

Runway to Success and College Women in Need



AAUW Laguna Beach will host Runway to Success Fashion & Trunk Show on November 10

“Hope was dead for a long time. Now it’s alive and well.” Thus began one of the many financial aid scholarship applications AAUW Laguna Beach received from local college women last year. But how do you choose between selecting a student who has periods of homelessness, sleeping in her car while she attends school or selecting one who has just escaped from an abusive marriage and is balancing two part-time jobs and childcare while she earns a degree?

AAUW Laguna Beach has awarded annual scholarships to women attending local colleges and universities for many years. But this year, given the sheer number of applications we received and the desperate financial reality of so many of the women who applied, we decided we had to do more.

That required more funds. Thus we are hosting our first annual fashion show fundraiser for college women in need: *Runway to Success*.

Did you know the estimated cost of attending Orange Coast College or Saddleback Community College (living expenses, tuition and books) is more than \$21, 000 annually, while the cost of attending UC Irvine is more than \$33,000 and LCAD is over \$56,000? To address student food insecurity, OCC, Saddleback and UCI all have food pantries while LCAD students use Laguna Beach Food Pantry.

Two of the women who received scholarships from us last year are typical of the many women who apply every year. Let's call them Susanna and Victoria.

Susanna is a first-generation community college student, a single mom of two, a survivor of sexual abuse and a former addict. Despite state and federal aid, Susanna worked between 21 and 30 hours per week to pay for rent, food and child care for her children. During her first semester, she became homeless, and she had to withdraw from at least one class when her car broke down and she could not get to class on time. However, after three and a half years, she graduated this last spring in eight honors societies, and **with** two degrees: an AA and an AS. She transferred this term and is currently studying for her BA in the field of Communications.

Victoria is also a first generation college student. The survivor of an abusive marriage and a single mom of two girls, her husband did not allow her to attend college or to work. With no employable skills, and still struggling with diagnosed PTSD as a result of her spousal abuse, she enrolled in community college. Her GPA rose from a 2.0 to a 3.56; she made the Dean's or President's List every semester since re-entry and is a member of five honor societies. Now she is on track to pursue a BFA in Graphic Design.

These are young women who have enormous amounts of drive and perseverance. And there are many more like them. Our scholarships can help them.

Have fun and help us raise more funds for local college women in need. Come to *Runway to Success* on Saturday, November 10th. and spend a couple of delightful hours while you socialize with friends and neighbors, enjoy delicious appetizers, and experience beautiful clothes modeled by our members and college women. If you can't join us, please donate online to the AAUW Laguna Beach Foundation Scholarship Fund. [Click here.](#)

RUNWAY TO SUCCESS

Date: Saturday, November 10, 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Cost: \$50 per person* (includes appetizers and complimentary glass of wine)

Where: Woman's Club, 286 St Ann's Drive, Laguna Beach

What: Fashion and Trunk show, appetizer buffet, wine cash bar, opportunity to purchase designer clothing and jewelry

Tickets Online: [Click to Buy Tickets](#)

Tickets by Mail: Send \$50 check, payable AAUW-LBF, to AAUW-LBF, P.O. Box 189, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

100% of profits will be donated by *Just Looking* to AAUW-LBF Scholarships for College Women