FIRST WIST Forum at
White Mountains Community College

Inspiring Young Women to Pursue STEM Careers
Sponsors

- White Mountains Community College
  - President Katharine Eneguess
  - John Dyer
  - Amy Ireland Bourgault
- FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)
- The New Hampshire Space Grant Consortium
  - Karen Burnett-Kurie
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Science Administration)
WMCC is fortunate to have a preponderance of strong, talented, and inspiring women working on behalf of the college from both the inside and the outside.

- President Katharine Eneguess
- A Leadership Team that is 75% female
- Tamara Allan
- Amy Ireland Bourgault
- Karen Burnett-Kurie
- Our presenters at the forum
  - Four UNH faculty/students
  - Seven North Country women

Thank you!
PURPOSE

- Inspire young women to pursue STEM careers
- Provide opportunity for young women to network with professional women in successful STEM careers
- Provide information to young women with an interest in STEM fields
  - What college to attend
  - What major to pursue
  - What career paths are open to them
  - The rewards of a STEM career
AUDIENCE

- Middle Schools Girls
  - Self-selected
  - Class groups
  - School groups

- High School Girls
  - Self-selected
PROMOTION

- Emails to area middle and high school STEM teachers
  - Existing Running Start connections
    - teachers
    - guidance office
    - school websites
- Posters
- Brochures
- Press release
AGENDA

• 9:00 A.M. Arrival and Check-In
• 9:15 A.M. Welcome
• 9:20 A.M. WIST facebook and Pathevo resources PSNH/NASA scholarships
• 9:30 A.M. Keynote Speaker (wildlife biologist, NH Fish and Game)
• 10:15 A.M. Panel Discussion I
• 11:15 A.M. Panel Discussion II
• 12:15 P.M. Lunch
• 1:00 P.M. Keynote Speaker (education coordinator, McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center)
• 1:45 P.M. Wrap-up
PANEL DISCUSSION

- Two breakout sessions with four panels per session

- The panelists on Panel A represented a diverse group of science and technology interests.
  - Three panelists

- Panelists on Panels, B, C, D represented more specific science and technology interests.
  - Two or three panelists
Panel A: Engineering, environmental science education, information technology, marine science, natural resource management

Panel B: Environmental science, natural resource management, science writing

Panel C: Ecosystem management, education, technology, GIS/remote sensing

Panel D: Climate science, environmental education
PANEL ATTENDANCE

• Session 1
  ○ Half of the students were assigned to Panel A
  ○ The other half chose to attend Panel B, C, or D

• Session 2
  ○ Second half attended Panel A
  ○ First half chose to attend Panel B, C, or D
WHO WERE THE PANELISTS

- **Professional women with successful careers in STEM fields**
  - Environmental science, marine science, natural resource management, education
  - IT managers, specialty wire and cable manufacturer, paper mill, NH SAU
  - Chemical and materials engineer
  - Science writer
  - Forester, educator
  - Wildlife biologist
  - Remote sensing/GIS specialist
  - Environmental project engineer, civil and environmental engineering company
  - Educational activities development

- **College students studying for STEM careers**
  - PhD candidate, Natural Resources and Earth Systems Science Program, UNH
  - Research meteorology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Each panelist addressed the audience about:

- Her current STEM career
  - What she does
  - What excites her about it
- Her interests in high school and college
- What she pursued in college
- The academic and professional path that led her to her current career
- Obstacles she met along the way and how she confronted them

Q & A session
## EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotion</td>
<td>$226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Printing posters, flyers, invitations to event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirts (224)</td>
<td>$2672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$2038</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Salads, desserts, and paper products (WMCC cafeteria)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sandwiches (catered)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinator Expenses</td>
<td>$1256</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Preparation and presentation of forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Travel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Transportation (students)</td>
<td>$353</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6546</strong></td>
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## ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of schools</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of teachers</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Number of guidance counselors</td>
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MIDDLE SCHOOL FEEDBACK

- Faculty and staff
  - More interactive, visuals would be helpful (i.e. videos, powerpoints, music, action)
  - Shorter sessions
  - Very appreciative of this presentation, but not appropriate for middle schoolers.
  - Better if presenters explained their jobs more and discussed course work less.
  - Supplementary presentations with photos and work-related artifacts would be more engaging.
MIDDLE SCHOOL FEEDBACK

- Students
  - More movement besides sitting. But really good job.
  - Great speakers overall and I really had fun but some more activity.
  - Food in the beginning of speech so everyone is satisfied.
  - I was REALLY HUNGRY!!!
  - I learned a lot today.
  - I was REALLY HUNGRY!!
  - Space chemistry with experiments!
  - Health Science Technologies, including forensic science
  - Mechanical Engineering
Faculty

- Maybe a chance to speak to instructors at WMCC such as GIS Systems, CAD, Waste/Water Treatment & show the girls what technology is available.

- Very good opportunity

- If there was a way to incorporate more demonstration or hands-on, that’d make it even better.
HIGH SCHOOL FEEDBACK

• Students
  ○ I still don’t know exactly what I want to go in, but this has opened my eyes to the fields of science and technology.
  ○ I enjoyed today and wish we had more opportunities like this!
  ○ There was a lot about staying North & Rural! I would have liked to have seen more urban & nationwide.
  ○ I think this was pretty enjoyable, but I think we stayed still for too long and should have moved move.
  ○ More Medical Topics (Health Science Field)
  ○ More on engineering, electrical, mechanical, civil & architectural.
  ○ Perhaps more biology related topics
  ○ More engineers. Women from the North Country who now work in cities.
Women In Science and Technology
Opportunities for North Country Girls