

Women in state continue to lag behind men

Women and girls in Minnesota are lagging significantly behind their male counterparts in areas such as pay equality, safety and positions of power, according to a statewide report presented Monday in Rochester.

“Our research shows that women continue to be shortchanged,” said Lee Roper-Batker, president and chief executive officer of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, which produced the report, “Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota,” with the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute’s Center on Women and Public Policy.

While women earn the majority of postsecondary degrees in the state, those with professional degrees (such as doctors and lawyers) and master’s degrees face larger pay gaps than women with less education, 67 cents and 75 cents on a man’s dollar, respectively, the report found.

None of Minnesota’s 21 Fortune 500 companies are led by a woman, and more than 50 percent of the state’s county commissions do not include even one woman, the report notes.

