



July 29, 2010

Dear NCWIT Academic Alliance members,

We are planning to send a newsletter out 3-4 times a year to keep you updated on our activities and to inform you about opportunities.

Included in this issue are updates/information on:

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To learn more about the NCWIT Academic Alliance (AA), click here:

<http://www.ncwit.org/alliance.academic.html>

## **The NCWIT AA at Grace Hopper 2010: Reception, Poster & and more!**

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The Academic Alliance will have a reception at the 2010 Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC). The reception, sponsored by Microsoft Research, will be held from 5:45pm-6:45pm on Thursday September 30, 2010 in the Hyatt Regency: Chicago A-D. The reception will be an opportunity for current and prospective AA members to network with each other. Please come yourself and invite others who you believe could benefit from the AA.

The AA will have a poster to in the Grace Hopper Poster session. The poster's goal is to advertise the AA and promote some of the benefits of membership. The poster will be available for presentation at other venues. Information regarding this can be obtained from the AA Program Manager, Kim Kalahar.

Finally, NCWIT is working on obtaining some kind of visible item, possibly to be attached to name badges that can be distributed to AA members so that they can be easily identified.

## **Round 7 Seed Fund Proposals due October 18, 2010**

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Microsoft Research will again fund the NCWIT Academic Alliance Seed Fund! This year, we would like to fund more proposals, so we are reducing the maximum amount won to \$10,000 for each proposal. We are encouraging proposals focused on recruiting women and under-represented populations into computing by either implementing an existing NCWIT promising practice or program, however all topics will be considered. All schools, large and small, are encouraged to apply. We hope to have a diverse group of winners Round 7.

Proposals will be due October 18, 2010 and winners will be announced approximately two months later. A PDF of the detailed guidelines is attached and will be posted on the website soon.

To learn more about the NCWIT Seed Fund, click here:

<http://www.ncwit.org/work.awards.seed.html>

To review NCWIT resources, including Promising Practices, click here:

<http://www.ncwit.org/resources.res.html>

## **AA Member Survey - We need your participation!**

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The AA is taking on more projects and activities. We need to get your input to be sure that we are focusing our efforts on issues that are most important to the membership. Also, in some cases there are opportunities for additional people to be involved the projects. To reduce redundancy and to minimize the time required on your part, we have developed a common survey that encompasses the needs of all project teams. We anticipate the survey will take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey now:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/aa2010survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aa2010survey)

## **Report on AA Meetings at May 2010 NCWIT Summit in Portland, OR**

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The AA meetings at the Summit were held over two days and included a guest speaker, member presentations, breakout sessions with AA project teams, and AA annual business.

The first day of meeting featured a guest presentation by Dr. Bernice Sandler - Senior Scholar, Women's Research and Education Institute on "The Chilly Climate: How Even the Best of Us Often Inadvertently Treat Women Differently and What to do About it in STEM." We then heard from the Pacesetters, a group of AA members who are committed rapid institutional change to advance NCWIT goals. To round out the AA activities for the day, 30 AA members participated in a lively "Un-Poster" session where they informally shared current departmental activities to promote women in computing in a high-energy networking environment.

On the second day, the meetings included a new member/visitor lunch attended by more than 70 people. That afternoon, AA members Christine Alvarado, David Notkin, Crystal Eney, Jim Cohoon, and Ran Libeskind-Hadas presented their "Post-Secondary Practices Panel: Attracting Students to the Major". The session featured programs that are successfully increasing the enrollment of women and it was lively with feedback and questions from AA members. Next, the AA conducted its annual Business

meeting -- the AA Co-Chairs gave an overview of the new AA structure and introduced the project teams, and then the project Co-Leaders presented their projects. Finally, breakout sessions for each project were held to allow the members to interact more closely with the project leaders. These breakouts were a great source of ideas and influenced the AA member survey we are asking everyone to complete (see above).

Download the materials from the "Un-Poster" session at:  
[http://www.ncwit.org/pdf/NCWIT\\_AA\\_Summit2010UnPosters.pdf](http://www.ncwit.org/pdf/NCWIT_AA_Summit2010UnPosters.pdf)

Download the "Post-Secondary Practices..." panel presentation at:  
[http://www.ncwit.org/pdf/NCWIT2010Summit\\_AAPanelPres.pdf](http://www.ncwit.org/pdf/NCWIT2010Summit_AAPanelPres.pdf)

## **AA Project Team Reports**

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Recruitment and Member Engagement.

Co-Leaders: Christine Alvarado (Harvey Mudd), Gondy Leroy (Claremont Graduate University), Leen-Kiat Soh (U. Nebraska).

The Recruitment and Engagement team has been very active. The team also includes Richard Alo (UH Downtown). The team has designed informational materials for new AA members and hosted the new and prospective member lunch at the NCWIT Summit in May. They are currently working on a poster for Grace Hopper 2010. They need your input, through the member survey (see above), to decide what to do next.

REU Toolkit.

Co-Leaders: Margaret Burnett (Oregon State), Patricia Morreale (Kean U).

The REU Toolkit project is off to a great start. It has already received NCWIT approval to be made into an NCWIT Program-in-a-Box. The team includes Ann Gates (UTEP) and Jose Cossa (NCWIT), and will involve others to help review materials. You can volunteer through the AA member survey (see above).

Sharing Practices.

Co-Leaders: Sam Kamin (UIUC), Sharon Mason (RIT).

This group is examining ways to create an on-line searchable repository for activities and initiatives underway that relate to women in computing but that do not appear on the NCWIT site as a best practice. Breakout discussions focused on things related to challenges of organization and on-going maintenance of this database, and member engagement and use of the resource.

AA Webinar Series.

Co-Leaders: Daniela Marghita (Auburn), Terry Steinbach (DePaul).

A webinar delivery mechanism has been locked in and the plan is to start with offering four webinars during this next year. AA member input is being sought via the survey to set priorities and decide on the topics of most interest to members. Further Summit discussions focused around the possibilities of discussion forums following the seminars, registration management for each session and potential topics.