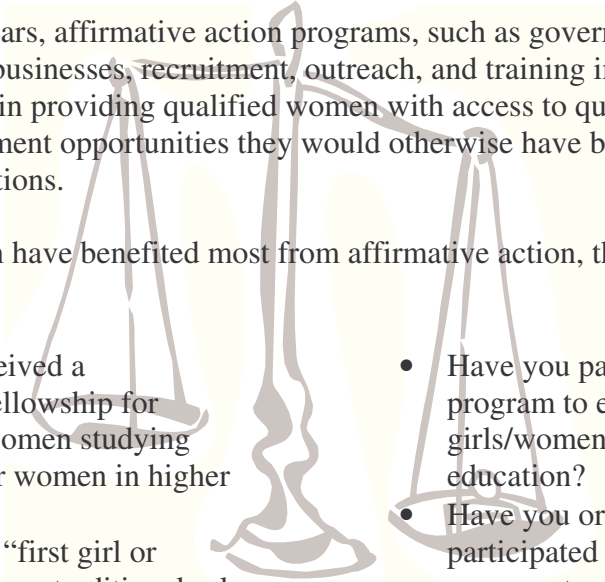
- Jeanne Englehart, President, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

**Michigan Women Speak on Affirmative Action** is a project seeking to bring women's stories to the forefront. This project will showcase real stories from women who speak on how they have benefited from affirmative action and why it is still needed.

### ***Speak Now! Raise Your Voice!***

**F**or more than 30 years, affirmative action programs, such as government contracting with women-owned businesses, recruitment, outreach, and training initiatives, have played a critical role in providing qualified women with access to quality educational and professional/employment opportunities they would otherwise have been denied despite their strong qualifications.

**E**ven though women have benefited most from affirmative action, their stories are often untold. For example:

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- Have you received a scholarship/fellowship for women, for women studying science, or for women in higher education?
  - Were you the "first girl or woman" in a non-traditional role in your school or workplace?
  - Have you participated in an outreach program to encourage women to do something non-traditional such as becoming a writer, or running for public office?
  - Have you participated in a program to encourage young girls/women to pursue higher education?
  - Have you or your daughter ever participated in a middle school program to encourage young girls to advance in science?
  - Have you ever participated in a program or fair that reaches out to women-owned businesses?

**Y**our story is an example of why affirmative action is a successful tool to achieve equal opportunity and needs to be preserved.

Join the story bank of personal experiences of women who are proud beneficiaries of affirmative action. Please share your story with us by filling out the attached form and sending it to: **Michigan Women Speak!** c/o Mary Pollock, 1200 Prescott Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823. Questions? E-mail or call Mary Pollock ([womenspeak@oneunitedmichigan.org](mailto:womenspeak@oneunitedmichigan.org); 517/351-7292).

## Michigan Women Speak on Affirmative Action

"Affirmative action is clearly the best way at this time to right the wrongs that have been perpetrated through discrimination in our society."

- Sr. Monica Kostielney, President and CEO, Michigan Catholic Conference

"Our ability to communicate, our ability to build coalitions and collaborations is really dependent now on our ability to interact with people who are not like ourselves. And the diversity in the classroom is so important because that's where it begins."

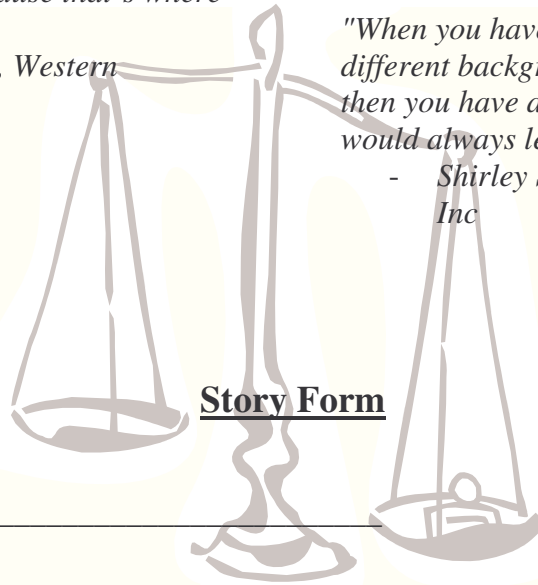
- Judy Bailey, President, Western Michigan University

"Times have changed for the better thanks in part to affirmative action, but we haven't attained a society of equal opportunity in which people are valued not for the color of their skin or their gender, but for the content of their character and their contributions to society. Ward Connerly's plan is one that would revert to a society that accepts discrimination against women and people of color."

- Anne Magoun, President, Michigan League of Women Voters

"When you have all those different experiences, different backgrounds represented at the table, then you have a diversity of ideas and I think that would always lead an organization up."

- Shirley Stancato, President, New Detroit Inc



**Story Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_\_

**Tell us Your Story:**

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Send to **Michigan Women Speak!** c/o Mary Pollock, 1200 Prescott Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823.

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**Michigan Women Speak!** is a project sponsored by Michigan United ([www.oneunitedmichigan.org](http://www.oneunitedmichigan.org)) in partnership with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund/Americans for a Fair Chance.