

CUWFA Board Member Candidate Form

YOUR NAME: Stephanie Duckett	TODAY'S DATE: 12/17/10
INSTITUTION: Oregon State University	
YOUR TITLE: Director, Childcare & Family Resources	
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BIOGRAPHIC STATEMENT - In 2006 I graduated, walked across campus, and began working as the Student Parent Advocate, a faculty position within for Oregon State University's student government, the Associated Students of Oregon State University. You see, these students are visionaries, and way back in 1997 they began taxing themselves in the hopes of one day building a childcare center for student parents. The students understood, way before many administrators, that the way to remove barriers to success for parents was to create reliable and accessible (both physically and financially) child care opportunities. Taking the decade of momentum from the students, I began asking questions about what students with children really need. In 2007, I partnered with our university library to create the first drop-off child care center in a university library. It's open in the evenings and weekends until 10 pm, and, it's completely free for students to use. On the heels of that, I began asking questions of our breastfeeding student mothers. Where are they finding room to pump? Oregon State University in 2008 had 0 lactation rooms. Through focus groups we identified two spaces where mothers were already pumping, and lobbied to have them converted for the exclusive use of lactation. Since then I have participated in creating a lactation policy for all of campus as well as creating 10 new lactation rooms across campus in the last year, with an additional 16 spaces identified as available for lactation. The state of Oregon was one of 5 pilot states to receive federal materials for "The Business Case for Breastfeeding" and through my office we have wholeheartedly executed the steps. For the last two years I have sat as co-chair for the President's Commission on the Status of Women for OSU, and still reside as a member of the Work-Life Balance subcommittee. In that time my title has changed to Director of Childcare & Family Resources and additional funding has been added to my position to also work on behalf of faculty and staff families. The Childcare & Family Resources office has been realigned from the student government to Healthy Campus Initiatives to reflect the overall impact family has on a person's wellness. Through my work over the years I have realized that the way to achieve success for all families at an institution of higher education is to combine the needs of student and employee families. The needs of parents are by and large the same, regardless of their status with the institution. Given the respective strengths of the student government and administration, more can be accomplished if we dovetail agendas rather than separate and focus on the differences. All that I've done was in a silo until I found CUWFA two years ago. CUWFA has given professional legitimacy to my work and a lexicon that is current with national conversations. I have found my professional home with CUWFA and am eager to participate at the board level.	