

Dear Applicant to the Mara H. Wasburn Early Engineering Educator Grant:

It is with great pleasure that the Women in Engineering Division of ASEE announces the winners of the Mara H. Wasburn Early Engineering Educator Grant.

All 16 applicants had impressive contributions to engineering education, a demonstrated commitment to increasing access, retention and/or advancement of women in engineering, and a very strong overall record of achievement. The 8-member review team commends each individual applicant for their dedication to engineering education and to the advancement of women in engineering and technology.

In the category of Faculty, the Mara H. Wasburn Early Engineering Educator Grant goes to **Dr. Agnes d'Entremont**, Instructor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, **University of British Columbia**. Dr. d'Entremont was nominated by Dr. Elizabeth Croft, Associate Dean (Education & Professional Development), Faculty of Applied Science, University of British Columbia.

Dr. Agnes d'Entremont's teaching focuses on problem-based and experiential learning, in the field of biomechanics, using everyday objects such as smartphones to record acceleration and high-speed video data. A passionate educator, she specializes in "messy" engineering problems, providing a teaching environment where students can take risks and make mistakes as they engage in solving tough problems and working with people unlike themselves. She is active in exploring improved ways to recruit women into engineering through scholarly activities that have included analysis of recruitment materials and the development of new courses. Dr. d'Entremont is an active supporter and advocate for women in engineering at all levels of the University of British Columbia.

Because there were so many highly qualified candidates, the Women in Engineering Division is pleased to announce that **Dr. Lynn Albers**, one of the founding faculty of the recently established School of Engineering at **Campbell University** has been distinguished with "**Honorable Mention**," in recognition of her commitment to engineering education, her scholarly record and her advocacy of the wonders of engineering. Dr. Albers was nominated by NC State University's 2015 PECASE award recipient and First Year Engineering Instructor Elizabeth Parry.

In the category of Students, the Mara H. Wasburn Early Engineering Educator Grant goes to civil engineering doctoral candidate **Sara Rimer, University of Michigan**. Ms. Rimer was nominated by Civil and Environmental engineering Professor Aline Cotel. Ms. Rimer has a distinguished record of achievement, including being the recipient of a NSF Graduate Student Research Fellowship and other awards, having served as an instructor for the USAID-funded Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development summer program, and her very strong activity with the student chapter of SWE. Ms. Rimer's long-term career goals include becoming a faculty member at a research university and continuing to recruit and mentor female students to support the next generation of engineering researchers, professionals and educators.

In the category of students, the WIED division awards "**Honorable Mention**," to **Ms. Nicole Johnson**, nominated by Dr. Angus Rockett. Ms. Johnson is pursuing her doctoral degree in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ms. Johnson is active in education research and in teaching solid state physics using a partially flipped classroom, and demonstrates a passion for teaching, for outreach, and for incorporating "computational thinking skills" across the engineering curriculum. While an

undergraduate, she organized a regional conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics which attracted more than 150 physics students, and in graduate school, Ms. Johnson served as the laboratory coordinator for Girls Learning About Materials, a summer camp for high school girls.

Mara H. Wasburn (22 February 1941 - 27 March 2011) was a professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership and Supervision at Purdue University and her work on mentoring is recognized worldwide. Her mentoring model, Strategic Collaboration, was copyrighted and has been applied to both business and academic environments internationally. She was very active in ASEE, particularly the WIED, and in return, we honor her commitment to mentoring and the academic advancement of women in technology and engineering with the EEEG: Early Engineering Educator Grant. The applicants and awardees represent an embodiment of Dr. Wasburn's legacy.

The Mara H. Wasburn award includes reimbursement of receipted registration, travel, food, and accommodation expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000. Grant recipients are expected to attend the full duration of the conference, including registering for and attending the WIED Business Lunch and WIED/MIND/PEEC Reception, where the awards will be announced, and one WIED-sponsored workshop. The Honorable Mention award recognizes outstanding submissions beyond the award winner. The Honorable Mention award includes reimbursement for the WIED/MIND/PEEC lunch and reception where their awards will be announced; awardees who attend the conference will be posted on the division's website honor roll: [WIED website](#)

## **BEST PAPER AWARDS**

The 2016 Denice Denton Best Paper Award goes to Dr. Joanna Wolfe, Dr. Beth A Powell, Mr. Seth Schlisserman, and Ms. Alexandra Kirshon. Joanna, Seth and Alexandra are from Carnegie Mellon, and Beth is from Tennessee Tech. The paper is entitled: Teamwork in Engineering Undergraduate Classes: What problems do students experience?

Details about the authors:

Dr. Beth Powell has a doctorate in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Louisville. Her research is in engineering communication, and she works as a Coordinator for the College of Engineering Student Success Center at Tennessee Tech University.

Dr. Joanna Wolfe is Teaching Professor of Rhetoric and Director of the Global Communication Center at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Mr. Seth Schlisserman**, Carnegie Mellon University

**Ms. Alexandra Kirshon** is a Decision Science major at Carnegie Mellon University with an additional major in Professional Writing and a minor in Public Policy and Management.

The Division is pleased to announce that our selection for the Best Diversity Paper goes to Dr. Yang Lydia Yang, Assistant Professor of Quantitative Research Methodology at the College of Education, Kansas State University and to Dr. Bette Grauer, Assistant Dean for Retention, Diversity and Inclusion, Kansas State University. Their paper is entitled: The Effect of Financial Support on Academic Achievement and Retention of Female Engineering Students

Respectfully,

Janet Callahan

Director, Awards