

# IPAC Activity Description

## Name of Activity

Ernst & Young Lecture Series  
-- A program of Women's Studies

## Contributor

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## Brief Description of the Activity

The topic of the lecture series is "Gender Equity in the Workplace." Speakers come from a variety of disciplines and from outside the college to speak on various aspects of this topic. Women's Studies students in WST 396 regularly attend the lectures that are also open to all campus members and to the public. The lecture series is funded through the generosity of Robert Feinberg and Ernst & Young.

## Interdisciplinary Nature of the Activity

Faculty members from departments across campus are involved in Women's Studies, which is an interdisciplinary discipline. Speakers in the series come from an array of academic disciplines and professional positions. But interdisciplinarity arises not solely from the fact that a variety of disciplines and careers are represented. Rather, interdisciplinarity is achieved by the way in which students, and other audience members, are drawn into thinking about the complex and multifaceted ways that gender inequity, as well as other systems of oppression, appear in the workplace as well as the myriad forces that perpetuate these systems. Speakers themselves draw on interdisciplinary methods to discuss the role played by education, politics, history, law, psychology and much more in creating and sustaining inequality in the workplace. These same interdisciplinary methods are also used to advance means of resistance to oppression and to effect change.

## Relationship to Interdisciplinarity at Oswego

The Ernst & Young Lecture Series speaks directly to one of the most significant women's issues in the world today, and consequently informs conversation and invigorates research and teaching within the Women's Studies program. The Ernst & Young Lecture Series also enriches a number of other interdisciplinary programs by focussing on issues that are relevant to those programs. For example, some lectures address a general issue (e.g., discrimination and sexual harassment) from an

international perspective. Others focus on issues of work pertaining to women within a particular culture. These sorts of lectures are of interest to students in the Global and International Studies program and to everyone associated with the Institute for Global Engagement. Some lectures focus on STEM fields from the perspective of women, and consequently find interested ears among students majoring in Cognitive Science, Information Science, Human Computer Interaction, and other technologically driven interdisciplinary fields.

## **IPAC Support**

Secretarial support is needed to help arrange aspects of the lecture series including paperwork for speakers' travel and honoraria, helping to arrange related receptions, managing budgets, and reserving rooms.

Secretarial support has also included helping with publicity, such as making posters, digital signage, and announcements on email lists.

## **Relevant Dates**

Foreseeable future.