

## **Gloria Steinem to speak at anniversary**

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*A preview of Gloria Steinem's presentation at the University of Idaho.*

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the UI Women's Center and as part of the center's biannual Women's Leadership conference, feminist activist Gloria Steinem will speak at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Kibbie Dome.

Steinem, who co-founded Ms. Magazine in 1972, represents the conference's message well.

"We wanted to bring a speaker who was influential in the Second Wave of Feminist Movement who is also still a voice for change and advocacy today," Heather Gasser, director of the Women's Center, said. "There was, truly, only one person who fits that definition. Gloria Steinem is intrinsically connected to the feminist movement in the United States and a very recognizable figure."

The theme of the conference is "Women's Legacies, Inspiring Our Future." Gasser said it celebrates where women have been, recognizes the successful strides toward gender equality and explores how women and all members of the campus community can ensure progress continues in the future.

"(The theme) is directly tied to our desire to honor the past and also inspire a new generation of women to be leaders," she said.

The Women's Center opened as a volunteer organization in 1972, the same year the current president of the UI commissioned a study of women's inequalities on campus, Gasser said. The study found there were many different issues affecting the women. Those who completed the study came up with ways to solve the issues, and a complaint was filed with the Idaho Commission on Human Rights.

The university and the commission signed a conciliation agreement on May 8, 1974. Part of this agreement required the university hire a full-time director for the Women's Center. Gasser said it also required equal salaries and back-pay, a female physician at the UI Student Health Center and the addition of an Affirmative Action officer.

With this foundation, the Women's Center continues to uphold their mission of gender equality.

"The mission of the Women's Center is (to) promote and advocate for gender equality on campus and in the community through a variety of programs and services that educate and support all individuals in building all-inclusive and compassionate society," Gasser said.

In addition to Steinem's speech, the conference will feature more than 30 workshops with more than 40 presenters from WSU, UI, Lewis-Clark State College and from Walla Walla [Community College](#).

Dana Britton, the director of the Center for Women and Work at [Rutgers University](#), will give a speech at the luncheon, and becky martinez (not capitalized), a diversity trainer with Infinity Martinez Consulting, will give the opening speech.

The event is co-sponsored by ADVANCE at WSU.

For more information about the conference, visit [www.uidaho.edu/studentaffairs/womenscenter](http://www.uidaho.edu/studentaffairs/womenscenter).