

The ReSET Report

Chief Executive Officer: Harold Sharlin

Executive Director: John Meagher

ReSET Teams Up with the Association for Women in Science

Earlier this year, ReSET formed a partnership with the DC chapter of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS), a professional membership organization that advocates for the interests of women in science and technology. AWIS members represent a diversity of professions in industry, government and academia. Melissa McCartney, who takes over as DC chapter president in 2013, explains how her organization became involved with ReSET: "We had been trying to initiate and support a volunteer program at AWIS for some time, so we were pleased when we received ReSET's request to partner with them. We were excited to work with ReSET because they had a well-established, formalized program that was already up and running."

Once the partnership was in place, Melissa reached out to the DC chapter's 150 members primarily through announcements on AWIS's various listserves. Seven members have expressed interest so far, and three have already committed to the fall term. Melissa is optimistic that more will join the program once members start having positive experiences as volunteers. "This program is in the pilot stage, so it is still a bit abstract for people, but that will change. I want to see AWIS DC get more involved in the community. Collectively, our membership contains a wealth of talent and we need to find ways to better leverage it."

As is the case with other agencies and associations with whom ReSET partners, AWIS volunteers will go to



AWIS Chapter Officers, from left, Soo Kim (VP for Communications), Alka Prasad (VP for Programs) and Melissa McCartney (President-Elect)

an elementary school as a team and teach a variety of subjects based on teacher preferences. ReSET Executive Director, John Meagher, has conferenced with AWIS members and is helping them prepare for the classroom. The new volunteers were given a volunteer handbook and training video, and will have opportunities this summer to network with veteran volunteers.

Meagher spoke enthusiastically of the AWIS partnership: "One of the reasons we are eager to work with AWIS," says Meagher, "is because it offers additional opportunities for the girls in our classes to identify with women who are scientists and can serve as career role models for them."

McCartney, who has been working as an editorial fellow at *Science* magazine, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), thinks that the diversity of professions that AWIS represents can give

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Science Quiz Answer:

(The Rose Family)

*The rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is, and so's
The plum, I suppose.
The dear only knows
What will next prove a rose.
You, of course, are a rose—
But were always a rose.*

—Robert Frost



Vijay Kowtha (left), Rich Repplier (right front) and John Meagher at a June 6th luncheon hosted by DC's Patterson Elementary School for its volunteers from ReSET and the Naval Research Lab. David McInnis, who has posted his classroom observations at Patterson on the ReSET blog, was unable to attend.



P.O. Box 9400

Washington, DC 20016-9400

Would you pass your faunal exam . . .

Apples, pears, plums,
and almonds are in what
plant family?

. . . See inside for the answer

("AWIS" continued from front)

a bigger picture of the synergies and career opportunities open in the sciences. (The three who are preparing for next fall include a physicist, a neuroscientist, and a virologist.) Joking that she was "a smart blond from a small town . . . no one knew what career advice to give me!" McCartney spoke warmly of a chemistry professor she had in college who allowed her to conduct her own research in his lab (how iron binds to hemoglobin and how it is transported.) "It was intriguing to study a biological process in a chemistry lab," says McCartney. "For the first time, I could see science as a whole, rather than as specific disciplines."

ReSET has been reaching out to form collaborative relationships with other STEM professional organizations, and has successfully recruited volunteers from the American Chemical Society, the Society of Women Engineers, the Optical Society of America and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. In addition to AWIS, the American Statistical Association has recently expressed interest in a partnership with ReSET.

ReSET to be Featured in Washington's *Catalogue for Philanthropy*



The Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington has selected ReSET for inclusion in its 2012-13 Catalogue. Now in its 10th year, the Catalogue has a mission to connect caring

citizens with worthy community causes, and provides charities with a stamp of approval that tells donors they can invest with confidence because the Catalogue vets its family of nonprofits with great care.

A panel of more than 100 expert reviewers from area foundations chose ReSET from a competitive field of nearly 220 candidates; RESET is one of 74 selected for inclusion.

"Charities were selected for excellence, cost-effectiveness, and impact" Harman said. "These are certainly among the best community-based nonprofits in the Washington region."

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