



WIA Connections Spring 2013 | [Click here to view online](#)

April 2013

## Connections Newsletter

Dear Annette,

When I began my years with WIA, I could have never imagined how rewarding my experiences with this organization would become. I simply joined with the same expectations that many of our members begin with - to belong to an organization with like minded individuals and support an industry that I care so much about. However, I soon found myself volunteering by serving on the Board of Directors. Today, I am honored to serve as WIA's Chair. This is an honor I take with pride and am truly proud to serve our association and our members.



Dianne Sosa,  
Chair of the Board

As the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun! This same theory seems to apply to WIA it seems. The momentum and events keep coming so fast that even I have a hard time keeping up with all the activity of our association.

While I have enjoyed all of the events we held during the first quarter of 2013, I want to highlight one in particular that truly resonated with me which is the event WIA hosted to celebrate Women's History Month. At this event we honored recently flown astronaut Sunita Williams. Both Sunita as well as Deputy Administrator Lori Garver spoke at the event sharing wonderful history about women and about WIA. Having Administrator Charles Bolden introduce Sunita was an extra treat that evening. For this event, we invited about 50 students to join us for this special evening. The students in the room were a true difference maker. They added an element of hope, inspiration and excitement to all of us. The energy in the room was contagious. I kept hearing comments about how all of us felt so passionate and energized by the conversations in the room. This event was a reminder of why WIA exists: to expand women's opportunities for leadership and increase visibility. Our mission statement holds true for all settings and for all age ranges. We're never too old or too young to be inspired, mentored and learn from a pinnacle conversation, moment or person that moves us forward.

As you are aware, mentoring is a very important part of all that WIA does throughout the association. In keeping with our focus of providing opportunities to early career women in our industry we are very excited to introduce a new award to our annual Awards Program. The **Initiation, Inspiration, Impact Award** will honor a woman with fewer than 10 years in the industry who has made significant contributions to a project or organization and shows great promise for the future. We credit our 2012 awards selection committee led by Karen Yasumura who originally came up with this fantastic idea and are pleased to be bringing this forward in 2013.

In the next section of the newsletter we will introduce you to our newest board

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members including our three new "early career professionals", the accomplishments these women have achieved so early in their careers are truly inspiring and I know you are going to love learning about them as much we love working with them so far. They bring a great energy to the association and have many ideas.

I am also pleased to announce that WIA now offers our professional development seminars as live streaming webinars. This is one of the major steps we are making toward our national expansion goals so that those individuals that live outside the Washington, DC area have the ability to join our events virtually. The calendar will be planned well in advance to allow for small group networking at virtual sites or for those who just wish to mark time on their calendar to plan for the event. Our Professional Development Chair, Christina Frederick-Recasino is keeping all of us busy as she continues to plan out all of these events for the year.

Our next professional development seminar will be on Wednesday, May 1st from 12pm - 1:15pm. The event is titled: **Mindfulness in Leadership** and will feature Michelle Somerday, Executive Coach and Founder of Neo-Strategic, we hope to see you there!

As you read through the newsletter we hope you find much to look forward to, from our signature events to our STEM updates, 2013 is going to be a great year!

All the best,



Dianne Sosa  
Chair of the Board  
Women in Aerospace

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**Membership Chair**  
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## Board Member Spotlight -- Welcome New Board Members

WIA is pleased to introduce our newest board members serving a three year term:

### **Margaret Jenny, President, RTCA**

Click [here](#) to view Margaret's bio.

"I am looking forward to meeting new people and learning about other aspects of the aerospace industry and hope to offer new perspectives to WIA's strategic direction. Equally important, having enjoyed a fulfilling and varied career in aviation, I welcome the opportunity to give back through the mentoring opportunities on the Board."



Margaret Jenny, RTCA

### **Samantha Marquart, George Washington University**

Click [here](#) to view Samantha's bio.

"I am looking forward to becoming more involved in WIA's outreach to early-career

## Women In Aerospace Hosts STEM Roundtable with WIA Corporate Members

On Tuesday, May 7th WIA will host a roundtable discussion with Platinum, Gold and Association members of Women in Aerospace. This event will be a follow up event to the roundtable discussion held in November, 2012 with several STEM experts.

The roundtable will open with a brief presentation from Dr. Shelley Canright from NASA, followed by a discussion in which WIA corporate members will have the opportunity to dialogue about the best practices within their company and learn what other companies are doing. WIA will use this information with the information from the previous roundtable to leverage our own STEM practices and see where



Samantha Marquart, George Washington University

individuals - helping to connect the next generation of leaders with mentors who are passionate about the aerospace industry."

