



WIA Connections Winter 2012 | [Click here to view online](#)

December 2012

## Connections Newsletter

Dear Annette,

Thank you.

As my term as president of Women in Aerospace and five years as an officer of this great organization comes to a close, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. WIA is a fantastic organization, full of people who strive continuously to achieve the goal of more opportunities for women in this great aerospace industry we love.

2012 has been a great year for [women in the industry ascending to top posts](#) as well as for the growth and influence of WIA. We had our best yet annual conference and awards celebration as well as numerous great professional development events, programs, panels, and networking opportunities.



Stephanie Schierholz  
President

What sets WIA apart has always been its people and the commitment and dedication they have.

Thank you, members, for joining with us to achieve our mission. Thank you for your ongoing support, your feedback, and your participation. Thank you for bringing the support of your companies to WIA as well.

Thank you to all our speakers this year. Thank you for sharing your insight, guidance, wisdom, and experience -- both in your area of professional expertise and lessons learned during your careers -- with our members.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who make our professional development events, programs, annual conference, and awards celebration possible each year. This year, we set records with many of these events, and we could not have done it without your tireless dedication behind the scenes.

Thank you to the experts who volunteer as board members to provide strategic guidance to the organization and keep it aligned with the mission.

Finally, a deep and personal thank you to the seven women with whom I had the pleasure serving as 2012 officers of WIA. It has been an honor to work with each of these outstanding professionals and to grow together as a team throughout the year. I'm sure every president thinks this, but I really did have the best officer team! Thank you to President-Elect Renee Leduc Clarke, Vice President of Programs Stephanie Bednarek, Vice President of Membership Karen Yasumura, Vice President of Professional Development Sara Fuentes, Vice President of Communications Jennifer Hoil, Treasurer Emma Hinds, and Secretary/Historian Noelle Milliard.

These women know not only how to get things done but do them exceptionally and with professionalism, personality, grace, and humor. I cannot recommend each of them highly enough.

I am honored to have served as WIA's president this year. Thank you for the privilege.

Happy holidays and happy New Year! All the best in 2013!

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[2012 Annual Awards Dinner and Ceremony Pictures](#)  
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### WIA Board of Directors

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**Robert Burke**  
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Cheers,



Stephanie Schierholz  
President  
Women in Aerospace



## 27th Annual Awards Dinner and Ceremony

On November 1st we celebrated our 27th Annual WIA Awards Ceremony. We honored the great accomplishments of tremendous female leaders in the aerospace community who exemplify our mission of expanding women's opportunities for leadership and increasing their visibility in the aerospace community. It was great to hear the stories of our recipients and take a moment to honor all of their accomplishments. It was a truly inspirational night. Lifetime Achievement Awardee Lt. Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski said, "But I'm not done yet!" then dedicated the award to her mom, who told her as a schoolgirl learning to read: "Don't you quit! You make them fire you!"



Karen Yasumura, VP of  
Membership

Thank you to all of our sponsors and to those of you who attended. This was WIA's biggest award banquet to date, and we couldn't do it without your support and dedication to Women in Aerospace. We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did! Make sure to view photos from the event [here](#).



Scan to join Women in Aerospace today!  
or visit [www.womeninaerospace.org/join](http://www.womeninaerospace.org/join)



## With Appreciation to our 2012 Awards Dinner Sponsors

**Tammy Cameron**  
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## WIA Officers

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**WIA Corporate Spotlight: BAE Systems**

BAE Systems is a global defense, aerospace and security company with approximately 93,500 employees worldwide. The company delivers a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions and customer support and services. In 2011, BAE Systems reported sales of \$30.7B.

BAE Systems continues to build successfully on its position as one of the largest, and most geographically diverse, defense and security companies. In the United States, BAE Systems, Inc. is headquartered in Arlington, Va., and led by Linda Hudson, president and CEO. In 2012, Hudson was dubbed the "First Lady of Defense" by Washingtonian Magazine, and featured on Fortune Magazine's list of the 50 most powerful women. She was also selected by the USO to receive the 2011 Woman of the Year Distinguished Service Award.

BAE Systems, Inc. ranks among the top 10 defense contractors and continues to pursue growth opportunities in three market segments: electronic systems, platforms and services. Across these segments, the company enjoys long-term demand, strong customer relationships, as well as key intellectual property - all of which position the business to deliver solid performance. BAE Systems has a proud history of leveraging its global capabilities to deliver the very best products and services for men and women in uniform and those who protect and defend the security of our nations. To learn more about BAE Systems, visit [www.baesystems.com](http://www.baesystems.com) and follow us on Twitter at @baesystemsinc

**BAE SYSTEMS**



**Women In Aerospace Hosts STEM Roundtable  
with Leading STEM Experts**

On November 19th, WIA held a roundtable discussion with several key STEM leaders on engaging girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Members of WIA's Board of Directors and Officers attended the discussion to learn how WIA could leverage its resources to best support STEM activities, particularly related to young women. The roundtable generated recommendations on the types of activities best suited for WIA.

