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WE-Zine



PROGRESS, DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

Women Employed

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." – Alice Walker

Dear %FirstName%,

As we close out Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Financial Literacy Month, National Medicare Month, National Community College Month, and the most tumultuous and arguably destructive first 100 days of a presidential administration ever, my colleagues and I are **Centering Women's Voices**.

What do you think about when you think of centering? Perhaps you think of focusing in, or like me, taking a deep breath and becoming grounded. At WE, centering women means being grounded in women's experiences of workplaces, education, entrepreneurship, and other systems, and using that powerful insight to craft *real* solutions to *real* problems often pushed to the margins.

Centering women means understanding how the impacts of the last three months will reverberate long beyond the headlines—and raising our collective voices to protect our rights through our **For the Common Good** campaign. It means interviewing women to understand how health care career pathways *actually* function (as opposed to how we *think* they function) so we can ensure women can advance into family-sustaining roles in the sector. It means expanding the definition of entrepreneurship to include low-income women and Women of Color with 'side hustles,' and connecting these small business owners with practical tools, resources, and capital through the **WE Hub**.

Centering women means treating paid leave as a necessity, not a luxury. It means preventing sexual harassment through interactive, customized trainings to build safer workplaces. Putting women at the center means public universities should be financially equipped to meet the needs of their students so they are supported in their educational dreams. And it means that, through our **ASPIRE Project**, community colleges receive support to reform their developmental education programs so more students—particularly Black and Latina/o/x students—can succeed. All of this work centers women—our voices, our needs, our solutions, **our power**.

I've often heard people mistakenly call us Women Empowered, and it's easy to understand why: because when solutions are crafted through centering women's voices, women can fully exercise their power. As we enter into the month of May Day, **The Working Lunch**, Mother's Day, mental health awareness, AAPI heritage, and the next 100 days of this administration, how can you center the women in your life, including yourself, and connect to your power? Take a deep breath, then another; there's so much to do, and we need everyone grounded in their power to fight for the society we all deserve.

In Solidarity,

Sharmili Majmudar
Executive Vice President of Policy, Programs, and Research

P.S. Read on to learn more about our powerful *The Working Lunch* honorees: **Chicago Women in Trades, Gail Eisenberg, and Isabel Dobbelt**, who lead by **Centering Women's Voices** every day.

"She Says" with Andi McDaniel



She Says

Women have such extraordinary gifts to give. So, it's important to support organizations like yours because you're doing the sometimes mundane and thankless work of advocating for a group of people who have tremendous value. And if they aren't in a position to succeed, then we are missing out.

Andi McDaniel

One thing to know about Andi McDaniel is that she is far more than her title. In addition to her role as the Chief Creative Officer of **City Cast**—a national network of daily podcasts and newsletters spanning 13 (soon to be 15) cities—she is compassionate, committed to her work and the advancement of her colleagues, a multi-media maven, a storyteller, a leader, a mom of two, and all-around problem solver. From developing the look and sound of City Cast's newsletters and podcasts to figuring out how to scale them, cultivating talent, and helping people understand their superpowers, there is no obstacle that Andi can't overcome. She has even helped with establishing a comprehensive parental leave policy for current and future City Cast employees, ensuring that they have the support needed to grow their families, providing flexible working accommodations once their parental leave has ended, and creating an environment where all voices are heard, welcomed, and prioritized.

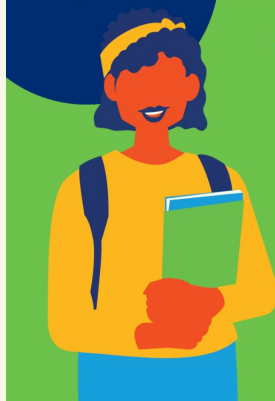
In this month's **"She Says,"** we talk with Andi McDaniel about finding solutions, what she loves most about her work, and why it's important to support organizations like Women Employed.

[Read More](#)

What WE Are Talking About

URGENT: File a Witness Slip Today for Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding

HOW TO FILE A WITNESS SLIP IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE & EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING FORMULA (SB13)



- ✓ Follow the link in our post to go to the Illinois General Assembly Witness Slip page online.
- ✓ Under IDENTIFICATION, fill in your contact info. If you are filing on your own behalf, you can put "Self" as both your organization and your title.
- ✓ Under REPRESENTATION, you can use "Self" again, if filing on your own behalf.
- ✓ Under POSITION, make sure the drop-down says SB13 (you can select either one) and choose "Proponent."
- ✓ Under TESTIMONY, select "Record of Appearance Only."
- ✓ Accept the terms and click "Create(Slip)."

For too long, funding for Illinois' public universities has been based on political influence and not the needs of Illinois students. We have a chance to pass a bill to ensure that ALL Illinois public universities and the students they serve have adequate, equitable, and stable funding that prioritizes the students and institutions most in need.

All of Illinois' universities win under this bill and so do Illinois students, because now funding will be distributed by need. **The bill, SB13, will be heard in committee TODAY AT 3:00 P.M. Live in Illinois? [Please file a witness slip today by 3 p.m. in support of SB13!](#)**

TAKE ACTION

TOMORROW: Rally For Our Rights on May Day



TOMORROW, May 1st—May Day—bring your signs and your voices and **[rally with Women Employed \(WE\) and other advocates!](#)** Together, we will march with laborers, working women, parents, community members, students, and everyday people who are coming together and raising their voices.

