

**THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
OF COLORADO COLLEGE**

Annual Report 2023-2024



**THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (WES)
Of Colorado College
2023-2024**

**Annual Report of the President
135th Annual Meeting
April 10, 2024**

To all members and friends:

This report summarizes the activities of the committees and officers of the WES Board of Managers. The State of the Organization reveals that WES continues to grow its endowment to support more scholars each year. Our goal is to increase the size of each scholar class to 6 per year or a total of 24 students annually. It is an amazing feat that WES, in its 135th year is still supporting students at the Colorado College as our founder, Mary Goodale Slocum envisioned in 1889.

You will note that our membership numbers have decreased the past few years. This is an issue many nonprofit organizations are facing. In the context of this national trend, we plan to explore possible pathways for WES in order to best preserve the legacy of support for students at Colorado College. Our Board has taken steps to work with a strategic planning firm in the next months to identify a sustainable path forward. We intend to preserve the historic legacy of our organization well into the future.

Thank you for attending the 135th Annual Meeting of the Woman's Educational Society of Colorado College. WES is grateful for your continued support!

Lisa Bonwell, President, WES Board of Managers

WES BOARD OF MANAGERS

OFFICERS:

President:	Lisa Bonwell
Vice President:	Tess Powers
Recording Secretary:	Kendra Wolfe
Treasurer:	Connie Rickard
Corresponding Secretary:	Karen Rubin

BOARD MEMBERS:

Patsy Aronstein	Tomi-Ann Roberts
Judy De Groot	Lisa Schwartz
Lindsay Jimenez	Judy Sondermann
Stacy Pons	Victoria Webb
Kelley Riggs	

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

September 14, 2023 – Scholar Picnic at the home of Board Member

November 6, 2023 – Member Tea at Stewart House

December 5, 2023 – Scholar Lunch//cookie Exchange at Cossitt Hall

January 27, 2024 – Board of Managers Retreat

February 9, 2024 – Scholars Only Party (food provided by WES)

April 10, 2024 – Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Fine Arts Center

WES SCHOLARS 2023-2024

Senior Class of 2024

Julia Nichols	St Paul, Minnesota
Olivia Xerras	Charlotte, North Carolina
Emmie Weprin	Denver, Colorado
Roxana Reisch	Rochester, New York

Junior Class of 2025

Alana Ermeus	Jackson, New Jersey
Camila Espinosa-Short	Denver, Colorado
Meena Kim	Centennial, Colorado
Aidan Reidy	Denver, Colorado

Second Year Class of 2026

Francis Curtis	Louisville, Kentucky
Elise Evans	Woodinville, Washington
Jack Hills	Seattle, Washington
Taylor Jenkins	Honolulu, Hawaii
Rebecca Walters	Commerce City, Colorado

First Year Class of 2027

Alina Miranda	Lafayette, Colorado
Quintin Falk	Lees Summit, Missouri
Alec Smail	Woodstock, Vermont
Ethan Kirschner	Lakewood, Colorado
Emily Haws	Davis, California

STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Membership Statistics as of December 31, 2023

Dues-Paying Members	45
Lifetime and Silver Special Members	52
Honorary and ex-Officio member	2
Additional database Contacts	322
TOTAL	421

Note: Due to COVID 19, as with many organizations, WES experience a higher number of non-renews in 2022 and 2023 than in years past.

Board of Managers Accounts as of December 31, 2023

Operating Fund	\$29,040.68
Sarah Healy Initiative	\$11,836.39
Scholarships – Fundraising	\$10,397.23

Market Value of the Endowment as of December 31, 2023

Composed of the WES Irrevocable Trust and the WES
Revocable Trust, the Cook, Hinch, Campbell, Stone,
General Scholarship, Rising Scholar, and Operating Funds
\$7,384,494.00

2023-2024 Scholarship Funds Allocated to 19 Scholars \$302,000.00

Finance Committee

Chair: Connie Richard (Chair/Treasurer)

Members: Jessica Grzywa (CC Representative), Lisa Bonwell, Tess Powers

The Finance Committee evaluates the operating budget, monitors the endowment, and determines funding available for scholarships. Since the 1990s, John W. Bristol and Company has managed the WES endowment. As of December 31, 2023, it was valued at \$7,384,494, up 25.5% from December 31, 2022. 2023 was a good year for the endowment. Economic statistics and wage growth remain strong. The risk to markets is how well the Fed achieves its two mandates: full employment and 2% inflation target. The Finance Committee along with its liaison to Colorado College continue to monitor the financial impact on the market, the endowment and overall giving to WES.

