Join our thriving network of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends committed to a just and equitable UVA - an unrivaled place to work and learn.

Gender expectations impact everyone’s development, women and men. Your support, through the Women’s Center, provides the resources and opportunities students need to flourish fully in their time at UVA. Here, young women and men engage in crucial conversations that inform their unfolding professional and personal lives. Please join us in nurturing their growth and the development of the skills they need to advocate for themselves, for their communities at UVA, and for the communities in which they will live and work throughout their lives.

UVA has long been a magnet for civic-minded young people seeking opportunities to build their leadership skills. Today’s budding social justice advocates see several areas as most ripe for change in their world. The Women’s Center is a bustling hub of hands-on learning and leadership in these vital areas. Body image and gender-based violence top many young people’s lists of pressing social issues, as does the need to expand educational and economic opportunities for women worldwide. Many of our students eagerly commit their time to filling the crucial need for strong role models for girls and boys. They create far-reaching digital platforms where their keen observations, artistic eyes, and powerful ways with words promote positive social change.

The Women’s Center’s counselors are known for their extensive expertise supporting college students with concerns ranging from the stresses of young adulthood to traumatic events in their lives or within their families or communities. Whether students seek counseling to address anxiety or depression or to recover from an eating disorder or sexual assault, our counselors help clients gain a powerful sense of autonomy. Students identify the change that is important to them and work to make that change happen. In addition to our counselors’ expertise, students benefit from the Center’s accessible location and flexibility to see students for as many counseling appointments as they need. Our location is easy to reach. The environment of the Center is both homey and scholarly, but never institutional.

Students look to UVA faculty and staff for help with more than just assignments. We help the University’s employees meet students’ needs with confidence. Where students require more support than faculty can provide alone, faculty can connect students to our resources, allowing them to teach with the assurance that their students are coming to the classroom ready to learn. Faculty and staff, in turn, play a vital role in creating a University community that is just and equitable for all.

The Women’s Center’s students apply knowledge gained in their coursework to serving the Charlottesville community they call home during their UVA years. Our Legal Clinic interns host pro bono attorneys for evening sessions offered to local women and men facing common legal issues in areas such as housing, employment, veterans’ benefits or family law. Our Young Women Leaders Program Big Sisters and Men’s Leadership Project Big Brothers are mentoring 67 middle school kids in the area this year. While the Little Siblings gain leadership skills that will help them succeed in high school and beyond, their peers and relatives also benefit from the examples that the Littles set for making healthy decisions at home and in area neighborhoods and schools.

ON GROUNDS

IN CHARLOTTESVILLE
Through our growing global initiatives, students can contribute to the expansion of educational and economic opportunities for girls and women around the world. Our Young Women Leaders Program Global Internship in Cameroon connects the girls there to their sisters in Charlottesville. The annual Beverly Cobble Rodriguez Lectureship on Women’s Education and Global Leadership encourages students to get involved in solving the most challenging global issues. Students engage with leaders in healthcare, multi-national business and the liberal arts and begin taking their own steps to become the determined and results-oriented women leaders that the world needs. Our Women, Girls & Global Justice Internship places students in year-long partnerships with organizations that support girls’ and women’s own efforts to improve safety and opportunity in communities where these disparities are among the greatest in the world.

AROUND THE WORLD

Through the Women’s Center, you can sustain and grow the resources and opportunities that students need to make the most of their time at UVA.

Examples of what your support can accomplish include:

**$1,500** provides everything the Center needs to orient 1st year and transfer students to all of the vital wellness services and engaged scholarship programs that the Center offers for them.

**$5,000** brings 59 local girls to Grounds for the Young Women Leaders Program’s two annual signature events. In the fall, the Big Sisters help the Little Sisters showcase their new leadership skills for their families. In the spring, the Bigs introduce their Littles to college classrooms and inspire them to continue pursuing their educations.

**$8,000** funds a J-term internship abroad for one student who returns to infuse our global connections curriculum with photos and video showing the varied circumstances of our sisters’ lives and stories, highlighting the common hopes we share for just and equitable communities for all.

**$20,000** funds our Body Positive program coordinator position for one year including instruction of a 3-credit seminar in which students explore the relationship between body image and identity in our culture and how they can affect positive change in their community. The coordinator leads a team of interns in Grounds-wide initiatives to prevent the disordered eating and exercise that can otherwise hold many students back in the classroom and in life.

**$25,000** fuels the growth of the budding Men’s Leadership Project for one year by providing the Big and Little Brothers with curriculum materials, activity supplies, and funding for research to further document the program’s impact on young men’s attitudes and habits regarding gender.

**$50,000** funds an additional counselor position on our staff for one year to ensure that students’ needs for counseling can be met promptly on Grounds by a counselor with experience in serving college students including trauma counseling for survivors of sexual assault.

**$100,000** or more endows abroad travel for site visits to partner organizations engaged in global efforts to improve gender equity. While helping staff sustain and grow the Center’s relationships with these partners, students develop cultural fluency and learn what makes for effective advocacy in different environments.

JOIN US

Contact Leigh Ann Carver, Director of Communications and Advancement, to learn more about ways to support the Women’s Center: lacarver@virginia.edu or 434-924-3946