

Advocacy Update

February 14 – February 18, 2011

Recent job gains exclude women (February 14) – The National Women's Law Center analyzed data collected from the January jobs report and found a disturbing trend: as the economy begins to recover and more Americans get back to work, women are not gaining jobs back at nearly the rate that men are. From January 2010 – January 2011, men have gained 937,000 jobs, whereas women have only gained 48,000 jobs. [Read more.](#)

Coaches bring suit against Diablo Valley College for wrongful termination (February 16) – Peter Benko and Daniel Cruz filed a Title IX complaint with the Office for Civil Rights on April 22nd, 2010 after the women's cross country & track and tennis programs were eliminated from Diablo Valley College. The College responded by reinstating the sports, but firing Benko and Cruz. In November, the coaches filed a lawsuit claiming that they were fired as retaliation for filing the Title IX complaint. Last week, both parties agreed to mediation that will take place within the next 120 days. [Read more.](#)

Interview with Bob Costas about women's sports (February 16) – This is an interesting interview with Bob Costas about the role that he feels that media plays in advancing (or not) women's athletics. He also talks a bit about the importance of Title IX. [Read more.](#)

Article attacking Title IX (February 16) – This article was posted on the U.S. News and World Report website by Allison Kasic who is a senior fellow at the Independent Women's Forum. Basically, the article claims that Title IX, specifically the portion regarding proportionality, has led to the cutting of men's sports and decreased participation opportunities for men. Kasic says that Title IX has been a major problem for colleges and universities and if enforced more strictly at the high school level would lead to major cuts to boys' participation opportunities. [Read more.](#)

High school wrestler defaults vs. girl (February 17) – At the Iowa high school wrestling championships Joel Northrup, the favorite for the state title, defaulted a match in which he was supposed to wrestle a girl. Northrup cited religious beliefs as the reason that he refused to wrestle Cassy Herkelman who was one of the first girls to qualify for the Iowa state wrestling tournament. Most states require girls to wrestle boys at the high school level. The states that offer girls only wrestling tournaments are: California, Hawaii, Texas, Washington and Tennessee. [Read more.](#)

Title IX Compliance: Know the Score (February 18) – The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has a great toolkit for people to help assist high schools reach Title IX compliance. The complete "Program in a Box" is featured on their website and can be accessed [HERE](#).

Equal Pay Day is April 12th (February 18) – April 12th is Equal Pay Day! According to the AAUW, “pay equity is the achievement of the appropriate recognition, status and value for the work performed by women and people of color.” Find ways to engage you're your community and encourage participation in Equal Pay Day [HERE](#).

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Supports Gender Discrimination Suit against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (February 18) – The AAUW has announced that it will provide monetary support to the *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* case through its Legal Advocacy Fund. The money will be used to support the plaintiffs in their gender discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart. [Read more](#).