

Progress called slow for women

WILLMAR, Minn. — Minnesota women are moving forward in pay equality, but progress is achingly slow, a new report issued by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota has found.

Lee Roper-Batker, the foundation's president and chief executive, thinks the state might actually be moving backward in reducing and preventing violence against women.

Women also continue to be underrepresented in corporate leadership and elected offices, and there's a persistent health gap for Minnesota's women of color and for rural women.

Although some of the statistics are discouraging, they also represent a chance for local communities to take action, Roper-Batker told an audience this past week in Willmar.

The research gathered in a joint project with the University of Minnesota's Center on Women and Public Policy, shows females in Minnesota continue to be shortchanged on key measures ranging from income to personal safety, she said.