The Board of Manager's goal is to provide to scholars no less than 10% (in 2023-2024 the Board awarded scholarships at 12.5%) of the total cost of attending Colorado College. For academic year 2024-2025, the scholarship will be \$11,061. This amount increased by 0.25% to 12.75% of Colorado Colleges' cost of attendance. The total annual scholarship commitment for the coming year is for 21 students or \$232,281. The Board is awarding 6 new scholarships for 2024-2025 as we move toward reaching a goal of 24 scholars or 6 per class.

In addition to annual memberships, we received over \$2,000 in donations, including \$875 in memory of George Eckhardt who passed in November 2023. We are honored as George played a key role in the Van Briggie Tours hosted by WES. The Board also added \$5000 from general operations into the Endowment to increase the annual payout to help cover general operating costs in years to come.

WES's members and friends continue to make the work of WES and our impact on the scholars possible through their continued support and generous gifts. All contributions make a difference.... Thank you!

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Judy DeGroot

Members: Tess Powers, Tomi-Ann Roberts, Lindsay Jimenez

Highlights of the Year:

- Selection of and notification to five new WES scholars and assignment of board mentors.
- Provided photos and biographies for the *WES Inside Look* newsletter and the WES website.
- Goodie bags were prepared and distributed to the scholars each semester.
- The December Holiday Cookie Exchange was well attended by scholars and mentors.
- Invited scholars to the Annual Meeting and Luncheon and encouraged their attendance. Advised graduating scholars in their preparation of the presentations at the event.
- Working with the financial aid department, WES will welcome 6 new scholars to the class of 2028.

Disseminated WES Special Grant and Rising Scholar Award applications and information, reviewed and selected recipients:

Meena Kim --Special Purpose Grant for a CC Research Assistant summer of 2023.

Emmie Weprin --Special Purpose Grant for a CC thesis block in Chicago.

Julia Nichols-- Special Purpose Grant for the purchase of a new laptop.

Olivia Xerras-- Special Purpose Grant for a CC class entitled "When the Work is Fun-Creativity and Innovation at Mattel".

Jack Hills--Special Purpose Grant for summer of 2024 course Greek and Roman Art.

Camila Espinosa-Short--Rising Scholar Award for an internship with CC Mobil Arts.

Membership Committee

Chair: Kelley Riggs

Members: Kendra Wolfe

Membership Statistics as of December 31, 2023

Paid Members	45
Lifetime/Silver Special Members	52
Honorary and ex-Officio Members	2
Additional Database Contacts	322
Total	421

This year, the Membership Committee achieved the long-held goal of making credit card payments available for membership renewals and donations. Working closely with the Finance Committee, a platform called Zeffy was identified, which works exclusively with non-profits, and does not charge fees for its services. We have been extremely pleased with the results and response to this service and are now able to use Zeffy for membership renewal letters each spring. In addition, a link to Zeffy is now on the WES website, so that members or visitors can join, renew, or donate quickly and easily. Also, with each renewal or donation, Zeffy sends an email tax receipt to the member or donor, which is a helpful service for all parties.

Membership has also worked this year to update the WES website. Board member photos and biographies can be found there, as well as photos and biographies of all our current scholars. In the Events section, there are photos of past events, as well as a notice of the next upcoming event. We hope that members will visit the website throughout the year to keep up with the scholars, events, and news about WES.

Program Committee

Chair: Karen Rubin

Members: Victoria Webb

Scholar/Board Welcome Picnic

In September, the Board hosted a scholar picnic at the beautiful home of board member Judy Sondermann. We had delicious Mexican food from La Casita. It was an opportunity for the Board and the entire scholar group to relax and get acquainted.

Annual Fall Member Tea at the Stewart House

We hosted our traditional, elegant tea for the Board as well as scholars and members at the gorgeous Stewart House. First year scholars were introduced and several administrators from the college attended also to welcome the group.

December Holiday Scholar Lunch/Cookie Exchange at Cossitt Hall

The board hosted the annual scholar lunch and cookie exchange at Cossitt Hall on campus. Decorating cookies with piped icing has become a tradition at this event and everyone shared their own artistic creation.

Board of Managers Retreat

In January the Board of Managers members met on campus at the Women's Club for a morning of connection and sharing of ideas.

February Scholar Only Party

The WES Board provided an El Salvadoran dinner for 10 scholars who met at the home of one of the senior scholars. We heard that they had a good time, and really enjoyed the food and each other!

April Annual Meeting and Luncheon

We meet again at Taste Restaurant at the Fine Arts Center for the WES Annual Meeting. Graduating scholars will present the highlights of their time at CC, and we will congratulate them as they journey onward to the next adventure. So exciting!

**WES BOARD of MANAGERS
OFFICER SLATE 2024-2025**

PRESIDENT: TESS POWERS

VICE PRESIDENT: VICTORIA WEBB

TREASURER: CONNIE RICKARD

RECORDING SECRETARY: JUDY DE GROOT

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: KAREN RUBIN

