

WOMEN WORK! AROUND THE COUNTRY

LILLY LEDBETTER HONORED AT HARD HATTED WOMEN EVENT

In late September, pay equity advocate Lilly Ledbetter was honored at *Women on the Rise*, the signature fundraiser for Hard Hatted Women (HHW), a Women Work! member in Ohio.

The annual event is an opportunity for HHW to thank supporters for their contributions and dedication to ensuring equity, access, and success for women in nontraditional fields. It is also an opportunity for HHW to recognize and celebrate the courageous women who seek to challenge stereotypes, break glass ceilings, and raise the bar for equity. As part of this event, HHW recognized Lilly Ledbetter, the namesake of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act.

Since the Supreme Court ruled against Ledbetter in a landmark fair pay case last year, she has traveled across the country to share her struggle for pay equity and has worked to ensure the Act's passage – not because it will reinstate her lost pay, but instead to fulfill a promise of equality to future generations.

To learn more about HHW, visit www.hardhattedwomen.org.



From left to right, Bridgett DeChagas, producer for *The Sound of Ideas*, an Ohio NPR program, Lilly Ledbetter, and Regina Brett, a columnist for *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

NEBRASKA WOMEN: HOW'S YOUR LIFE? SURVEY COMPLETED

On August 26th, Nebraska Women Work! released the results of their state-wide survey, "Nebraska Women: How's Your Work Life?" at an event in the state capital of Omaha.

The survey, which was begun in October 2006, was open to Nebraska women age 18 or over who were working or looking for work; over one thousand women across the state responded.

According to Catrice Jackson, President of Nebraska Women Work!, "The survey results give a clear picture of what Nebraska women think of employment opportunities and work life in their state." The survey found that the majority of women work more than forty hours a week and are dissatisfied with their current pay. Most of them also believe that they have experienced sexual discrimination in the workplace. Jackson said, "It is clear that there needs to be consistent advocacy on behalf of women to improve career opportunities, equal pay, and economic security."

Over forty people attended the release of the survey results, including representatives of Nebraska Women Work!, Business and Professional Women, The Nebraska Department of Education, Girls Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska Appleseed, and the American Association of University Women. A candidate for the Nebraska Legislature and several members of the press were also in attendance.

To learn more about the survey and its findings, visit www.nebraskawomenwork.org.

VERMONT WORKS FOR WOMEN HOSTS WOMEN CAN DO CONFERENCE

Vermont Works for Women (VWW), a Women Work! member organization based in Winooski, Vermont, recently hosted over 400 high school girls and their teachers at their 10th annual Women Can Do confer-



A participant at VWW's Women Can Do conference

ence. The event featured a full day of hands-on workshops for female high school students in a wide variety of nontraditional careers such as heavy equipment operation, environmental engineering, telecommunications, horticulture and law enforcement, to name a few. Students chose from over 30 workshops and spent the day getting out of their comfort zones and applying classroom lessons in science and math in real-world examples.

Through the event, girls receive exposure to a range of STEM-related fields and technical center offerings and to talented female professionals in STEM-related careers. Over two-thirds of conference participants have reported that they are more likely to explore STEM-related programs offered at technical high schools as a result of attending the event.

Women Can Do gives girls a chance to explore careers that tend to be dominated by men – careers that girls may not have considered for themselves but which provide a wealth of opportunities.

To learn more about VWW and the Women Can Do conference, visit www.vtworksforwomen.org.