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ADVANCE-Nebraska E-News

Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

Special Interest Articles:

- UNL STEM Writing Retreat – Save the Date!
- Big Ten STEM Writing Retreat
- Colleges are urged to cooperate to bring more women and minorities into Science

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UNL STEM Writing Retreat: May 14 – 18th

Send in your application now!

Find the time and the space at ADVANCE-Nebraska's 4th annual week-long Writing Retreat, May 14 – 18th.

This year the retreat will be held on East Campus at the Law College, with wireless access,

unstructured writing time, breakfasts, lunches, and snacks.

Office of Research and Economic Development will host a workshop to help demystify the art of writing effective proposals, and professional writing coaches will be on-hand this year for workshops and one-on-one help. The

rest of the week is writing time, away from the distractions of your office. Past participants have finished up to three papers apiece!

Find applications at ADVANCE-Nebraska and send to advance2@unl.edu.

Big Ten STEM Writing Retreat - Deadline Today!

The deadline is today for the Big Ten STEM Writing Retreat on City Campus from June 17 – 22! This writing retreat will focus on bringing collaborators from the Big Ten (you, for example!) together to provide large blocks of unstructured writing time, professional writing coaches, peer feedback and social

networking opportunities, and opportunities to write with a collaborator on campus. Travel, food, room and board are being funded by a grant from the Elsevier Foundation. Kids are invited to attend as well. A Special themed day camp for school and pre-school age kids will be provided at the Lincoln's

Children's Museum. Deadline to apply is March 31 with a \$200 registration fee. As an additional bonus, all UNL faculty who attend the May writing retreat will have the \$200 registration fee waived. So [Apply Now!](#)

Colleges are urged to Cooperate to bring more women and minorities into Science

Chronicle of Higher Education, February 29, 2012

EducationCounsel and the American Association for the Advancement of Science recently offered a plan for producing more science and engineering graduates by bringing research universities into student-centered alliances with two-year, liberal arts, and minority-serving

institutions.

The plan calls on colleges from all sectors to work harder at making sure that students at institutions with few or no science offerings have many more options for getting science and engineering training at nearby campuses.

EducationCounsel's Arthur L. Coleman says

the plan reflects a realization that existing efforts to improve the nation's output of science and engineering graduates have focused too narrowly on helping the students, not paying sufficient attention to the institutional structures surrounding them. [Read full article.](#)



Issues for Women in STEM Brown Bag Lunches

There will be a series of brown bag lunches this semester on the UNL campus for faculty wishing to discuss issues for women in STEM. Bring your lunch and get to know other women in STEM on campus. All faculty are invited to attend. Meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, April 18th, Noon- 1:00pm, A211 Animal Science Building, East Campus
 Tuesday, May 8th, Noon-1:00pm, Beadle Center room N263

AWIS and SWE Announce Women in STEM (WiSTEM) Task Force

In conjunction with the [Society of Women Engineers \(SWE\)](#) Capitol Hill Day last week, AWIS and SWE announced the beginning of a new task force within the [National Council of Women's Organizations \(NCWO\)](#): WiSTEM, or Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Although there are several coalitions and affiliate groups working toward the inclusion of women and minorities in STEM fields, the majority of efforts are focused on K-12 education, early pipeline issues and recruitment. While we recognize the importance of these initiatives, AWIS and SWE also recognize the barriers women face to promotion and career satisfaction once they enter STEM fields and achieve an early career or mid-level position.

All too often, women who were encouraged to enter a career in science or engineering arrive in their first or second job and realize the workplace is not what they had imagined. It is still largely male-dominated, especially at the highest ranks such as department chairs, deans, provosts, industry managers and CEOs, and even tenured faculty in the majority of STEM fields. According to a [recent study](#) AWIS conducted on work-life integration, many scientists – both male and female – are unhappy with their working conditions, but the burden of balancing work and family life is most difficult for women.

The WiSTEM Task Force of NCWO will be the first coalition of groups whose main objective is the support, retention and advancement of women in STEM fields. As co-chairs of the task force and leading advocacy groups in this space, AWIS and SWE invite any organization that fits this description to join us in raising awareness about the unique barriers for women in STEM.

Is this What a Scientist looks like?

Have you ever asked a seventh grader to draw a picture of a scientist? A while back Fermilab did just this, before and after a tour of the lab space. Before the students met some real life scientist they mostly drew white men in lab coats, some bald, some with Einsteinian hair.

And do you know how many American adults can count a scientist among their close friends? Less than 20 percent. Help challenge the stereotype by visiting <http://lookslikescience.tumblr.com> and consider uploading a picture of yourself or your students. Scientists, engineers, and mathematicians –we come in all shapes and sizes – inspire a kid today by showing what real scientists look like!

Congratulations Erin!

Congratulations to Erin Blankenship in Statistics on being awarded a 2012 Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

Advance.unl.edu

