



**News Release
April 6, 2010
For Immediate Release**

For More Information:

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Martha Cyr of Worcester Polytechnic Institute Receives Distinguished Service Award

Denver, April 6, 2010 –

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes WEPAN members whose individual service has made a significant impact for the organization. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Martha Cyr is Director of K-12 Outreach and an adjunct assistant professor with the Mechanical Engineering Department at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts.

She has published education based articles as well as being an invited speaker on engineering education at national forums. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Educators, the Women in Engineering Programs & Advocates Network, the National Science Teachers Association, Pi Tau Sigma Honors Society, and Tau Beta Pi Honors Society.

Dr. Cyr received her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Hampshire in 1982, and her M.S. and Ph. D. in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1987 and 1997.

Martha provided key leadership for the initial design and implementation of the WEPAN's Webinar Series. She served two terms of service on the WEPAN Board in order to provide continuity to see the Webinar Series into fruition. She also served with Paige Smith as the liaison to the Conference Committee for numerous years

and provided extensive leadership to insure that WEPAN conferences were a success.

Martha was always willing to step up when needed and to lend a helping hand. Her contributions at board meetings were always wise and thoughtful, and she made Board meetings friendlier and more welcoming and effective through her participation. She is a role model in terms of service for others and provides service in a consistent, steady, and reliable manner.

About WEPAN

WEPAN is the nation's leading organization and catalyst for transforming culture in engineering education to promote the success of all women.

WEPAN...

- mobilizes diverse, inclusive, and collaborative stakeholders
- fosters diversity in engineering graduates, our innovators of tomorrow
- inspires a network of advocates to empower and advance the education of women pursuing engineering and related disciplines
- translates research into practice and develops national models to attract and retain women in engineering

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- Recognize excellence by honoring key individuals, programs, and corporations for accomplishments aligned with WEPAN's mission.



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Sarah Rajala of Mississippi State University Receives WEPAN Educator's Award

Throughout her career, Dr. Rajala has been devoted to encouraging young women to pursue careers in engineering and the sciences, improving the learning environment and opportunities for women students in engineering and the sciences, and increasing the number of women faculty and in the profession.

Denver, June 12, 2009 –

The WEPAN Educator Award honors an engineering educator for exceptional achievement in increasing the participation and retention of women in engineering. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

For thirty years, Dr. Sarah A. Rajala has served as a faculty member and administrator in colleges of engineering at land-grant universities, including: North Carolina State University, Purdue University, and Mississippi State University. She is currently Dean of Engineering and holds the Earnest W. & Mary Ann Deavenport, Jr. Chair at Mississippi State University.

During her tenure as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at North Carolina State University, Dr. Rajala established the Women in Engineering and K-12 Outreach Programs (serving nearly 5000 students and teachers per year) and expanded the scope and impact of the Office of Minority Programs within the College of Engineering. The success of these programs was recognized in 2000 with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. In 2003, she co-founded the Women in Science and Engineering Village, a living and learning community that brings nearly 300 first

and second-year female students and upper-class mentors together with the goal of enhancing their academic success and life skills.

At Mississippi State University, she helped to encourage the creation of a living and learning community for engineering students at Mississippi State University and she created a Diversity Advisory Board to support the College in its efforts to broaden participation in engineering. In her two years as Dean, she has secured more than \$2 million in new funding to support the K-12 outreach and diversity programs.

Throughout her career, Dr. Rajala has served as a mentor and role model for students and faculty. As the only female student in her undergraduate class in electrical engineering at Michigan Tech, first female faculty member in electrical engineering at NC State, first female faculty to have a baby in engineering at NC State, first female associate dean at NC State and dean at Mississippi State, she knows how important role models and mentors are to achieving one's full potential.

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Cathleen Barton of Intel Receives WEPAN Founders Award

Cathleen Barton received the WEPAN Founders Award for extraordinary vision and commitment to transforming engineering education for the success of all women.

Denver, April 22, 2010 –

The WEPAN Founders Award honors a WEPAN member who exemplifies the spirit of the WEPAN founders through her/his extraordinary long-term service to the organization. The award was presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Cathleen Barton manages education for Intel in the Southwest region and the National portfolio on student achievement. She is responsible for initiatives that support success in teaching and learning of 21st century skills to develop the next generation of innovators. She represents and supports Intel on Advisory Boards for Achieve, the National Science Foundation, the National Science Resource Center, the Center for Advancement of Scholarship in Engineering Education, and EPCIS-Engineering Projects in Community Service. Additionally she serves on advisory Boards for UTeach at Northern Arizona State University, the Arizona STEM Center, the Arizona Technology Council, the Arizona Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy initiative, the Arizona Stand For Children Initiative and chairs the Arizona Data Systems Taskforce for the Governor's P20 Coordinating Council.