Live in the Chicagoland Area? March with WE:

Date: Tomorrow—Thursday, May 1st (May Day, aka International Workers Day)

Time:

- 10:15 a.m. – Meet Up with Women Employed
- 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – March from Union Park to Grant Park
- Want to get your rally on sooner? Our friends at Arise Chicago will be gathering at 9:30 a.m!

Meet-Up Location: Union Park by the main stage (near the middle of the park, but closer to Washington side, and to the right-hand side of the stage). **Look for the Women Employed signs to find us!**

NOTE: The march route is approximately 3 miles. Feel free to join for as little or as much of the march as you are able.

RSVP TO MARCH WITH WE

Live outside of Chicago? [Find an event near you.](#)

And the Honorees Are...





Each year, at [The Working Lunch](#), we honor leaders who have dedicated their lives to **Centering Women's Voices** by actively listening, understanding their experiences, and bringing their voices to the tables where fundamental and systemic change happens at all levels. **And we invite you to recognize their accomplishments with us!**

Join us celebrating our 2025 Honorees at *The Working Lunch*: Champions, **Gail Eisenberg** and **Chicago Women in Trades**, and Emerging Power Builder, **Isabel "Izzy" Dobbel**!

Learn More About Our Honorees

Gail Eisenberg, Chicago Women in Trades, and Izzy Dobbel are all steadfast in their commitment to championing working women, their families, and community, and we are pleased to honor them on May 22nd.

The Working Lunch

Thursday, May 22, 2025
Networking Reception: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Program and Lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Hilton Chicago
720 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL

Reserve Your Tables and Tickets

Already got your tickets? We can't wait to see you there!

Interested in being a table leader or sponsor? Contact, Mary Kay Devine, at mdevine@womenemployed.org.

Questions and volunteer information? Reach out to Shelby Flores at sflores@womenemployed.org.

What's new in *For the Common Good*?



Check out our most recent editions of *For the Common Good*, where we break down the work of key federal departments and agencies, the administration's actions, and how **YOU** can make an impact.

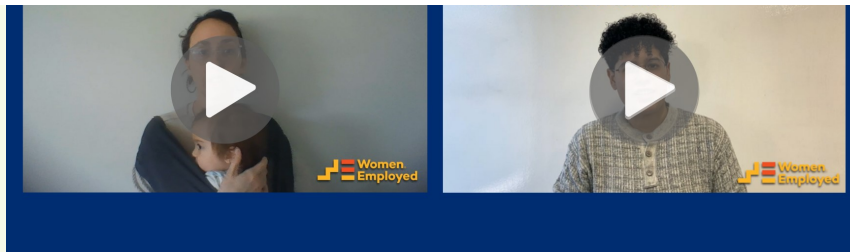
This month, we shared videos on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service; and the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). You can watch both videos [here](#) and [here](#).

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

The Food and Nutrition Service

Federal Election Commission &
U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Starr De Los Santos
Associate Director of Coalitions



The threats to our rights are real, and they are frightening. To fight them, we must all stand together, firmly on the side of equity and opportunity for all. Together, we have the power to force change and protect those who need it most.

Sign up for our **Action Network** to learn about important information and actions you can take. And check out our webpage at womenemployed.org/commongood to keep up with all the latest.

Join Our Team!

WE ARE HIRING!

Director of Finance and Administration

Are you passionate about making the world better for working women?
Is it your dream to have equity for all?
Women Employed is hiring, and WE may be the place for YOU!

Learn more at womenemployed.org/work-with-us

Crain's 2024 best places to work in Chicago

Women Employed

Want to work for an employer named one of Crain's 100 Best Places to Work two years running? Passionate about making the world better for working women? **[Join our team!](https://womenemployed.org/work-with-us/)**

Women Employed is currently looking for our next Director of Finance and Administration! If you are looking for a role in finance and accounting, information technology, facilities management, and business compliance, then we would love to hear from you!

Visit <https://womenemployed.org/work-with-us/> to learn more and **[apply today!](https://womenemployed.org/work-with-us/)**

Resources

[Salary Transparency is Now the Law in Illinois](#)

[You Deserve Fair Pay](#)

[Paid Leave in Illinois and Chicago](#)

[Know Your Rights at Work](#)

Events

[May Day Rally](#)

[The Working Lunch](#)

On the Blog

[The Federal Student Loan Landscape](#)

[For the Common Good: USDA Food and Nutrition Service](#)

[STATEMENT: Shuttering the OFCCP is an Assault on Civil Rights](#)

[For the Common Good: Federal Election Commission & U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)

[Where in the World is Women Employed?](#)

WE in the News

[State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford – Sounds alarm on threats to higher education funding](#)

The Crusader

[Ford, Higher Education Leaders Sound Alarm on Federal Funding Cuts](#)

Lawndale News

What We're Reading

[Advancing Equity in Attainment for Black Single Mothers in College](#)

Institute for Women's Policy Research

[DEI rollbacks hit campus support systems for students of color](#)

The Associated Press

[Skills Across Generations: The Realities of Younger and Older Workers](#)

National Skills Coalition

[Federal worker moms: Return-to-office order forces unfair choice](#)

NBC 5 Chicago

[What Cuts to the Department of Labor Will Mean for You](#)

The Century Foundation

[The Assault on Higher Education is an Assault on Democracy](#)

New America



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