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ADVANCE-Nebraska E-News

Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

Special Interest Articles:

- Radioactive Waste Expert Nominated to be Top U.S. Nuclear Regulator
- Women Scientists more Adept than Men in Showing Public Relevance of their Research
- Why Getting Women in to STEM Matters

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Radioactive Waste Expert Nominated to be Top U.S. Nuclear Regulator

Science Insider, May 24, 2012 President Barack Obama nominated a woman geologist and nuclear waste expert with strong ties to academia to be the next head of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The choice of Allison Macfarlane, a professor at

George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia, is drawing positive reviews from key members of Congress and both supporters and critics of nuclear power. If confirmed by the Senate, Macfarlane would replace Gregory Jaczko, a physicist and former aide

to Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), the Senate's Majority Leader. Jaczko announced on 21 May that [he would step down following controversy](#) over his management style and policy positions. He had been a controversial figure since joining the commission in 2005. [Read Full Article.](#)

Showing the Public Relevance of Your Research

WIA Report, May 29, 2012 As part of the grant process, government agencies ask scientists to demonstrate that their research has public relevance. Researchers at Rice University in Houston and Southern Methodist University in Dallas have found that women are

more adept at this process than men. The study found that 58 percent of scientific researchers perform outreach efforts, defined as any activity in which scientists translate their research or broader scientific concepts to those outside of the academy. And of this group that

makes an effort to reach out to the general public, 72 percent are women. [Read full article.](#)

We can all improve our science writing! Stay tuned for ADVANCE-Nebraska's workshop on this topic, coming next academic year.

Why Getting Women in to STEM Matters

Oh, the hours folks have dedicated to figuring out why [women aren't represented in science, technology, engineering and math](#) — otherwise known as the "STEM" careers. There's [ample data](#) to show women are just as good as men in the STEM career track. And some [reports](#) show that implicit (unconscious) bias keeps even elementary school-

age girls from advancing in math and science, putting the kink in the pipeline at the very earliest stage.

But here's a question: Exactly why is it so crucial to get women into math and science in the first place? Gender diversity not good enough for you? You need practical reasons for

this big STEM push? For the non-believers, a new report from the White House Council on Women and Girls provides some answers — and suggests that non-participation in STEM may be costlier than ever for women. [Read full article.](#)





It's Time to Diversify Diversity

BusinessWeek, [Hal Gregersen](#) on April 24, 2012

Diversity matters—in teams and companies. In fact, [recent research at McKinsey](#) mirrors other studies of top management diversity around the world. McKinsey found that U.K., French, German, and U.S. companies ranking in the top quartile of executive-board diversity, as measured by gender and international differences, delivered returns on equity at least 50 percent higher and earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) margins 14 percent higher than those in the bottom quartile. Not bad results, but they could be even better. [Read full article.](#)

Request for Public Comment: Design Principles for Federal STEM Education Investments

These design principles will inform the federal strategic plan for STEM education investments that impact NSF and other federal STEM education programs.

Comments will be received through **June 15, 2012**, 11:59PM EST. All comments should be submitted electronically using the commenting function on the www.Regulations.gov website. The link:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NSF-2012-OTR-0002-0001>

Heard on the street: one potential outcome of this exercise is that all STEM education grants may be removed from NSF and other federal agencies and housed in the Department of Education.

On-Ramps into Academia

The third "On-Ramps into Academia" workshop will held October 14-16 2012. The workshop speakers will primarily be successful women faculty members who began their post-Ph.D. careers in industry, research labs, consulting, or national labs. The lead speaker will be President Maria Klawe of Harvey Mudd College. Before entering academia, she was at IBM. She was recently profiled in the New York Times and is a strong advocate for women in STEM:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/03/science/giving-women-the-access-code.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=klawe&st=cse

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until August 31, 2012 (or until we reach 30 participants). Registration is free and travel funding for airfare and hotel is available. General information about the workshop can be found here:

<http://www.engr.washington.edu/onramp>

NSF Rotator Positions

STEM Women – Think about rotator positions at NSF. Please consider applying.

http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/

Thank you to Stephen DiMagno and Paul Black for forwarding articles of interest for this newsletter. Please send your articles for submission into the ADVANCE newsletter to advance2@unl.edu.

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On-Ramps
into Academia