STEM experts in attendance were:

- Lauren Andersen, Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Randy Atkins, National Academy of Engineering attending on behalf of Catherine Dideon
- Lance Bush, Challenger Center
- Chritianne Corbett, American Association of University Women
- Lisa Guerra, NASA
- Kamla Modi, Girl Scouts of the USA

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.



**WIA in 2013!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

### **Congressional Breakfast with Congresswoman Donna Edwards**

**Date:**

February 8, 2013

**Additional details coming soon!**

### **WIA National Expansion**

In 2011, Women In Aerospace, with the support of representatives from Southern California, Utah and Central Florida, set forth a National Expansion Pilot program to explore the potential of establishing chapters in other locations throughout the U.S. With the support of WIA leaders in each of these locations, WIA embarked on a quest to identify the steps necessary to establish chapters with the ultimate goal of learning what would be necessary to expand our footprint and how the chapters would contribute to the growth of WIA as a professional organization.

Over the course of eighteen months, WIA worked closely with the pilot chapters in the planning of key events in each of their locations. These events included networking gatherings in Central Florida and Utah with key speakers as well as a formal panel session with key participation from industry and government that included Lt Gen Ellen Pawlikowski, Dr. Wanda Austin, Gwynne Shotwell, and Betty Sapp in Southern California. These events were well attended and provided a forum for networking in each of the



Diane Sosa, Vice Chair of the  
WIA Board of Directors

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#### **Non-Profit Members**

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Department of Aerospace  
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Counsel to WIA  
Berliner Corcoran & Rowe

#### **Upcoming Events**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**February 8, 2013**  
*Congressional Breakfast  
with Congresswoman  
Donna Edwards*

**June 14, 2013**  
*WIA's 4th Annual  
Conference*  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Key Bridge Marriott  
Arlington, VA

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

locations.

As the pilot chapter planning process evolved, WIA and the pilot chapter leaders worked diligently through the expected challenges and details of local membership set up as well as securing corporate sponsorship for local events. During this period of time, additional challenges were uncovered that were not initially foreseen such as financial accounting, liability, communication, and risk of over taxing our corporate contributors. As a result of the pilot program's challenges over this period of time, in May 2012 the Board unanimously voted to suspend the pilot chapter program and set up a task force to closely assess these findings. The goal of the task force was to establish the roadmap on how to expand our WIA national presence such that the regional expectations and the regulations of WIA are balanced. The task force was led by Dianne Sosa, WIA 2012 Board Vice Chair, and included- Stephanie Schierholz, 2012 President; Renee Leduc Clarke, 2013 President Elect; Samantha Segall Anderson, Past President; Sandy Coleman, Past Board Chair; and the following 2012 Board Members - Susan Chodakewitz, Rachel Guill, Mina Samii, Giovanna Cinelli, and Robert Burke.

Upon close consideration of the pilot program outcome, the task force made the recommendation this Fall to re-scope the goals and objectives of the National Expansion program. In light of the additional challenges that require further examination, WIA will put in place a new National Expansion Board Chair in 2013. This new chair position was approved by the Board of Directors in October. The Chair of National Expansion will work with the Chair of Programs in planning one major WIA event to be held in a location outside of the Washington D.C. area starting in 2013. The objective of this event is to begin to systematically expand WIA's representation in key locations throughout the United States that support Aerospace and Aviation.

The ultimate goal is for this approach to evolve into increased membership outside of the Washington D.C. area while at the same time allowing WIA to structure an expansion plan that proactively addresses those challenges discovered during our successful pilot program.

## **WIA Foundation Update**

### **2013 Scholarship Application Deadline Approaching**

WIA Foundation will be giving two awards of \$2,000 each to rising seniors in college, to be applied to the 2013-2014 academic year.

Applications are due by February 1, 2013. We encourage you to remind any applicants of this approaching deadline.

As a reminder, the eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Must be studying engineering, science or math
- Minimum college grade point average (GPA) of not less than the equivalent of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Must have completed at least two and a half academic years of full-time college work at the time of application, and must be currently enrolled at an accredited college or university in the United States or its territories, working towards a bachelors degree, and plan to continue to be enrolled in the subsequent academic year
- Interested in pursuing a career in the aerospace field
- Entering senior year in the 2013-2014 academic year
- Must be female and of U.S. citizenship or nationality

Click [here](#) to obtain an application. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions.

WIA gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Digital Avionics Technical Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in making it possible to award a second scholarship in 2013. These scholarships are made possible by our sponsors and generous donors, like you.

For many of us, the season of giving includes year-end, tax-deductible contributions to organizations whose goals we share. We hope you will consider making a donation to the WIA Foundation this year.

All donations postmarked by December 31st will be eligible for a charitable deduction from your 2012 taxes.

To make a year-end donation to support the future of women in aerospace, please make

your check payable to the Women in Aerospace Foundation and mail to:

The Women in Aerospace Foundation  
204 E Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Or call us at 202-547-0229 to use your credit card.