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June 2024

Bye Bye, Sandi.



Thank You.

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

"Hey, wait a minute. This issue looks different!"

You're right. We're using this year-end issue to honor departing AAUW California President Sandi Gabe. After several years in state leadership, including the last two as top dog, Sandi is exiting stage left to try her hand at new challenges.

Piggybacking on our fun *Back to School* theme at the April Annual Event, the state Leadership Team decided to grade Sandi's AAUW schoolwork in three areas:

- Homework (Major Accomplishments)
- Skills Development (Leadership and Use of Technology)
- Personal Development (Attitude and Effort)

The editorial team of the *California Connection* thought you'd like to see her final report card, including *Teachers' Comments* from various state leaders who were fortunate enough to work with her.

Spoiler: She passed.

REPORT CARD



STUDENT: Sandi Gabe
SCHOOL: AAUW California University
STUDENT#: 1
YEAR: FINAL



HOMework

GRADE: **A++**

ASSIGNMENTS COMPLETED	TEACHERS' COMMENTS
<p>Managed large leadership team for 2 yrs</p> <p>Championed new state project: Gov Trek</p> <p>Launched peer group concept</p> <p>Pulled off two Annual Events, two Directors' Retreats and an in-person Committee Day</p> <p>Was a key player in TT's transition to online</p> <p>Worked with consultants to execute new marketing strategies</p> <p>Revived & refreshed legacy programs</p> <p>Reimagined Fund for an online environment</p> <p>Wrote 24 clever, inspirational B2B articles</p> <p>Created written procedures for all who follow</p>	<p><i>Exceeds expectations in all categories!</i> - Cherie S.</p> <p><i>Loved learning new things and teaching fellow students. A true asset to the class.</i> - Linda S.</p> <p><i>A visionary student who uses her creativity for the group's betterment. Her energy and solution-oriented thinking are a sight to behold!</i> - Sigrid M.</p> <p><i>Sandi's commitment to AAUW, and to excellence in all that she does, is her greatest gift to us.</i> - Dianne O.</p> <p><i>A tireless worker with strong attention to detail</i> - Marsha S.</p> <p><i>Should get an honorary doctorate degree</i> - Lisa B.</p>



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

GRADE:

A++

LEADERSHIP	TEACHERS' COMMENTS
<p>Was visionary, creative, and forward-thinking</p> <p>Held herself and others to high standards</p> <p>Supported every committee and director's needs</p> <p>Kept people on their toes and accountable</p> <p>Ran energizing & productive meetings</p> <p>Supported innovative ideas</p> <p>Maintained constant communications</p> <p>Mentored & trained ("taught people to fish")</p> <p>Resolved sticky issues: TT camp closure, "yellow postcards," branch problems, people problems, etc.</p> <p>Advocated for CA with National</p> <p>Stuck to a formal strategic plan focused on goals and outcomes</p> <p>Was a big picture thinker who saw both the forest and the trees</p> <p>Inspired change by clearly communicating the vision & purpose</p>	<p><i>Through mentorship, she sparked numerous 'aha' moments and opportunities for success!</i> - Randa B.</p> <p><i>Resolved sticky issues - met challenges with well-thought-out solutions</i> - Kathy F.</p> <p><i>"Well done is better than well said" - Ben Franklin Thank you for your proactive leadership!</i> - Janice L.</p> <p><i>Leadership skills were highly developed with compassion for all our class!</i> - Karen V.</p> <p><i>Showed exceptional leadership qualities and a pleasure to work with.</i> - Roli W.</p> <p><i>Praising our mission champion, for her inspiration and leadership. A true leader!</i> - Shauna R.</p> <p><i>Not just a mentor, but a role model. Her belief in me has shaped my future. I'm forever grateful.</i> - Tomasa S.</p> <p><i>If you double dog dare Sandi to do something, she'll do it. No matter what it takes. And it will be great. She inspires us all to take on our own dares.</i> - Dawn J.</p>



USE OF TECHNOLOGY	TEACHERS' COMMENTS
Brought us into modern Google world	<i>Completed her advanced placement test in technology with her web design work.</i> - Sharyn S.
Capitalized on Zoom	
Developed/hosted multiple webinars	<i>Under her tutelage, Google transitioned from being a foe to a friend.</i> - Randa B.
Managed the website & Help Desk	<i>Her infrastructure development, design, and implementation work has been truly outstanding.</i> - Missy M.
Redesigned handsome & effective website pages	<i>Her technical prowess and creativity elevated everything we did.</i> - Amy H.
Made website resources easier to find	
Refocused social media on AAUW California activity	<i>Built an infrastructure of technical tools, efficient processes and document organization that is our foundation.</i> -Julika B.
Created multiple great-looking fliers, social media posts, website pages, forms, surveys, charts and graphs, reports, and cute images	<i>An exceptional and gifted student using innovative technology while mentoring classmates!</i> - Karen V.
Fearlessly used tech tools to improve all operations	<i>A patient teacher and very generous with her time. Obviously, she's a techno-wiz and a visionary in terms of imagining and implementing new technologies for the benefit of AAUW California.</i> - Michelle B.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADE:

A++

ATTITUDE & EFFORT	TEACHERS' COMMENTS
<p>Worked without sleep for 2 yrs</p> <p>Had a "can do" attitude!</p> <p>Was uber positive and upbeat</p> <p>Was always available to help</p> <p>Provided personal training on tech tools, the Hub, finding a Google doc, etc.</p> <p>Took on extra work helping National implement Community Hub</p> <p>Never quit making things better</p>	<p><i>Exhibited extraordinary patience</i> - Carol H.</p> <p><i>Upskilled her classmates with patience, grace, and pizzaz.</i> - Missy M.</p> <p><i>We all worked hard, but she always worked hardest of all.</i> - Amy H.</p> <p><i>A+ in citizenship for her willingness to share her technical skills and expertise with the other kids.</i> - Kathi H.</p> <p><i>No matter how challenging the situation, Sandi remains calm and reassuring. Always glowing...always growing!</i> - Marlene C.</p> <p><i>I can't add anything to these amazing comments!</i> - Charmen G.</p>

School's out!

The *California Connection* will be on vacation until the fall. See you then.



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

[AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org)

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.

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