**Mamta Nagaraja, NASA**

Click [here](#) to view Mamta's bio.



Mamta Nagaraja, NASA

"I often think of how success found me, and each time I point to a mentor at critical moments in life.

From teachers to colleagues to family and even to friends, I have found mentors when I most needed them. With WIA, I look forward to ensuring I am not alone in this realm. I believe we are all entitled to guidance and direction, and it is in this way that I can give back to the world around me."

**Elly Smith, MITRE**

Click [here](#) to view Elly's bio.

**Aerospace 2013: Turning Today's Innovation into Tomorrow's Reality**

WIA is pleased to announce the program for the 4th annual WIA day-long conference Aerospace 2013: Turning Today's Innovation into Tomorrow's Reality. This signature event will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott on June 14, 2013.

As with years past, WIA will open the day with a keynote presentation, featuring **Letitia Long, Director of NGA**. The keynote address will be followed by professional development events unique to WIA. This year, the conference planning committee wanted to keep these professional development events as interactive as possible so look for the World Café: Interactive Networking session, where **Marshall Brown, a seasoned executive coach** will help facilitate round table discussions. Marshall will end the session by sharing tips and techniques on each of the topics discussed. Bring your great ideas, questions and suggestions to move from table to table discussing topics such as, Networking, Taking Risks, Conflict - Having Difficult Conversations, Life/Work Balance and Managing Effectively. A second professional development session, Social Networking & Face to Face Networking: Finding a Balance, featuring **Debra Facktor Lepore of Ball Aerospace, Beth White of FAA, and Michelle Somerday of Neo-Strategic** will discuss the benefits to both types of networking and how to use both effectively as well as help attendees create their own networking plan.

WIA is pleased to host **NASA Administrator General Charles F. Bolden Jr.** as the lunch time keynote speaker. Following the lunchtime address will be a series of afternoon sessions on topics of broad interest across the aerospace industry. Three concurrent panel sessions will include **What it takes to Realize the Next Generation Air Transportation System**, which will discuss how we achieve the important goal of transforming our national airspace system in today's budget environment; **Next Game Changers: Robotics in Space and Other Applications**, which will discuss the focus on robotics applications and how this technology is to be applied to ensure our space programs and goals are attained; finally, the last panel discussion will discuss **Increasing Concerns on Cyber Security from a Military & Civilian Perspective**.

we might be able to help.

WIA created a STEM taskforce in 2012 specifically to become more involved in the initiative. Led by Rebecca Spyke Keiser of NASA, the taskforce and WIA Board and Officers are proud to take another key step in WIA's plans towards helping to expand STEM education for girls and women.

For more information on getting involved with WIA's STEM Taskforce please send an email to [info@womeninaerospace.org](mailto:info@womeninaerospace.org) or call us at 202-547-0229.

**Women in Aerospace Hosts Congressional Breakfast with Congresswoman Donna Edwards**

On February 11th WIA held its annual Congressional Breakfast. This year, Congresswoman Donna Edwards addressed the crowd in the beautiful Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

The Congresswoman discussed a variety of top of mind issues including the legislative goals as ranking members of the Subcommittee on Space and how to sustain US leadership in aerospace by inspiring the next generation. She also discussed international partnerships and their importance moving forward. She stressed setting realistic budgets and plans for NASA and robust human exploration programs.

STEM was a major focus of her presentation which resonated with WIA as we plan our own STEM events for the year. Ms. Edwards talked about her experience talking to school children and how excited they are to learn about space.

**WIA Happy Hour Celebrating Women's History Month**

On March 20th WIA hosted a happy hour celebrating Women's History Month. The event featured inspirational women, including Deputy Administrator of NASA, Lori Garver and recently flown astronaut Sunita Williams. Both

At the end of the conference there will be a Plenary Session entitled **Balanced Approach to Cargo and Human Space Flight**. This session will focus on the need to come together as an industry for a balanced approach as outlined in the 2010 NASA Authorization Act.

As with all WIA events, networking opportunities will be built in throughout the day and the conference will end with a networking session in the Capitol View Ballroom overlooking the city.

To view a complete list of speakers and to register for Aerospace 2013: Turning Today's Innovation into Tomorrow's Reality please visit our website: <http://www.womeninaerospace.org/events/conf/>.

