

About the Barnard Summit: Women, Leadership and the Future

The Barnard Summit: Women, Leadership and the Future, was conceived as a means to better understand how the changing role of women is altering society and the family, to assess the remaining barriers to full equality between women and men, and to recommend strategies for further progress.

The summit will examine how women's unprecedented participation in the public world is transforming the nation's political, judicial, and economic institutions, as well as the family and women themselves. It will address the social and cultural basis of gender roles. It will compare changing norms in the U.S. with those in other countries in order to suggest ways for breaking through the barriers to full gender equity. The summit also seeks to focus wider public attention on the historic changes taking place with the rise of women's leadership and what it means for the future of human welfare.

The summit panel discussion on The Future of Women in Business on Friday, October 26, was designed to focus on the current corporate environment for female executives, and on the balance of work and family.

The summit is being taped in cooperation with Connecticut Public Television for broadcast on PBS as a three-part series. The discussions in the summit will also be summarized in a report to be published jointly in March 2002 by Barnard College and the Families and Work Institute, written by Arlene Skolnick, and funded in part by the Ford Foundation.

The summit is led by a steering committee including: Judith Shapiro, president of [Barnard](#), Richard Karz, producer of If Women Ruled the World: A Washington Dinner Party, and Janet Jakobsen, director, Barnard Center for Research on Women, and with the assistance of a distinguished advisory board.

As part of the summit, a group of young women leaders between 22 and 35 are participating in a series of forums called the Young Women's Leadership Summit to identify the salient issues facing women's leadership in an era of political, military and global change; their questions have been linked to the agendas of each panel, and a member of the Young Women's Leadership Summit will be among the first to ask a question of the summit panelists. The Young Women's Leadership Summit is supported by [The Ford Foundation](#) and [The White House Project](#), a project designed to enhance public perceptions of women's capacity to lead, change biases against women's leadership ability, and foster the entry of women in positions of leadership, including the U.S. presidency.

The summit is made possible in part by the generous support of J.P. Morgan Chase, & Co., The New York Times, The Ford Foundation, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, Milestone Capital Management, Families and Work Institute, and the [Winds of Change Foundation](#). Hotel accommodations are provided by Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts and Essex House. Summit media partners are i Village and Seventeen.