The Rutgers University Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWL) and the School of Communication and Information (SCI) have collaborated to create the Gloria Steinem Media Mentoring Program. The nine month program addresses the underrepresentation of women in leadership, production, and creative roles across all media and information technology platforms. Linking together recent Rutgers graduates with accomplished women in media, this program will enable promising women who are in the early stages of their careers to learn from experienced professionals in the field. The IWL and SCI have been fortunate to receive a grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation to develop and launch this new program.

Current research has emphasized the importance in which early career experiences has on shaping future success. Mentors can play an important role in guiding and supporting women in their first five years out of college to help with job expectations, navigating office politics, building new relationships, and making choices that can have lasting implications. This program provides a series of structured sessions across the year, bringing together the graduates and mentors as a group, as well as promoting one-on-one informal mentoring sessions. These sessions will allow participants the opportunity to be peer mentors to one another while receiving mentorship from carefully selected women media leaders.

The Gloria Steinem Media Mentoring Program is the important first step in the development of the Gloria Steinem Media, Culture, and Feminist Studies Initiative at Rutgers University. This collaborative educational initiative will examine and advance women’s participation in media, especially at the decision making levels. It will immediately address the needs of young women in the field by linking them with creative, accomplished media leaders who are committed to expanding opportunities for the next generation of women leaders and to shaping a more inclusive and just media world.