

# FIRST WIST Forum at White Mountains Community College



**Inspiring Young Women to Pursue STEM Careers**





- **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)**



National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration

# WOMEN WORKING FOR WOMEN



- **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 CONFIGURATION



- **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

# HOW THE PANELS WORKED



- **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



● <b>Promotion</b>	<b>\$226</b>
○ Printing posters, flyers, invitations to event	
● <b>T-shirts (224)</b>	<b>\$2672</b>
● <b>Food</b>	<b>\$2038</b>
○ Salads, desserts, and paper products (WMCC cafeteria)	
○ Sandwiches (catered)	
● <b>Coordinator Expenses</b>	<b>\$1256</b>
○ Preparation and presentation of forum	
○ Travel	
● <b>Bus Transportation (students)</b>	<b>\$353</b>

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**Total: \$6546**

# ATTENDANCE NUMBERS



	<b>High Schools</b>	<b>Middle Schools</b>
Number of schools	9	3
Number of students	107	56
Number of teachers	10	4
Number of guidance counselors	1	1

# 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



# HIGH SCHOOL FEEDBACK



- **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

