

# AWIS

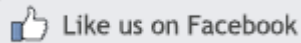
ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

Issue II May 2016



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Dear Rachel,

Today is the **last day to vote** for the AWIS FY17 slate of candidates for election to the National Governing Board. Don't miss your opportunity to help us fill the office of three Councilor positions.

The Governance Committee is pleased to have candidates who bring their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to AWIS. We are grateful to those who, via nomination or self-nomination, were willing to volunteer to serve AWIS and its members.

Your vote is important to the success of AWIS. As we continue to advocate for positive system transformation, support and develop leaders in

## Member Profile

**Rachel Britt**  
**Member Type:**  
**Professional**  
**Member Expiration:**  
**6/4/2016 0:00**

## Featured Jobs

### President and CEO

Forsyth Institute  
Cambridge, MA

STEM, and build our organizational capacity, it is ever more important to have diverse voices at the table contributing to the organization's growing impact.

[View candidate information here.](#)

**All ballots must be received by 11:59 EDT May 31, 2016.**

Best wishes,



Janet Bandows Koster

### **National Program**

#### **Leader**

USDA/ARS  
Beltsville, MD

#### **Biomedical Anthropologist/ Demographer**

Department of  
Anthropology  
UC Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA

[\*\*Click here to visit  
the AWIS Career  
Center!\*\*](#)

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## **Careers**

Contributed by Michelle Gomes

### **5 Ways a Leader Can Be a Strong Team Member**

Often times the best leaders are invited to work on projects or teams where someone else is running the show. Learning to hold back your leadership tendencies by adopting a different mindset can help you become a strong team member. Here are five ways to help you navigate your new role when someone else is in charge.

[Don't lead the way](#)

### **Choosing a Mentor for a Career Transition**

Career transitions involve an element of risk and the unknown, which is often scary even for the most confident professionals. A good mentor can help you navigate this process by keeping you on track and providing sound advice. Anyone in your industry could be a mentor, from a trusted family friend to a paid a career coach. Here are three things to consider while choosing your mentor.

[Transition state](#)

### **Positive Traits That Could Hurt Your Career**

In an ideal world, your work would speak for itself, and you would never have to worry about self-promotion. Your generosity and humility are great attributes; however, being the "humble one" could be hurting your career. The important thing is to balance humility with self-promotion. Here are solutions to speak up and claim your praise while still being the humble one.

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## **AWIS Member Spotlight**



**Susan Durham, PhD**

Susan is the director for Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate (AS&T) at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Before that, she served as the deputy director for AS&T for nearly four years and worked with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for a decade as its directorate of science and technology for the Intelligence Technology Innovation Center.

Susan is also a writer under the pen name Kennedy Quinn and has recently had her first novel published. She has been an AWIS member since 2015

[Speak up!](#)

[Learn more about Susan here.](#)

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## Education

Contributed by Rachel Britt

### STEM Education Giving a Hand Up

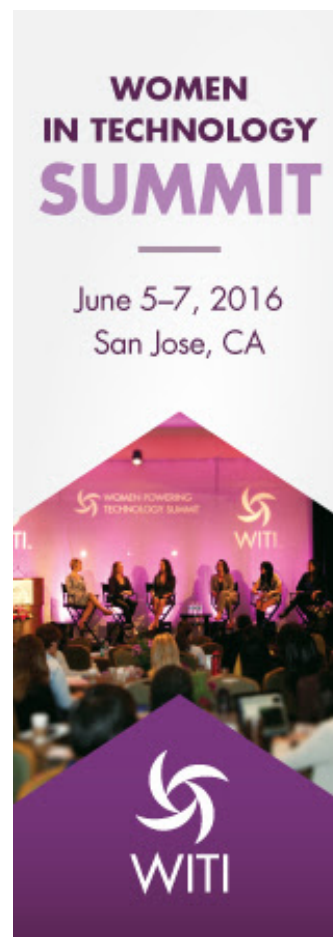
Women and members of racial/ethnic minority groups continue to be underrepresented in STEM fields. A lack of diverse viewpoints threatens innovation, but it also has moral and economic implications. The author of this op-ed posits that early and sustained engagement of underrepresented groups with STEM education is key to closing the gap.

