

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is the largest multi-disciplinary organization for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

facts about:

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Founded 1971

Mission

AWIS champions the interests of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics across all disciplines and employment sectors. Working for positive system transformation, AWIS strives to ensure that all women in these fields can achieve their full potential.

What We Do

AWIS advocates to ensure that women in STEM are:

- ▶ **Compensated fairly and without discrimination;**
- ▶ **Advanced equitably and without bias;**
- ▶ **Respected and recognized for their scientific achievements;**
- ▶ **Exposed to successful role models in leadership positions;** and
- ▶ **Able to achieve optimum work life integration.**

Our National Network

AWIS reaches more than 15,000 professionals in STEM with members and chapters nationwide. Membership is open to any man or women who supports the vision and mission of AWIS.

Publications

- ▶ The award-winning **AWIS Magazine**, issued quarterly, is our flagship publication. It is written by AWIS members and focuses on issues relevant to women in science. Articles cover research, workplace trends, career advancement, our work in Washington, and more.
- ▶ **Washington Wire**, our e-newsletter published twice monthly, provides a digest of "hot-topic" articles pertaining to women in the STEM fields. Topics covered include careers, education, science and technology, work-life satisfaction, health, events, and opportunities.
- ▶ **AWIS in Action!**, our monthly e-newsletter, brings attention to AWIS advocacy and public policy initiatives affecting the careers of women in STEM.



AWIS Public Policy

Women in STEM are often prevented from reaching their full potential — not because they are less able or less willing — but because of barriers that exist in scientific workplaces. AWIS is working hard to break down these barriers and help women succeed to their maximum potential. AWIS, the only national organization with a full-time public policy fellow at the nexus of science and gender, takes this message to Congress, the media, and employers by:

- ▶ Increasing the interaction with national legislative bodies and federal agencies;
- ▶ Developing mechanisms to increase participation and representation of AWIS members in advocacy initiatives;
- ▶ Strengthening current partnerships and developing new alliances to leverage effectiveness;
- ▶ Advocating for the retention and advancement of women in scientific leadership positions in industry, non-profit organizations, government, and academia;
- ▶ Promoting gender specific data collection by national, state, and private entities;
- ▶ Advocating for STEM institutions and corporations to develop policies that increase gender representation on boards, conference programs, and committees; and
- ▶ Developing and releasing public policy statements on subjects including Title IX, funding for programs targeted toward increasing women and minority representation in science, and the need for family friendly policies.

AWIS Fact Sheets

AWIS produces fact sheets covering a variety of issues affecting women in STEM.

- ▶ **Underrecognition of Women in STEM: AWARDS**
- ▶ **National Academy of Sciences Membership by Gender**
- ▶ **Underrepresented Groups in STEM**
- ▶ **Unconscious Bias**
- ▶ **Jobs and Innovation in STEM**
- ▶ **Technology Transfer**
- ▶ **Best Practices in Industry**
- ▶ **Work-Life Satisfaction**
- ▶ **Developing Strong Mentoring Relationships**

AWIS Position Statements

AWIS has issued several public policy position statements, and encourages those passionate about STEM-related public policy to communicate with their government leaders.

- ▶ **Family-Friendly Policies in the Scientific Workplace**
- ▶ **Underrepresented Minorities in the Scientific Workplace**
- ▶ **Applying Title IX to STEM Disciplines**

Milestones in AWIS History

1971	▶ AWIS was founded.
1972	▶ AWIS advocates for the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments which bans sex discrimination in schools.
1974	▶ AWIS wins case against NIH for low representation of women on review panels.
1978	▶ AWIS joins women's groups to ensure passage of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which bans employment discrimination against pregnant women.
1980's	▶ AWIS Newsletter becomes <i>AWIS Magazine</i> and expands in scope and content.
1992	▶ AWIS publishes <i>A Hand Up, Women Mentoring Women in Science</i> . ▶ AWIS becomes a member of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, a group that advocates for science on Capitol Hill and with the National Academy of Science.
1996	▶ AWIS becomes a founding member of The Global Alliance.
1997	▶ AWIS wins the Presidential Mentoring Award for Creating Tomorrow's Scientists: Models of Community Mentoring.
1998	▶ AWIS is instrumental in developing legislation establishing the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology (CAWMSET).

2000	▶ AWIS Publishes <i>Washington Wire</i> e-newsletter. ▶ AWIS is active in the review of Title IX and strengthening its provisions.
2003	▶ AWIS chairs Science and Environment Task Force of Women's Appointment Project.
2005	▶ AWIS president leads delegation of women scientists to China.
2007	▶ AWIS spearheads Letter of Support for the Gender Bias Elimination Act.
2008	▶ AWIS reports on the Pay Gap in the STEM Professions.
2009	▶ Nobel Prize in Medicine is awarded to Carol Greider, an AWIS member. ▶ AWIS Fellow to head NOAA. ▶ AWIS receives NSF grant to partner with disciplinary societies to Improve recognition for women and minorities in STEM.
2010	▶ AWIS collaborates with 7 partner societies to address the underrepresentation of women among recipients of scholarly awards, from STEM disciplinary societies.
2012	▶ AWIS partners with 11 more disciplinary societies for women and awards projects. ▶ AWIS holds inaugural Public Policy Symposium.