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Rockwell Collins Receives Introduce a Girl to Engineering Award

DENVER (April 14, 2010) – WEPAN, working with the National Engineers Week Foundation, presents the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Award each year. This award recognizes a person or organization that organizes an exemplary Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (IGED) event. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Rockwell Collins was among the first to adopt Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. They have a large group of enthusiastic returning volunteers and have partnered with a variety of organizations, including universities.

This year, Rockwell Collins hosted 80 middle school girls at its corporate headquarters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for its 8th annual 'Introduce a Girl to Engineering' event. Each young woman was paired with a female engineering mentor for the day and had the opportunity to visit a variety of engineering labs including a synthetic vision lab and flight deck lab, as well as various testing facilities.

Girls and their mentors had lunch and heard speakers including Rockwell Collins' Senior Vice President of Engineering and Technology Nan Mattai. Mattai is a strong advocate for this program as well as others reaching out to girls and women. She will be the Global Chair for the 2011 Global Marathon – an event for, by and about women in engineering.

Girls leave Rockwell Collins each year feeling empowered and armed with information about opportunities for additional engineering activities and camps in the area as they move through high school.

About Rockwell Collins

Rockwell Collins (NYSE: COL) is a pioneer in the development and deployment of innovative communication and aviation electronic solutions for both commercial and government applications. Our expertise in flight deck avionics, cabin electronics, mission communications, information management and simulation and training is delivered by nearly 20,000 employees, and a global service and support network that crosses 27 countries. To find out more, please visit www.rockwellcollins.com.

About National Engineers Week

The National Engineers Week Foundation, a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies, is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science. Engineers Week also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineers' contributions to society. Founded in 1951, it is among the oldest of America's professional outreach efforts. Co-chairs for 2009 are Intel Corporation and the National Society of Professional Engineers. For more information, visit www.eweek.org.

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Women in
Engineering
ProActive
Network

*Transforming culture
in engineering education*

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Drs. Elizabeth Creamer and Peggy Meszaros of Virginia Tech Receive WEPAN Betty Vetter Award for Research

Creamer's and Meszaros' work spans both research and outreach that has led to important theoretical and practical insights about individual and environmental qualities that promote a long-term interest in engineering as a career.

Denver, April 6, 2010 –

The Betty Vetter Award for Research recognizes notable achievement in research related to women in engineering. The award is named in memory of Betty M. Vetter, long time director of the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology, who served as the first treasurer of WEPAN, Inc. and was a founding member of the Board of Directors. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPA National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Drs. Creamer and Meszaros have provided sustained leadership in designing, executing, and disseminating the findings throughout the lifetime of the three grants funded by the National Science Foundation that began in the early 2000 and extends through the present. Their work spans both research and outreach that has led to important theoretical and practical insights about individual and environmental qualities that promote a long-term interest in engineering as a career.

Since 2004, each has served as the lead author or co-author on 2 edited volumes, 30 national and 5 international presentations, and 11 national or international refereed papers related to women's interest in SET (science, engineering and technology) fields. Creamer's and Meszaros' efforts demonstrate how sustained leadership, a rigorous multi-institutional research agenda, a commitment to enriching the understanding in communities about young women's interest and

potential to succeed in SET fields, and professional engagement can translate to substantial long-term contributions to women and engineering.

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Dr. Helen Buettner of Rutgers University Receives WEPAN University Change Agent Award

Helen Buettner is a model “Change Agent” at Rutgers, in the spirit of everything that the WEPAN designation implies. Her enthusiasm and willingness to commit the time and energy to programming and policies demonstrates her commitment to leading institutional change at Rutgers.

Denver, April 6, 2010 –

The University Change Agent Award honors an individual who has had positive impact within their academic institution with regard to the climate for women in science, technology, engineering, and math fields, with an emphasis on engineering. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Helen Buettner is Professor and Vice-Chair of Biomedical Engineering (BME) and Professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering (CBE) in the School of Engineering (SOE) at Rutgers University. In addition, she is a co-Principal Investigator on the Rutgers University National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant (known as RU FAIR) and an RU FAIR Leadership Professor in developing programs and fostering institutional change.

She has been a member of the Rutgers faculty for nearly 20 years and in that time, has made outstanding contributions towards enhancing the climate for women in science and engineering at a university that was predominantly an institution for male education through the 1970s. Throughout Buettner’s research career, she has been a dedicated teacher and mentor, known for taking extra time with students, especially women.

Before receiving tenure, she experienced isolation as the only woman in her department. Now a full professor with considerable experience and influence,

Buettner works to ensure that young faculty members will not be forced to experience the same isolation that she and other faculty women experienced in the past. More recently, Buettner assumed a formal role as an agent of change for women and trained as a leader in order to enhance her effectiveness and visibility. She also participated in Faculty Leadership and Mentor Coaching training programs offered through the Rutgers Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics.

She is now actively implementing a series of University-wide workshops for career development and networking to assist women faculty in the tenure and promotion process. In addition, she is working to educate other senior leaders on matters of gender and racial bias and to enhance the level of communication among faculty.