[Moving on up?](#)

### Minecraft Education Edition, Now Available for Beta Testing

In another example of tech in the classroom, Microsoft recently made its education edition of the popular video game Minecraft available for beta testing by educators. Minecraft as an educational aid has been around since 2011, but Microsoft is looking to expand its reach. Beta testing will be conducted by teachers and administrators throughout the summer. The game can be used in lesson plans on topics ranging from the Great Pyramids to electrical circuits.

[8-bit learning](#)



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## Science and Technology

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

### Could Breast Cancer Be Reduced with Healthy Habits?

A new prediction model is suggesting that almost a third of breast cancer cases in white women could be prevented or delayed by behavioral factors such as maintaining a healthy body weight, not using hormone therapy, drinking little, and not smoking. That is pretty substantial, considering an American woman's chances are of getting breast cancer are 1-in-8. The new research, led by scientists at Johns Hopkins University, shows how modifiable factors can mitigate genetic and family history.

Better lifestyle choices

## Homeless Teen Girls Learning To Be Tech-Savvy

Thanks to a program by the Girls Who Code organization, homeless teen girls at the Dorchester Center in Massachusetts are learning to code. According to Center Director Deborah Hughes, the club is helping the teens prepare for the future while teaching them a cool, new skill. Hughes also said the teens demonstrated more confidence, increased self-esteem, and improved behavior in school after a few months in the program.

Debugging homelessness

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## Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Lauren M. Dembeck

### How Does Your Community Affect Your Work-Life Balance?

A misalignment of values is one of the factors that contributes the most to a feeling of imbalance. What are the core values of your community? For example, does your city maintain forests and trails for those who enjoy the outdoors? Author Jae Ellard asks readers to think about how their community supports the lifestyle they desire and provides specific examples of how some cities provide that support.

Community values



### Vanderbilt Study Shows Sharing Personal Information May Help Women Get Hired

The general advice given to most women re-entering the workforce after taking time off is not to mention personal issues or family matters. Instead, recruiters and websites suggest disguising personal matters in "creative ways." The new study showed that a woman increased her chances of getting hired by 30 - 40 % if she offered personal information to explain a work history gap compared to a woman who did not provide additional information. The authors suggest that this result may be due to ambiguity aversion.

Better to know

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**Health**



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Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

## **Telemedicine: I Don't Need to Show Up In Person?**

Apart from the medical expenses, a visit to the doctor costs a lot of time, both in travel and waiting. Telemedicine promises to ease time costs, especially in rural areas. While some diagnoses require a face-to-face visit with a doctor, in many instances telemedicine provides accurate and adequate care.

Telemedicine

## **Dreaded Superbug Found in the U.S.**

Researchers recently identified a person in the United States carrying bacteria resistant to colistin, an antibiotic of last resort. The overuse of antibiotics in livestock and humans has led to antibiotic resistance. This could become an even more serious health issue, if routine infections like pneumonia no longer responded to treatment.

The invincible

## **Fitness Tracking and Large-Scale Health Data**

America's couch-potato lifestyle may be worse than expected. Using data from smartphones and wearables, researchers from Stanford are mapping second-by-second details of how we move. Eventually, they hope to answer burning questions about fitness. Do we need to exercise every day, or can we pack it in over a weekend? Are sustained workouts better than those that are brief, but high in intensity?

Inconvenient truth

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## **Opportunities**

### **Win a Free Registration to the NSTA/NGSS Summer Institute**

Enter to win free registration for a National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA)/Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Summer Institute. Two locations and two dates are available, and they're giving away two free registrations to each:

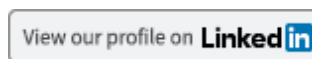
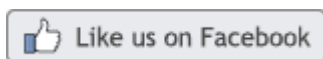
- Reno, NV  
University of Nevada  
July 15, 2016

- Detroit, MI  
Michigan Science Center  
August 8, 2016

These summer institutes are delivered by nationally known experts and use classroom-tested strategies and resources to help science educators and leaders implement the NGSS. The NGSS is bringing about transformative changes in teaching and learning at every level. To make this important transition, it is vital that K-12 teachers of science—including elementary teachers—and school and district leaders have opportunities to participate in professional learning to understand the changes or shifts in the NGSS and to learn how to apply them in the classroom. Strategies are needed for adjusting teaching approaches, making important cross-curricular connections, assessing curriculum, and assessing student learning.

**Entries are accepted until June 10, 2016.**

**[Click here to enter.](#)**



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