## With Appreciation to our Aerospace 2013 Sponsors

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women discussed the challenges and triumphs of their career to a full room of men and women in the Aerospace community as well as several STEM students from the local area. Special guests included NASA Administrator Gen Charles Bolden Jr. who introduced Sunita Williams and JAXA Astronaut, Akihiko Hoshide who flew with Sunita Williams on Expedition 32.

## WIA Corporate Members

### Platinum Members

ATK  
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### Gold Members

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## WIA Professional Development Events

We are pleased to share that we are now offering our popular professional development events as live stream broadcasts. Members will now have the option of attending in person or registering to attend virtually by webinar. WIA still encourages in person participation as the networking opportunities are invaluable.





Our upcoming professional development events include:

**May 1, 2013**

**Mindfulness in Leadership**

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

featuring

Michelle Somerday, Founder and Executive Coach, Neo-Strategic

Location: WIA Headquarters (204 E Street NE, Washington DC 20002)

Click [here](#) to register.

**September 9, 2013**

**Speed Mentoring**

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

**October 2013**

Leadership Seminar Featuring Linda Cureton,

Muse Technologies Inc.

Please watch for future WIA Professional

Development Events including:

- Updating your resume for Private and Public Sector Job Boards
- Understanding Changes in Women Owned Small Business Laws
- Self Esteem Leadership and Self Confidence



**Have you posted your resume on WIA's Job Board?**

We know the economic crisis is making the job market difficult for many, but WIA has a great resource just for its members. The Professional Development Committee is reviving the WIA Job Board where members can post their resumes. Once our members have posted resumes, the Committee will begin advertising the job board among private and government entities so they post job openings and actively recruit our fabulous members.

You can visit <http://careers.womeninaerospace.org/> to post your resume. Click on the "Find Your Job" button and then the "Post Your Resume" link. You do not need to enter your WIA member number when it asks for it. If you have questions, please click [here](#) to contact us.

We will send out updates regularly to let you know the status of the job board. Post your resume by June 1, 2013 so we can begin promoting it among companies as soon as possible.

Conceptual Analytics, LLC  
Deloitte  
DFL Space, LLC  
DigitalGlobe  
Dynamac Corporation  
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University of Maryland  
Department of Aerospace  
Engineering

Counsel to WIA  
Berliner Corcoran & Rowe

**Upcoming Events**

**May 1, 2013**

*Mindfulness in Leadership*  
featuring *Michelle Somerday*  
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.  
WIA Headquarters  
Washington, DC  
Click [here](#) to register.

**June 14, 2013**

*WIA's 4th Annual  
Conference*

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WIA Foundation Update

**WOMEN IN AEROSPACE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
2013-2014 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

The Women in Aerospace (WIA) Foundation, Inc., is delighted to announce Erin M. Kirchmeier and Samantha B. Rawlins as the recipients of WIA Foundation Scholarships. Each will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to be applied to the 2013-2014 academic year.



Erin Kirchmeier, Missouri University of Science and technology

Erin is studying Aerospace Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T). The Foundation was impressed by her work with the Missouri S&T satellite team, achievement awards in academics, sports and community service, research in microsattelites and demonstrations given to high school girls. It is clear she has worked to develop aerospace capabilities and encourage high school students to pursue engineering degrees.

Samantha is studying Mechanical Engineering at California State University, Los Angeles. Her outstanding achievements include award-winning work, successful internships and academic honors at California State University, Los Angeles. Also, her volunteer activities with children, promoting learning at the earliest age, demonstrate commitment to developing new professionals in aerospace.



Samantha Rawlins, California State University, Los Angeles

WIA received applications from an outstanding pool of candidates this year and would like to recognize an additional student, Abby Dickes, with an award of Honorable Mention. This nonmonetary award recognizes Abby's achievements at the University of Maryland where she is studying government and politics with a minor in astronomy. Her academic excellence and internships in this blend of government, politics and astronomy reflect her interest in multiple aspects of an aerospace career.

WIA Foundation President, Cindy Malawy stated, "It is clear these award recipients have a strong desire to make an impact on this world and understand that they can make a difference."

The scholarships and recognition will be presented at the 28th Annual WIA Awards Banquet on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. This event draws over 300 people to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of women throughout the aerospace community.

8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Key Bridge Marriott  
Arlington, VA  
Click [here](#) to register.

**September 9, 2013**  
*MEMBERS ONLY*  
*Speed Mentoring*  
5:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m.  
Jones Day  
Washington, DC  
Click [here](#) to register.

**October 29, 2013**  
*28th Annual WIA Awards*  
*Dinner and Ceremony*  
Location: Ritz Carlton  
Pentagon City  
Arlington, VA