

LEAN IN together with WiSTEE Connect

WiSTEE Connect launched the first regional event “LEAN IN together with WiSTEE Connect” at Rochester Institute of Technology on April 28th. A lively blend of 61 women and 6 men actively participated in the opening presentation, the round table discussions and networking activities. WiSTEE networks/committee include representatives from Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, Nazareth College, Monroe Community College, Roberts Wesleyan College, Xerox Corporation, Optimax Systems Inc., Care Stream Health, Lifetime Health, IPLogic... WiSTEE was on Rochester TV news (see this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRsAXwVLDi8>) and here are the two photos from the regional events.



The 67 attendees 54 academic and business units across the region demonstrates WiSTEE Connect’s three distinctively added values: cross disciplinary connectivity and mentorship, entrepreneurship, and regional link for STEM and entrepreneurship women.

WiSTEE Connect operates through horizontal connections with local institutions and organizations, including the University of Rochester, RIT, Nazareth College, Monroe Community College, Xerox, and Corning, Optimax Systems Inc. and at a vertical level through collaboration with professional societies. The first formal partnership with the Optical Society through the Minority and Women in OSA (MWOSA) was established in 2013.



WiSTEE Connect

Vision: Promote women leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship (STEE), bridge the gap between Science and Business, and provide a forum to learn, connect and lead.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” - Hellen Keller

Dr. Qiao presented the vision, mission and progress of WiSTEE Connect before leading the connection on the topic “lean In together with WiSTEE Connect”.

During the round table discussion, a dozen of attendees shared their perspectives, insights, struggles and successes for as a woman in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship. These messages were very much resonant with rest of the audience.



Dr. Stefi Baum, Director of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science at Rochester Institute of Technology



Kate Medicus, optical engineer at Optimax Systems and technology



Dr. Toni Whited, Professor of Finance at Simon Business School, University of Rochester



Dr. Gunhilde Buchsbaum, Urogynecologist at the Medical Center, University of Rochester



Dr. Carol Richardson, President of the Society of Women Engineers, Rochester Institute of Technology



Michele Finn, Professor in the Biology Department at Monroe County College



Dr. Vivian Lewis, Professor of the Medical Center, University of Rochester



Santosh Kurinec, Professor of Microelectronics Department, Rochester Institute of Technology



Kathleen Schubach, sales manager at IPLogic



Dr. Jannick Rolland, Professor of Optics at the University of Rochester,



Dr. Patricia Donaldson, Product Manager from Xerox



Kurt Prister, from Kodak

WiSTEE members enjoyed active interactions among themselves during the networking and presentation sessions. The after event survey indicated that they all valued the connections and potential collaborations they have built





WiSTEE Connect website gained over 14,000 hits with 495 unique visitors in April. OSA Foundation was acknowledged as a key sponsor of the event during the opening presentation:

Sponsors for this event:



WiSTEE Boni Travel Grant: Bob and Diane Boni



Eugene Kowaluk Photography

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Apr 2014	448	583	2,809	12,109	842 MB

Earlier sponsors: University of Rochester, Diversity Office and Susan B. Anthony Center for Women Leadership