NCWIT Social Science Advisory Board
Board Description and Membership Guidelines
May 2012

Description
The Social Science Advisory Board (SSAB) is an advisory group of social scientists from preeminent institutions nationwide that supports NCWIT initiatives and goals through their knowledge of research and theory at the intersection of women and computing. Members bring expertise from the areas of anthropology, education, evaluation, gender studies, history, policy, psychology, sociology, technology, and workforce study.

The SSAB...
1. Engages social scientists in issues related to diversity and computing. Participation both heightens collective awareness of diversity and computing and spreads information through professional networks, so that the best minds are brought to understanding and intervening in women's full participation in computing.
2. Reviews NCWIT resources and suggests improvements or additional resources.
3. Contributes to setting NCWIT's research agenda.
4. Serves as a resource to NCWIT member organizations as they plan and evaluate interventions.
5. Counsels the NCWIT Leadership Team on gender and organizational behavior, e.g. statements about organizational goals and identity.
6. Collaborates on reports about relevant theoretical and empirical issues, which are then published as white papers.
SSAB Membership
Membership should include demographic and disciplinary diversity that represents a wide range of social scientists.

Members must have doctorate degrees in a social science or closely related discipline or equivalent experience, and should study issues related to gender and/or computing. Both methodological and theoretical experts from a wide variety of these disciplines are included.

Composition of SSAB
The SSAB comprises approximately 20 Core Members (non-NCWIT staff) for whom travel support for NCWIT meetings is provided by NCWIT*, as needed.

NCWIT Senior Research Scientists are ex-officio members and may vote.

Social scientists working in other NCWIT areas (hub research, NCWIT evaluation, NCWIT resource development, etc.) are invited to attend SSAB meetings as participating but non-voting members.

Member responsibilities include regular attendance at the annual NCWIT Summit, participation in online community, involvement with activities of the organization between meetings;

Members serve for three years, and may be renewed by the same process used to select new members;

Potential new members may be suggested by current SSAB members or NCWIT members or self-nominated; all invitations for new and renewed membership will be extended jointly by the SSAB leadership and the CEO of NCWIT, as openings arise, with input from the SSAB.
Leadership
The leadership shall consist of a Chair (or Co-Chairs) and a Chair-Elect; a Chair-Elect will be elected annually and will serve for a year as Chair-Elect and become Chair in the second year; NCWIT Senior Research Scientists/Staff are not eligible;

Leadership responsibilities include planning agendas for the meetings, interacting with the NCWIT Leadership Team, leading projects, consulting on potential new members, and other task as needed by NCWIT.

Other
Members will receive an annual letter, copied to their department head or supervisor, thanking them for their service to NCWIT.

*NCWIT budgets to cover travel to the Summit for 15 members; those members who are planning to request reimbursement are asked to indicate this need at the time of rsvp’ing for the Summit.