



WIA Chair Report

*Rebecca Keiser, Ph.D
Chair, Women in Aerospace*

Dear WIA Members,

As summer 2019 comes to a close and we look forward to the all of the fresh new beginnings that fall has to offer, I am excited to rejoin our corporate and individual members in continuing the great work we do for our industry.

I wanted to share this fantastic [article](#) with you. It briefly touches on the current realities facing the aerospace industry and community and how important it is for WIA to enlighten and educate young women about the STEM fields and continually strive to increase leadership opportunities and visibility for women in aerospace.



There is an incredible energy that exists in our organization and we have a dynamic group of members that have helped us to harness that energy and project WIA into a space (pun intended) where we achieve a national and international presence in the aerospace community.

Our unique programming sets us apart from other organizations. In 2019 and 2020, we will be using our programming as a tool to create pilot programs that are easily replicated around the country and world, develop networking and volunteer opportunities for members, and further promote women in aerospace through educational outreach in schools.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce our three WIA Event Series:

- **WIA Breakfast Club**

- Join us for a truly unique round table discussion featuring thought-provoking discourse and responses from select Congressional Committees. Key professional staffers from the Hill will provide members with an exclusive look into their responses to the forecasts and trends that will influence the government and the industry in the near future. This event is off the record.

- **WIA Stories**

- You are invited to join WIA for an intimate gathering of colleagues as esteemed women leaders share the story of their personal journeys to success. This off the record conversation promises to be filled with helpful advice paired with fantastic stories depicting how each of these incredible women made their mark. Come prepared to network with colleagues and share your own personal success story.

- **WIA Book Signing**

- The newest addition to the WIA Event Series, the book signing will allow WIA to feature inspirational, published authors and the stories they have to share. Event attendees will have the exclusive opportunity to meet the authors, ask questions,

and go home with a signed copy of the author's book.

We have a busy schedule starting in September and we hope to see you at one, or all of our events.

- **September 25**

- WIA Stories: The Journey of Incredible Women in Aerospace: Featured panelists, Major General Nina Armagno, SAF/AQS, and 2018 WIA Leadership Award Winner, Barbara Jean Smith, SAIC. The program will be held at Raytheon in Arlington, VA.

- **November 5**

- WIA Breakfast Club at Ball Aerospace in Arlington, VA; "Current and Future Issues in Aerospace and Defense"

- **November 7**

- Professional Development Webinar: "Developing the Ability to Influence Others"

To learn more, or to register for one of our high impact events, please visit: <https://www.womeninaerospace.org/events.html>

In conclusion, our 34th WIA Awards Dinner is on October 17th, in Arlington, VA. This annual event is dedicated to celebrating women's professional excellence in aerospace and honoring the achievements of several accomplished aerospace professionals. We hope you can join us for WIA's premier event of the year. If you would like to purchase an individual ticket or table, please visit the event registration page: <https://www.womeninaerospace.org/secure/awards.html>

We are thrilled to announce the winners of this year's WIA Awards and the WIA Foundation Scholarships.

2019 WIA Award Winners:

Achievement Award: Ronna Kirchoff, Vice President, Civil Space Programs, Peraton

Aerospace Awareness Award: Cori Lupton, Supersonic Wind Tunnel Operator, NASA

Aerospace Educator Award: Dr. Seetha Raghavan, Associate Professor, University of Central Florida

Initiative, Inspiration, Impact Award: Dr. Wendy Okolo, Aerospace Research Engineer, NASA Ames Research Center

Leadership Award: Stephanie Murphy, Owner, Board Chairman, Alpha Space Test and Research Alliance

Lifetime Achievement Award: Betty Sapp, former Director, National Reconnaissance Office

2019 WIA Foundation Scholarship Winners:

WIA Foundation Scholarship: Kristen Susuki, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Northrop Grumman Scholarship: Aigneis Frey, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

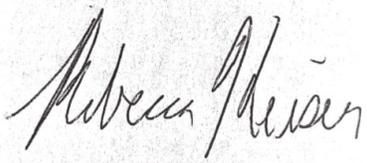
AIAA Digital Avionics Scholarship: Abigail Gries, Iowa State University

Molly Macauley Memoriam Scholarship: Michelle Lin, University of Colorado Boulder

We had a very competitive year with many nominations. Congratulations to all of the winners and to the nominators! There is no doubt that WIA is dedicated to selecting the right candidate for each award and scholarship, every year.

I look forward to experiencing all of the WIA programs with you, as well as the WIA Awards dinner this fall. I hope everyone enjoys the last few weeks of summer!

Best regards,



Rebecca Keiser
Chair

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