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Sandra Witman of DuPont Receives WEPAN WIE Champion Award

Sandy Witman has served as the catalyst for keeping DuPont's Engineering Your Tomorrow program alive.

Denver, April 6, 2010 –

The Women in Engineering Champion Award recognizes and honors an individual employee in industry for their volunteer contributions to STEM education at the primary, secondary, or collegiate levels. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Twenty years ago, a group of women in DuPont Engineering created a program introducing middle school girls to engineering and science careers through a day of fun, hands-on activities. This was the start of Engineering Your Tomorrow. The event was later moved to DuPont's Experimental Station and a leader for the event emerged, Sandra Witman.

As a scientist and a Girl Scout Leader, Sandy saw an opportunity to introduce girls to engineering and science through hands-on experiences explaining what these fields are all about and what they have in common. Since the program's inception, they have educated close to 2600 girls from two local Girl Scout Councils about careers they might never have considered. The program shows the girls, their leaders, and parents it's OK to think engineering and science is neat, it's OK to get their hands dirty, it's OK to be smart, and it's OK to like science and math. This message comes across because each year 60+ dynamic DuPont women engineers and scientists deliver the message. Each year, DuPont brings 150 Girl Scouts to the site for a day of hands-on activities and experiments.

Sandy Witman has served as the catalyst for keeping this program alive. DuPont women engineers and scientists provide introductions to what engineering/science is about, chat with them about careers, and engage the girls in hands-on engineering and science activities.

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Kettering University LITE Program Honored with WEPAN Women in Engineering Initiative Award

WEPAN honors Kettering University's Lives Improve through Engineering (LITE) Program with the 2010 Women in Engineering Initiative Award. The LITE Pre-College Program for High School Girls arms these girls with both knowledge and passion for engineering.

Denver, March 26, 2010 –

The Women in Engineering Initiative Award recognizes an outstanding project or initiative that serves as a model for other organizations. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Every summer since 2002, Lives Improve through Engineering (LITE), a two-week residential program for rising high school seniors, has introduced 35-40 girls to what engineers do and how their work solves human problems. The program has benefitted all the individuals involved in LITE, as well as Kettering University. The participants, who arrive with little knowledge of engineering as a profession, leave armed with both knowledge and passion for the subject.

The university has benefitted enormously from LITE. Recruitment success has grown from one third of the 2002 participants, to more than 50% of the 2007 participants. Retention rates of these young women, and their academic achievements, outrank all other students. LITE's success rests on an innovative curriculum focused on presenting engineering as an opportunity for women to significantly improve people's lives by applying math, science and technology to human problems.

Intriguing courses and labs, enlightening field trips and site visits, close interactions with faculty, and a distinctive mentoring component culminate in what several participants have described as “the best two weeks of my life.”

Selected participants are matched with LITE mentors who help prepare the high school girls for their university stay. These mentors exemplify what the program is all about: smart women pursuing degrees in subjects they love and that will allow them to build careers in fields that make a difference in people’s lives and in society.

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**The Women in Engineering Program at Kansas State University Receives
WEPAN Women in Engineering Program Award**

The Women in Engineering Program at Kansas State University is a model for other WIE organizations.

Denver, March 26, 2010 –

WEPAN's Women in Engineering Program Award recognizes an outstanding Women in Engineering program that serves as a model for other institutions. The award will be presented Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the NAMEPA/WEPAN National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. WEPAN awards serve to continuously raise the bar for extraordinary service, significant achievement, model programs, notable achievement in research, and exceptional work environments that augment the success of women engineers.

The Women in Engineering and Science Program (WESP) works to make Kansas State University (K-State) a better place for women and girls to pursue their interests in engineering and science. The program's three priorities are: Promoting awareness; Providing support; and Building community.

WESP was founded in 1999 as a joint venture between the College of Engineering and the College of Arts & Sciences. Over the years, WESP has grown to serve more students, hire more full-time and student staff, and offer more outreach and retention programs, which has resulted in increased retention of women in both engineering and science. A hallmark of WESP's work has been to institute databases and practices to assess impact of all WESP activities.

WESP retention programs are designed to support the success of female students, but typically serve all students.

Middle school day and summer events, and high school summer workshops have continued to operate with waiting lists, throughout the past five years. The number of attendees from underrepresented groups has more than doubled in all programs.

Over the past five years, the retention programming has expanded from a mentoring program to the integrated list of offerings including a tailored tutoring; mentoring program; freshman internships; programming to support parents and families; Making a Difference Awards; inSTEP student e-newsletter; Learning Communities; Carter Opportunity Awards which repay student loans when they graduate with their engineering degree; WESP community-building and professional-development events. One notable success is the SAS tutoring program, with more than 15,000 hours of tutoring reaching nearly 3000 student/courses, which has led to a significant increase in student grades and retention (across all demographic groups and colleges) compared to students who did not access tutoring. Another example, the Cyberchase open house event was implemented in 2008, and reached more than 250 visiting grade school students in 2009.

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