



## LINCOLN MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON WOMEN

The Mayor's Commission on Women is a group of diverse, dynamic women of varying ages. The Commission's goal is to stay informed on issues that impact Lincoln women and their families and communicate those issues to the Mayor's Office.

# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MAYOR & COMMUNITY 2009-2010

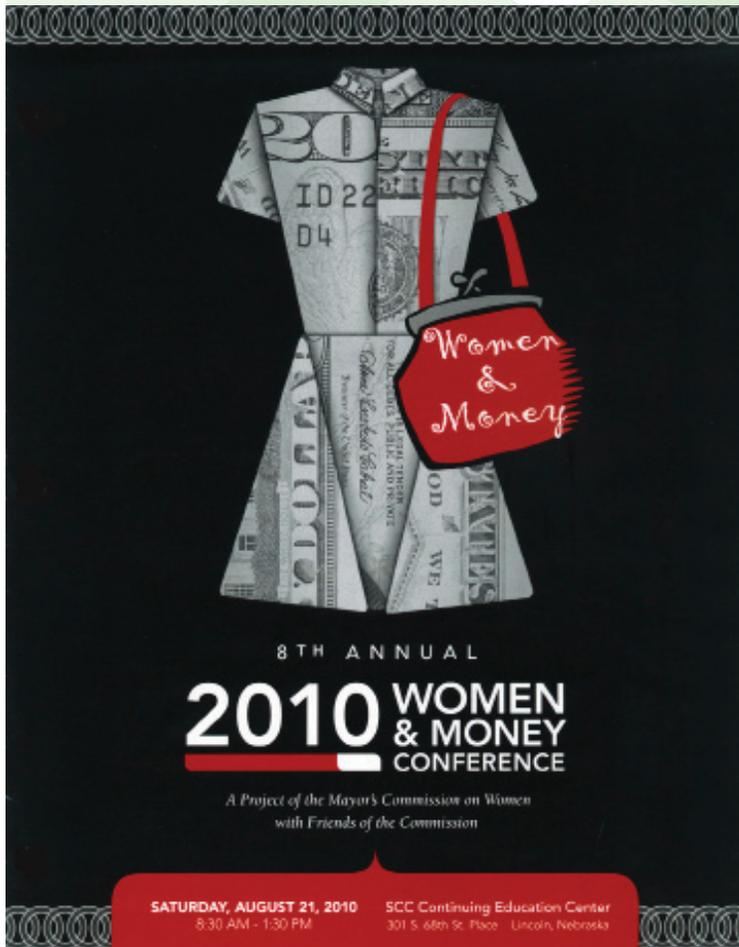
## Women & Money Conference

The Commission produced its 8th Annual Women and Money Conference, held this year on Saturday, August 21 at the SCC Continuing Education Center. Generous sponsorships from Lincoln Benefit Life, US Bank and the Department of Labor Women's Bureau helped us deliver important information to the 115 participants regarding personal finance, savings, investment, budgeting and debt management. The evaluations we received from those who attended were very positive, affirming the need for an event like this that helps women in our community gain financial literacy.

At the conference, we ask participants to complete a survey that provides us with demographic information. In addition to providing statistical data for the US Department of Labor Women's Bureau, this data guides the Commission's focus from year to year. One question this year asked the respondents to list the biggest challenges they currently face. We wanted to share the results with you and your office. They have been organized into the following chart.

Biggest Current Challenge	
Debt	27
Other*	18
Affordable health care	13
Under/unemployment	11
Lack of education	5
Retirement funding/planning	5
Domestic violence	2
Child care/dependent care	1

\*Responses in the "Other" category included: Saving and investing, taxes on retirement income, college loans, caring for elderly parents' funds, access to affordable housing, pay freezes at current jobs.



## Women's History Month

In March, the Commission partnered with the YWCA for two brown-bag lunch forums during Women's History Month. The first one dealt

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**  
ywca

with Women and Legislation. The second topic was "Healthy Pregnancies."

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mayor's Commission on Women

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Annual Report

## Ready to Run

Ready to Run is a non-partisan initiative to provide programming to encourage women to run for and/or become involved in the political process. Workshops and lunch sessions offer information on the "how-to" of running for office as well as provide access to current and former female elected officials. Although the Commission does not have a direct connection to this program, the Friends of the MCW organization supports it financially and encourages women to participate.

## Bidding Process

On May 5, the Mayor's Commission on Women sponsored a meeting between small, emerging businesses (with a focus on those owned by women and minorities) and the City-County Purchasing Department. This was an effort to help those businesses learn to navigate the bidding process.

## Legislation Monitoring

The Commission monitored legislation that had possible effects for women during the Nebraska Legislature session. We especially appreciated Judy Halstead's help in keeping us informed of current issues.

## Issue Statements

In addition to this annual report of activities, we will begin sending 'issue statements' on topics that we wish to bring to the Mayor's attention.

## Women Talk

One of the most important ways that we serve the community of Lincoln is through our Women Talk programs. These half-hour educational programs are shown on City TV and cover a wide variety of informative topics of interest to women. This year our focus is on women's health issues. Diabetes, mental health, important health tests and screenings and raising healthy children are among the topics that we are addressing this year. The Lindsay Burke/Dating Violence Act will be the subject in September. Our programs are shown on Channel 5 (City TV) several times during the week and each program runs for two months. Generous funding for this year's programs was provided in part by the Community Health Endowment and the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department.



## 2009 - 2010 Commissioners

*The Lincoln Mayor's Commission on Women consists of 15 women and men who advise the Mayor and his office on the issues that pertain to women and families in Lincoln.*



Gloria Aron

Su Eells

Snera Riley

Tami Robinson  
Soper

Morgan Beal

Bob FitzSimmons

Natalie Rodriguez

Kathie Uhrmacher

Bridget Christensen

Kara Gall

Connie Schmidt

Bonnie Coffey

Mahe Naseem

Sonja Smith