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WIA Connections

December, 2009

The Year in Review

At the beginning of 2009, the WIA Board and Officers created three strategic objectives to guide our organization's strategic growth and activities over the next two years. We are happy to report that the execution and continued evolution of those strategies have allowed us to achieve many goals this year, allowing construction of a solid foundation for continued growth of WIA in the years to come. 2009 was a fantastic year for WIA across the breadth of the entire organization, and the following is a testament to the work and effort of every single WIA member - without you, none of this would have been possible!

Goal 1: Increased Membership Engagement

This year marked another year of continued growth in WIA's membership rolls, as we added more than 140 individual members, ending the year with more than 640. We also increased our corporate membership over 100%, moving from 20 corporate members in 2008, to 42 in 2009. Demonstrating WIA's value to the aerospace community, more than 1,000 individuals took part in WIA's 15 programs throughout 2009.

Goal 2: Increased Visibility

In an effort to increase the organization's exposure throughout the aerospace industry as a valued forum for career professionals, WIA hosted more than ten membership and networking events in 2009. Events ranged from WIA Night at a Washington Capitals game, to panel discussions and luncheons featuring top figures from the aerospace community - including NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, and General Lester Lyles among others. We also hosted five networking events in conjunction with prominent aerospace conferences around the world, thus expanding WIA's reach outside the Beltway. Events like these help grow the organization, gaining us members and increasing our prominence in the aerospace community.



NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr. addresses attendees at a luncheon sponsored by WIA and AIAA. Download a link to Administrator Bolden's remarks at <http://www.womeninaerospace.org/news.html>

Photo courtesy of Bill Ingalls/NASA

We are proud to report that during 2009 WIA took the first steps to develop a "Global Network" of women in aerospace with interested parties around the world. This initiative began with the establishment of WIA Europe, registered in June 2009, in The Netherlands. The joint efforts of Claudia Kessler and Simonetta di Pippo and their team made WIA Europe's creation possible, and we thank them for their leadership, initiative, and continuing stewardship of WIA Europe. In 2010 and beyond we are endeavoring to bring Asia and South America into the WIA fold.

To prove our educational commitment to the community, we established the Women in Aerospace Foundation, Inc. Organized in the District of Columbia, this separate non-profit 501(c)3 corporation will help increase public awareness of the importance and benefits of innovation to the aerospace field; increase public awareness of the sciences; and inspire female students to seek careers in the area of technology and aerospace. The Foundation will award scholarships to women studying aerospace, engineering, math and science in undergraduate programs. The first scholarship presentations will take place in October 2010, at the 25th Annual Women in Aerospace Awards Ceremony and Banquet. We thank the WIA board members and officers for their personal financial contributions to jump start the scholarship fund. We welcome you to join us on this important journey.

WIA remains focused on workforce issues by developing our organization's job bank and by increasing our emphasis on mentoring and networking activities. WIA hosted four professional development events during 2009, each geared toward helping our members develop the skills necessary to obtain their career entry and/or advancement goals: Coaching Leadership Champions of Change, Mentoring in the Millennia Generations, and Keys to Leadership Success, along with a "speed mentoring" event. We also concluded our first year of the "Reach for the Stars" mentoring program. All activities were well received by the membership, and demonstrated WIA's commitment to strengthening networks within the aerospace community. Most of these events were accessible by telecon or webinar, enabling broader participation by members around the world.

In an effort to expand WIA's outreach, we forged partnerships with Space News and the International Space University (including a joint award to the Students for Exploration and Development of Space, or SEDS) to promote and enhance the many programs and activities we offer. We also created a special section of the WIA website that calls attention to the many accomplishments of women throughout the history of aerospace - documenting many female visionaries, leaders and engineers who have played key roles in creating so much of what the aerospace community takes for granted today.



Dr. Linda Billings receives the 2009 WIA Lifetime Achievement Award for more than 25 years of excellence in communicating with the public about the nation's space program. The award was presented by NASA Deputy Director (and former WIA president) Lori Garver.

Finally, in October 2009, we gathered together to celebrate the achievements of seven outstanding women at the 24th Women in Aerospace Awards Ceremony and Banquet. Held annually, the Ceremony furthers WIA's mission of expanding opportunities for leadership and increased visibility in the aerospace community, and honors outstanding representatives of those qualities.

This year, we were pleased to honor: Eleanor Aldrich, Linda Billings, Lynn Cline, Rebecca Emerle, Valerie Neal, Beverly Seay, and Melinda Ann Burkhart Tate at an evening full of friends, family, memories and inspiration.

Goal 3: Formulated Best Practices for Future Growth

As WIA matures and grows, we recognize the importance of keeping the organization aligned with best practices, which position us for financial and operational success. To achieve that success, we created a leadership team, composed of the WIA board chair and vice chair, the president, the president-elect and the executive director to facilitate close communication among members of the board, officers, and executive staff and to lead the process of meeting our strategic directives as WIA moves forward.

Additionally, to ensure that WIA has good management tools in place, we reviewed and updated the WIA Bylaws and revised WIA's organizational policies and operational procedures. This sets the stage for a stronger organization that more readily positions us to achieve all of our goals and successfully meet the challenges and opportunities that the future will undoubtedly bring to us.

Acknowledgements

As we complete our leadership terms, we would like to thank the many organizations, sponsors, and volunteers who make WIA's programs possible. Because of your support, WIA is thriving, growing beyond our imagination, and carrying on our traditions of the last 24 years. We especially thank our board of directors, our officers, and the executive staff for their guidance, support and friendship during our tenures.

It has been our honor to serve you, and we look forward to continuing helping WIA maintain its prominent position in the constellation of aerospace organizations. We wish our successors, Cindy Malawy and Daryle Lademan, an equally satisfying and successful year.

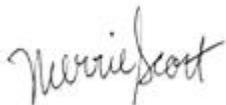
As WIA begins its 25th year, we are confident that the steps we have taken in 2009 will lead it to a bright and enduring future. We must continue to work together and dedicate ourselves to increasing public awareness of the aerospace community and all we do to make modern life familiar and comforting; we must continue to fight to overcome barriers which hold our community back from achieving its full potential; and we must continue to work hard to foster the desire in young women around our nation and the world, to undertake the study of math, science, technology, and engineering to ensure that when WIA reaches its 100th year we have a vibrant and outstanding membership! Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, for WIA and for our community.

We send our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and for a happy and prosperous New Year!

All the best,



Debra Facktor Lepore, WIA Chair of the Board



Merrie Scott, WIA President

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* A special welcome to our new corporate members:





WIA is proud to team up with the Southeast Division Champion Washington Capitals to bring you a great night of networking, food and great hockey!

Friday, January 29, 2010

6:00 p.m. reception

7:00 p.m. game time

Your ticket includes Includes mezzanine seats and a pre-game reception with an all-you-can-eat buffet with unlimited beer, wine & soda

Only 100 tickets available -- Don't miss out!

Rock the Red
as the Washington Capitals take on the Florida Panthers!

Tickets:

\$ 95/person for WIA members, government/non-profit employees

\$115/person for non-members.

See www.womeninaerospace.com/events for more information and to register for the game!

For sponsorship information, call 202-547-0229

Special thanks to our event sponsors:

